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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid asked the authority concerned of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-BSMMU to take pragmatic steps to raise its status as the international standard in the field of medicine, education and research activities. The President came up with the directive as a BSMMU delegation, led by its Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Md. Sharfuddin Ahmed, paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban yesterday. The Head of the State, also the Chancellor of the university, also suggested the delegation to continue treatment of the Corona patients without disrupting treatment of the patients with other diseases at BSMMU.

The President in a message on the eve of the 'World Maritime Day 2021', being observed today, extended his sincere thanks and felicitation to the shipping community and hoped the authorities concerned would take proper and effective action to enhance and explore the job market of Bangladeshi seafarers. This year, the theme of the World Maritime Day is "Seafarers: at the core of shipping future".

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is now in Washington DC, yesterday inaugurated the newly constructed "Bangladesh House" at Maryland in the USA. The Premier also took part in a prayer after inaugurating the "Bangladesh House". She earlier planted a sapling of Fringe Tree at the house. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen and Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA M Shahidul Islam, among others, were present there. The Premier earlier reached New York on September 19 to attend the 76th United Nations General Assembly-UNGA after a two-day stopover in Helsinki, the Finish capital. During her stay at New York from September 19 to 24, the Premier participated in the UNGA session at the UN Headquarters and high voltage side events. The Prime Minister left New York for Washington DC on September 25 after wrapping up her week-long official visit there.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has urged all to take lessons from the honesty and ideology of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, daughter of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. While addressing a discussion and educational equipment distribution ceremony, at the Bangladesh National Museum in the capital yesterday, arranged by Sheikh Russel Jatiya Shishu-Kishore Parishad marking the 75th birthday of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the Minister also said, meritorious people should join politics, otherwise it would be devoid of merits. All should say no to the wrongdoers and corrupt people in the country's politics, he said adding, the detained democracy was unchained in the country because of the relentless struggle of Sheikh Hasina. About the movement threat of BNP, he said the country's people will not respond to the BNP's call of movement given from the bank of Thames River in London.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque said, importing rice increases due to various reasons including non-human consumption. Maize is being cultivated in the same place where paddy used to be cultivated. At the same time, the use of rice as fish, poultry, animal feed and starch is increasing day by day. With all these, there is a shortage of rice in the country, he said. The Minister was speaking at a book unveiling program at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council-BARC auditorium in city's Farmgate area yesterday. Due to the timely steps taken by the present government, record production of rice has been achieved in the country, he said, adding that average productivity has also increased.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, the hard-working people are the lifeline of Awami League, since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is doing politics for mass people, including hawkers, labors and farmers. He was addressing a discussion held at AL Office in city's Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday, organized by Bangladesh Awami League Hawkers League, marking the 75th birthday of the Premier. Dr. Hasan said, Bangladesh is marching forward indomitably under the dynamic and farsighted leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase-CCGP in a virtual meeting yesterday chaired by Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal approved a total of seven proposals, including four separate proposals for procuring 1.20 lac metric tons of fertilizer at a cost of Taka 464.64 crore and another proposal for importing 40,000 metric tons of furnace oil from Indonesia at a cost of around Taka 174.20 crore. The CCGP meeting also approved a cost escalation variation proposal of Taka 53.53 crore from the Ministry of Shipping under the project for removing wastes from Sadarghat to Bakalia Char of River Karnaphuli and thus enhancing navigability through dredging. Besides, the meeting gave nod to a proposal from the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh for appointing the joint venture of WOOJOO and SUNJIN, Korea as the consultant with around Taka 59.37 crore for expanding the runway of Cox's Bazar Airport.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen said, the world must unequivocally reject the use of nuclear weapons while supporting the peaceful use of nuclear technology for the benefit of humankind. Dr. Momen was addressing the commemorative High-level event organized on the sidelines of the 76th UNGA on Tuesday. He expressed Bangladesh's firm stand and unwavering constitutional commitment to general and complete disarmament. Recognizing the dangerous consequences of use of these weapons, Dr. Momen urged member states to cease senseless investments in non-productive armament purposes and to re-direct the world's finite resources to address issues like climate change, SDGs, and peace and stability.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md. Shahab Uddin left Dhaka for Italy yesterday at the invitation of Italian Minister for Ecological Transition Roberto Cingolani, to participate in the pre-COP 26 consultation to be held in Milan from September 30 (today) to October 3 next. The Minister will also meet the CVF Secretariat and representatives of other countries to discuss COP-26 preparations.

Bangladesh will march forward towards the development under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Md. Murad Hassan said this at a view-exchange meeting organized by Bangabandhu Parishad in Vancouver, Canada on Tuesday on the occasion of the Premier's 75th birthday. No matter how many conspiracies the anti-liberation forces may conspire, all the pro-liberation forces are united today under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina, he added. He demanded that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's self-confessed killer Noor Chowdhury should be sent back to Bangladesh to execute the verdict.

State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak said that a modern "Sheikh Russel Digital Lab" will be set up at Dhaka Reporters' Unity-DRU aiming to make journalists skilled in IT. While speaking at the inaugural function of 'Meet the Reporters and DRU Apps' at DRU auditorium in city yesterday, he added, under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and under the supervision of ICT affairs Advisor Sajeeb Wazed Joy, the number of Internet users in the country has increased from 56 lac to 12 crore in the last 12 years. ICT exports have risen from 26 million dollar to 1.3 billion dollar, he continued. The government is working in a planned manner through digital security agencies to create skilled manpower in the cyber security sector in the country, he said.

Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam has called on wealthier nations to provide more trade access to poorer countries so as to stimulate their economic growth. He also highlighted the steps taken by the Bangladesh government to ensure full compliance with international labor laws, particularly in the readymade garment industry, during his meeting with Mexican Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade Luz Maria de la Mora Sanchez in Mexico City on Tuesday. The two Ministers also discussed ways to bolster bilateral trade and investment ties.

The second phase of elections to 848 Union Parishads in the country will be held on November 11 next. The decision came from a meeting held at the EC office yesterday presided over by CEC K M Nurul Huda.

Dhaka University will begin admission tests for the 2020-21 academic session at eight divisional cities including Dhaka from tomorrow. The admission tests will be held in Dhaka and in seven public universities in other divisional cities.

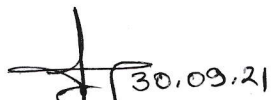
The USAID Mission Director Kathryn Stevens joined Ranjit Kumar Sen, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management to virtually hand over 200 cyclone shelters repaired under USAID's "Increasing Community Resilience to Disaster (ICR)" project, implemented by World Vision in southwest Bangladesh. The shelters provide over 100,000 community and project participants across Koyra, Dacope, Shyamnagar and Kaliganj sub districts with access to safe and secure shelters during disasters such as cyclones and flooding.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will resume its direct flights on Dhaka- Kathmandu route from 9th October 2021 and Dhaka-Medina, Dhaka-Kuwait route from 10th October 2021. Air travelers can purchase tickets for these routes from now on, a Biman press release said yesterday.

The United Arab Emirates has approved six RT-PCR labs set up at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. As a result, there is no obstacle for Bangladeshi passengers to go to Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah in the UAE by having a corona test at the airport.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in a condolence message, expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of President of Gafargaon municipality AL in Mymensingh, Abdul Halim Manik, who passed away while undergoing treatment at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 74.

The country yesterday recorded 17 fatalities from COVID-19, the lowest in four months, taking the total death toll to 27,487. With 1,178 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,55,051. The positivity rate stood at 4.12 per cent, as 28,599 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,14,962, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. Besides, 217 dengue patients got hospitalized in the last 24 hours till last morning, the DGHS informed.


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