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From: PIO, PID, Dhaka  
Fax: 9540553/9540026  
E-mail: [piddhaka@gmail.com](mailto:piddhaka@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.pressinform.gov.bd](http://www.pressinform.gov.bd)

### News Brief

The Cabinet has approved in principle the draft of the Private Medical and Dental College Act, 2020 to run the private medical institutes in a proper manner. The approval came from a cabinet meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually in the chair. The Cabinet endorsed a proposal for extension of the National Service Programme into Phase-VIII. The Premier asked Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen to submit a complete report before the next Cabinet meeting on measures to send back Bangladeshi expatriate workers to their workplace. The Foreign Minister said, within tomorrow a total of 780 Saudi expats could go back to the country by 3 flights. Endeavour is going on to increase the flight number to send the stranded Bangladeshis to Saudi Arabia within stipulated time, he added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her 74th birthday yesterday vowed to do something better more for the country and its people. The Premier made the remarks during the Cabinet meeting when the cabinet members wished her on her birthday. The PM at the same time wished wellbeing of the countrymen and referred to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's desire that the people of Bangladesh would move around the world keeping their head high.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Indian Premier Narendra Modi are set to hold a virtual meeting in December, Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen confirmed it to reporters yesterday. But, if the pandemic situation improves, it could be in person, he said. Dr. Momen and his Indian counterpart Dr. S. Jaishankar are scheduled to lead the 6th Bangladesh-India Joint Consultative Commission meeting to be held virtually this afternoon. A wide range of issues including Rohingya crisis, water sharing in common rivers, energy, connectivity, and bilateral trade and border issues are expected to be discussed at the meeting.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has sent a birthday present to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through Benapole Check-Post, on the Prime Minister's 74th birthday. Earlier, Indian Premier Narendra Modi in a letter, greeted the Bangladesh Premier on her birthday.

Sixty-four global leaders including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday jointly launched "Leaders' Pledge for Nature: United to Reverse Biodiversity Loss by 2030 for Sustainable Development" demonstrating commitment to protect nature, climate and people. Bangladesh Premier became a signatory to the initiative with her other counterparts including Angela Merkel, Justin Trudeau and Boris Johnson before participating in the UN Summit on Biodiversity.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her recent article published in the Financial Times, one of the world's most respected newspapers with its editorial offices located in London, has said, climate change, pandemics and the destruction of nature are common threats and these should unite all in working towards a common solution - a cleaner, greener and safer world. The Prime Minister through her article informed the global readers that Bangladesh is drawing up plans to get better prepared in the future.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is not only the leader of Bangladesh but a world leader. Her name ranks at the top among the powerful leaders of the world. Now the world community praises Sheikh Hasina for her strategic leadership. The Speaker said this while virtually addressing a roundtable titled 'Sheikh Hasina: Dream, Struggle and Pursuit', organised by Hasumonir Pathshala at National Museum in Shahbag, marking the Birthday of the Premier.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while extending birthday greetings to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a virtual briefing yesterday said, Sheikh Hasina is the source of

inspiration to the Bengalee nation. He said, Bangladesh has made an unprecedented development and progress under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Refuting BNP Secretary General's remarks, the Minister said, the country is going towards prosperity overcoming different natural disasters and pandemic under the leadership of the AL government and that is why BNP is getting jealous. Terming BNP founder as the father of distortion of history, he said, BNP is getting isolated from people day by day because of their politics of falsehood.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal has termed the incident of gang rape at Sylhet MC College as barbaric and spelled out government's strong stance against the culprits. Meanwhile, five named accused, along with two other unnamed accused have so far been arrested by the law enforcers, in the case.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, one of the incomparable qualities of Sheikh Hasina is she can firmly deal with any crisis overcoming all the obstacles. That is why she's unique. The Minister was speaking at a function marking Premier's birthday at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday. Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, there have been 19 assassination attempts on Sheikh Hasina, but she never got worried and disappointed after returning from the valley of death. Rather she took the country forward with a fresh vigour and conviction.

The Information Minister while speaking at a discussion at Agargaon making the International Access to Information Day said, the present government is working relentlessly to build equality and knowledge-based society to ensure continued social and economic development of the country. State Minister for Information Dr. Md. Murad Hasan and Information Secretary Kamrun Nahar also spoke on the occasion.

Bangladesh and Nigeria signed a deal yesterday to establish bilateral consultations between the two countries to boost their economic and political relationship. Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen and Nigerian Permanent Secretary Mustapha Lawal Sulaiman signed the MoU during a virtual meeting.

South Korea will provide the International Federation of Red Cross with US\$700,000 dollars for its activities in the Rohingya camps and host communities in Cox's Bazar, the Korean embassy said yesterday.

The country yesterday recorded 32 more fatalities from the COVID-19, in a daily count raising the death toll from the pandemic to 5,193. At the same time recovery count rose to 2,72,073 after another 1,582 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 1,407 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,60,555.


Bangladesh Bank yesterday in a new instruction extended the delayed loan repayment facility up to December this year to help the borrowers cope with the shock of coronavirus fallout.

The national cricket team will not be touring Sri Lanka for the upcoming series as the Bangladesh Cricket Board could not agree to the quarantine protocols set by Sri Lanka.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will resume flights on the Dhaka-Singapore-Dhaka route from October 1 while the US-Bangla Airlines would reopen the destination from October 3.

The by-elections of Dhaka-18 and Sirajganj-1 constituencies will be held on November 12 as the Election Commission announced the polls schedule yesterday.

The court sentenced Regent Hospital Limited Chairman Shahed Karim to life imprisonment yesterday in a case filed under the Arms Act.

  
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**Surath Kumar Sarker**  
Principal Information Officer  
Phone- 9546091