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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Chinese Counterpart Li Keqiang held bilateral talks yesterday at the Great Hall of People in Beijing. During the talks, the Chinese Premier assured that Beijing would try to persuade Myanmar for taking back its nationals from Bangladesh. At the outset of the meeting, the Chinese PM congratulated Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina on her re-election as the Premier for the fourth time. Earlier, on her arrival at the Great Hall of the People, the Bangladesh PM was accorded a grand state reception. Following the talks, Bangladesh and China signed nine instruments including two loan deals for further strengthening cooperation on power, water resources, culture and tourism sectors as well as providing 2,500 metric tonnes of rice for the displaced Rohingyas.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has invited Chinese businesspeople to explore the full potentials of business and trade relations with Bangladesh. The Prime Minister made the request while delivering her keynote speech at a Roundtable Meeting with Chinese Business Leaders at the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade in Beijing last afternoon.

President Md. Abdul Hamid has expressed the hope that all the universities will take effective steps to hold elections to their respective student unions. The President expressed the optimism when Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Md Akhtaruzzaman met him at Bangabhaban yesterday. The President also the DU Chancellor thanked the DU authorities for holding the election to DU Central Students' Union (DUCSU). A delegation of Humayun Rasheed Choudhury Smrity Parishad led by parishad's President and Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Md. Nojibur Rahman also called on President Md. Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn And Plastic Surgery adjacent to DMCH began its formal functioning yesterday. Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque formally inaugurated the activities of the specialised hospital. The 17-storey institute on 76 acres of land will provide advanced treatment to burn patients, while physicians and nurses will get training to enhance their professional excellence.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud highlighting different development projects of the government has said, Bangladesh has now become a role model before the world for its tremendous development in every sector of society. Now there is no scope to call Bangladesh a poor country as it has already attained the status of a lower-middle income country and it will turn into a middle income one within a few years, the Minister added. The Minister was addressing a public rally organized by Awami League, UK unit in London on Wednesday.

The first hajj flight by Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying 417 Bangladeshi pilgrims reached Jeddah yesterday. Earlier, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Md. Mahbub Ali and State Minister for Religious Affairs Advocate Sheikh Md. Abdullah saw the pilgrims off at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

The World Heritage Committee of UNESCO has decided not to keep the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, on the list of 'World Heritage in Danger'. The decision was unanimously taken yesterday at the 43rd session of the 21-member World Heritage Committee currently taking place in Baku, Azerbaijan. Bangladesh's steps taken so far to protect the Sundarbans were appreciated at the UNESCO meeting.

Leader of the opposition in Parliament and Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad has been put on life support at CMH as his health condition has worsened, his brother and Jatiya Party acting Chairman G M Quader said at a press conference at Jatiya Party Chairman's Banani office last night.

The country's first communication satellite Bangabandhu Satellite-1 (BS-1) would be used to telecast Bangladesh Television programmes in India as connection between Indian Doordarshan and BS-1 was fixed yesterday in New Delhi in presence of a team led by Director General of BTV S.M. Haroon-or-Rashid and their Indian counterparts.

Bangladesh will take on Pakistan with the aim of ending their ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 tournament with a high note at Lord's in England today.

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