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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked all concerned to stay prepared as the COVID-19 situation may worsen in the upcoming winter. The Premier made the caution while virtually receiving donations for the PM's Relief and Welfare Fund from various organizations including 34 commercial banks yesterday. PM's Principal Secretary Dr. Ahmad Kaikaus received the cheques of donations on behalf of the premier at the Prime Minister's Office .

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, along with other global leaders, will join the 75th UN General Assembly-UNGA virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Premier is likely to deliver her pre-recorded speech on September 26. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen will brief media virtually today on various aspects of the UNGA and Bangladesh's virtual presence.

A meeting of Awami League Local Government Public Representative Nomination Board will be held at 4 pm this afternoon at Ganabhaban with Prime Minister and the Board President Sheikh Hasina presiding over.

Liberation War Affairs Minister A K M Mozammel Haque while attending a meeting of Gazipur Journalists Union yesterday said, the government has undertaken development projects worth Tk 8,000 crore to beautify the Gazipur city area with modern infrastructures.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader coming down heavily on BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's announcement that they would oust the government through movement said, the BNP leaders can only shout for movement but their announcement is like 'too much talk ends in nothing'. After announcing movement, BNP leaders stay in AC room. The people know their ability, he said. The Minister was virtually addressing the inaugural ceremony of 'special service week' of BRTA yesterday.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud at a media briefing at his ministry yesterday castigating BNP leaders said, Prime Minister released Begum Khaleda Zia for six months exercising her power conferred on her under CRPC Penal Code and later extended it for another six months by showing her generosity. BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir needed to express gratitude on behalf of his party for the PM's generosity. But, the Minister said, the way the BNP leaders are talking, it seems that it would have been better not to show the generosity by the Prime Minister.

The government has withdrawn 5 per cent duty on onion import to reduce the price in the local market, as per the directive of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The importers will enjoy such privilege till March 31 next year. Meanwhile, TCB started selling onions at Taka 36 per kg through e-commerce companies yesterday. For now each person can buy a maximum of 3 kg onions. Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi inaugurated the programme over Zoom.

Bangladesh yesterday recorded 26 more fatalities from the novel coronavirus, in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 4,939. At the same time recovery count rose to 2,56,565 after another 2,179 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 1,544 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,48,916. A total of 11,591 samples were tested across the country during the time.

All concerned countries that have successfully tested the COVID-19 vaccine, responded positively to Bangladesh's request, saying that they will provide the vaccine to Dhaka as soon as it comes to the market, it was disclosed at a meeting of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Ministry yesterday. Meanwhile, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, who is now undergoing treatment at the ICU of Dhaka's Combined Military Hospital, has recovered from the novel coronavirus infection, family sources informed.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, in a condolence message, has expressed deep shock at the death of Sulochana Subrahmanyam, mother of Indian External affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar.

A newspaper report published on Saturday of a mother selling her new born child for Tk 16,000 to cover the medical bills of the local clinic in Gaibandha caught the eye of Law Minister Anisul Huq, prompting him to send the money from his personal fund to Gaibandha District Administration to pay the clinic bill. And thus the mother got back her new born baby.

Financial assistance cheques for Tk 200000 were distributed among 20 neurodevelopmental disordered people in the Bandarban district. Minister for Chattogram Hill Tracts Affairs Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing yesterday distributed the cheque.

The Northern Electricity Supply Company Limited-NESCO will set up five lakh smart pre-payment meters in Rajshahi, Natore, Chapainawabganj, Bogra, Pabna, Dinajpur, Sirajganj and Nilphamari by June 30, 2022. Meanwhile, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid while virtually addressing the closing ceremony of the foundation course of newly-appointed DESCO engineers in the capital yesterday asked them to contribute more in building an environment friendly developed Bangladesh.

The policy of the current government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of 'leaving no one behind' was a policy of Bangabandhu, said Bangabandhu's grandson and CRI's Trustee Radwan Mujib Siddiq. He made the remark during the online launching of a policy magazine 'WhiteBoard' yesterday.

Bangladesh Air Force has undertaken a reforestation program in remote coastal areas of the country and Chattogram hill tracts in co-ordination with the Forests Department 20 and 21 September, said an ISPR press release yesterday. Under the programme, seed balls would be spread in the coastal areas of the country by throwing those from the sky by BAF helicopters.

The Appellate Division yesterday upheld the High Court Division order that stayed trial proceedings in four more cases against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, after rejecting a petitions filed by the state.

On completion of trial within seven working days, a Dhaka tribunal has fixed September 28 for delivering the judgment of an arms case against Regent Group Chairman Mohammad Shahed.

A Dhaka court yesterday transferred a case lodged over the death of Dhaka Residential Model College student Naimul Abrar Rahat, against 10 people including the editor of daily Prothom Alo Motiur Rahman, as it is ready for holding trial.

The government has imposed a 22-day ban on Hilsa catching, selling, hoarding and transporting from October 14 to November 4.

All commercial flights between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia have been cancelled, said the Civil Aviation Secretary.

Overall flood situation in the Ganges basin remained steady yesterday. Of the 30 river points, monitored in the Ganges basin, water levels increased at 16 points while receded at 11 points and remained stable at three other points, according to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre.



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