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### News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has placed a four-point proposal to save the planet from the adverse impact of climate change, at a high-level event of a virtual biodiversity summit titled "Urgent Action on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development", on the sidelines of the 75th UN General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York this morning. Firstly, the Premier asked to focus on future sustainability while making investment. Secondly, she called for creating greater public awareness through education system and research, and strengthening national legislations and monitoring mechanisms to safeguard biodiversity. Thirdly, she said, global access to benefit-sharing must be ensured for the true owners of the genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. And finally, the Premier said, 'achieving the Paris goals could be the difference between our extinction and our survival. We must implement them.'

The nation is observing a daylong state mourning today over the death of Kuwait's Emir Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah. On this occasion, the national flag has been kept half-mast at all government, semi-government and autonomous institutions and educational institutions including all government and non-government buildings and Bangladesh missions abroad. At the same time, special prayers will be held in all mosques and other religious institutions of the country.

Dhaka yesterday urged the countries which host migrant workers, to consider the interest of Bangladeshi expatriates sympathetically in the present context of COVID-19 pandemic. The urge was made yesterday when Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen and Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmad briefed the diplomats of the Gulf countries-Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Iraq and Malaysia on manpower issues at State Guesthouse Padma. The Foreign Minister said to reporters that around 6,000 people have already returned to their workplaces abroad and others would be able to return. He said, to solve the flight issue to Saudi Arabia, the civil aviation authorities of both the countries gave permission to operate 20 weekly flights from 01 October. He said, the Saudi Arabia embassy in Bangladesh would agree to re-issue 25,000 visas for Bangladeshi workers who availed it in March last and whose visas expired amid the pandemic.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would inaugurate the newly constructed Pani Bhaban today at the capital's Green Road area through a video conference. Constructed at a cost of Taka 261 crore, the foundation stone of the 12-storied building was laid on January 31, 2015, by the Prime Minister.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday while addressing the unveiling ceremony of the book 'Odommo Bangladesh' written by University Grants Commission Professor Sajjad Hossain said, the Odommo (indomitable) Bangladesh will move forward under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with the thoughts, motivations of Father of the Nation.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader speaking at a virtual press conference yesterday said, BNP is being isolated gradually due to their political immaturity and indecisions and their movement has been confined in newspapers' page and face book status instead of on the streets. Castigating BNP Secretary General's allegation the Minister said, if there is any barrier in freedom of speech then how they are making 'atrocious comments' everyday against the government. The Minister also disclosed that AL has picked Habib Hasan for Dhaka-18 and Tanvir Shakil Joy for Sirajganj-1 to contest the upcoming by-polls constituencies slated for November 12.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud addressing a discussion at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday, marking the 74th birthday of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, when the country is moving ahead indomitably and the world community is praising the development of the country and the leadership of the Premier Sheikh Hasina, then BNP and its friends are busy in criticizing.

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase yesterday in a virtual meeting chaired by Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal approved three separate proposals to procure some 30,000 metric tons of bagged granular urea fertilizer at a cost of around Taka 64.73 crore and 50,000 metric tons of bulk granular urea fertilizer at a cost of 114.26 crore. The meeting also approved a proposal for awarding the contract to the Noorani Construction Limited for constructing some 76 flats for the government officials at the Azimpur Government Colony with a cost of around Taka 160.30 crore. Besides, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Finance Minister approved the upgradation of the existing Dhaka - Mymensingh Road into expressway involving Taka 3,733 crore.

Local Government Minister Md. Tajul Islam while distributing 'Vacuum Type Road Sweeper Truck' for all city corporations yesterday said, a project has been taken to introduce water transport from Hatirjheel to Uttara for the movement of common people in both areas.

Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni talking to reporters yesterday said, school closure due to the coronavirus pandemic will be extended and decisions regarding holding HSC and its equivalent examinations will be announced next week.

Outgoing Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Riva Ganguly Das called Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen yesterday. Dr. Momen laid emphasis on completing different projects those are being implemented under the Indian 'line of credit'.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages have greeted all concerned on the occasion of the 'Kathin Chibar Dan', a religious festival of the Buddhist community and 'Shubho Probarona Purnima', the second largest festival of the Buddhists.

Bangladesh and the USA signed an air transport agreement in Dhaka yesterday. According to the agreement, both countries will be able to operate flights between them through code sharing and on the basis of open-air policy. Mohibul Haque, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Earl R Miller, US Ambassador to Bangladesh, signed the agreement.


Bangladesh is outraged to witness another blatant demonstration of falsehood and fabrication of facts by Myanmar at the UN General Assembly on Tuesday. Bangladesh Representative strongly disagreed Myanmar's Minister Kyaw Tint Swe's comment in the UNGA that bilateral cooperation is the only way to effectively resolve the repatriation issue reminding Myanmar that the Rohingya issue is not a bilateral one but it is Myanmar's internal problem.

The country yesterday recorded 32 more fatalities from the COVID-19, in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 5,251. At the same time recovery count rose to 2,75,487 after another 1,789 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 1,436 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,63,479.

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson speaking at DCAB Talks held virtually yesterday said, the Oxford vaccine, which is now in stage 3 of clinical trials, would be available in Bangladesh once it is produced and ready for use. He, however, said there will be no clinical trial of the British vaccine in Bangladesh at this moment.

A Barguna court yesterday sentenced six people including Ayesha Siddika Minni to death, in Rifat Sharif murder case. The High Court yesterday directed the Brac Bank Ltd to give Taka 15 lakh in compensation to jute mill worker Jaha Alam, who had wrongly suffered in jail for three years in corruption cases.

Bangladesh Embassy in Bangkok facilitated the repatriation of 78 Bangladeshis stranded in Cambodia by a special flight yesterday. Besides, 164 Bangladeshis were repatriated yesterday in a chartered flight from Libya. Singapore Airlines would resume regular flight operations to and from Dhaka from October 20. Initially the airlines will operate two weekly flights from Dhaka.

  
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