



Most Urgent
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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid urged the European Union to continue providing trade preferences to Bangladesh even after Bangladesh's transition from a LDC to a developing one as the newly appointed EU resident Ambassador Charles Whiteley in Dhaka presented his credential to him at the Bangabhaban yesterday. The President also called upon the EU to continue pressure on Myanmar to take back the Rohingyas safely and with dignity. Later, the newly appointed Bangladesh Ambassador to Philippines F M Borhan Uddin and Bangladesh Envoy to France Khandker Mohammad Talha separately paid a courtesy call on the President.

The ECNEC in a meeting yesterday chaired by ECNEC Chairperson and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina approved a total of nine projects involving an overall estimated cost of Taka 6,551.27 crore, including a Taka 1,435.89 crore project to upgrade the Tangail-Delduar-Louhati-Saturia-Kawalipara-Kalampur bus stand road regional highway to due standard and width to ensure safe and uninterrupted road communication system. The meeting also approved the 2nd revision of Kushtia Medical College and Hospital project with an additional cost of Taka 71.38 crore. The other projects approved in the meeting are-Sayedabad water supply project, phase-3, 1st revised with an additional cost of Taka 2,920.66 crore, Agriculture weather information system development, 1st revised with an additional cost of Taka 93.18 crore, Establishment of two agricultural training institutes at Jagannathpur and Mohonganj upazilas with Taka 356.08 crore, River bank protection, re-excavation of small rivers, canals, beels, addressing water logging at Pirganj upazila in Rangpur with Taka 165.59 crore, River bank protection on the both sides of Kirtinasha River at Shariatpur with Taka 319.33 crore, Boropukuria-Bogura-Kaliakoir 400kv line, 1st revised with an additional cost of Taka 729.89 crore and Erection of railway track from Khulna to Mongla Port, 2nd revised with an additional cost of Taka 459.27 crore.

During the ECNEC meeting, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina once again stressed the need for ensuring Effluent Treatment Plants-ETPs and Central Effluent Treatment Plants-CETPs in the mills and factories to avert pouring of industrial wastes in rivers. The Premier stressed again for dredging rivers and canals to maintain navigability of those.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's climate leadership and the Mujib Climate Prosperity Decade Plan 2021-2030 have highly been lauded at the 4th CVF-COP26 Dialogue held in London. Bangladesh High Commission in London in partnership with the Climate Vulnerable Forum-CVF Secretariat organized the dialogue where Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen spoke virtually from Washington D.C. on September 30. Prominent global climate leaders and eminent climate experts, including former British Prime Minister David Cameron, CVF Thematic Ambassador on Ambition and former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed, among others, participated in the dialogue as the co-panellists. Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Saida Muna Tasneem made a presentation on the Mujib Climate Prosperity Decade Plan 2021-2030. David Cameron recalling his visit to Bangladesh in 2017, praised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's leadership, paying tribute to the country's economic progress and development.

Liberation War Affairs Minister A K M Mozammel Haque said, it is a matter of disgrace for the nation to have any organization named after any anti-liberation person in independent Bangladesh. The names of the organizations must be changed. He was speaking at a freedom fighters' rally after inaugurating newly constructed two freedom fighters complexes in Nilphamari district yesterday. He said, works are underway to build 30,000 Bir Nibas for insolvent freedom fighters, adding that free medical treatment is being ensured for the freedom fighters. Besides, he said, allowance of freedom fighters increased to Taka 20,000 per month from Taka 3,000 in the last seven years.

Ambassador of Switzerland in Dhaka Nathalie Chuard paid a courtesy call on Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury at the latter's office yesterday. During the meeting, while discussing various issues, the Swiss Ambassador said, the steps taken by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on tackling climate change and the Rohingya issue are commendable. Later, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime-UNODC representative and GLO Head Ms. Aimée Comrie also paid a courtesy call on the Speaker.

The President will form a neutral Election Commission through a search committee for holding free and fair elections in country, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader stated this while visiting an eight-lane under-construction bridge at Ameen Bazar in the capital yesterday. The government will not interfere in any elections, he added. He also informed, about 25 per cent construction work of the 232.94 metre long eight-lane Ameen Bazar Bridge has been completed so far. The construction of the second Ameen Bazqar Bridge on Dhaka-Aricha Highway will be completed by February, 2023, the Minister said.

The government has taken steps for implementing clean feed foreign TV channels broadcasting in the country for the interest of the country, mass media, journalists, artists and other performers who are linked with the media. The

law exists across the globe, Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said this while exchanging views with the leaders of Broadcast Journalists Center-BJC, at his ministry yesterday. The Minister added, every journalist and television owner stood in favor of the decision. The BJC leaders in the meeting also greeted the Minister for taking the step. The Minister said that his ministry is working to pass the Mass Media Employees Act soon and make a policy for the OTT platform. State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Md. Murad Hasan was present at the meeting. Meanwhile, a total of 24 TV channels, including BBC, CNN, Al Jazeera, Star Sports, Ten Sports, Deutsche Welle and National Geographic Channel, have resumed operations in Bangladesh as they are providing ad-free feed in line with Bangladesh's regulations.

Dr. Hasan yesterday inaugurated the 'Protecting Independent Media for Effective Development' (PRIMED), a project of BBC Media Action on public interest journalism for democracy and development. British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson was present at the function.

The United States has expressed interest in investing in the development of urban infrastructure and improving the quality of primary health care cooperating with Dhaka South City Corporation-DSCC. The US Ambassador in Dhaka Earl R Miller showed the interest as he made a courtesy call on DSCC Mayor Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh at Nagar Bhaban.

The trial run of bus route rationalization with a fleet of 120 new buses will start from December 1, DSCC Mayor came up with the information while talking to newsmen after a meeting of bus route rationalization committee at Nagar Bhaban yesterday. The buses will run under 'Dhaka Nagar Paribahan' on around 21 kilometers long route stretching from Ghatarchar in Keraniganj to Kanchpur, he added.

Vietnam has expressed its keen interest to establish direct air connectivity with Bangladesh. Newly appointed Vietnamese Envoy Pham Viet Chien expressed the interest during a meeting with State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M Mahbub Ali at his ministry yesterday. The State Minister said, work is underway to upgrade the Cox's Bazar airport with international standard, therefore, Vietnamese tourists can land directly to Cox's Bazar from any country to enjoy the beauty of the world's longest sea beach.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Ministry Md. Faridul Haque Khan while speaking at a meeting at his ministry yesterday, informing that Hajj management in 2022 would be technology based in the situation of COVID-19 infection said, the pilgrims and concerned people will be trained up for taking part in the Hajj under the management.

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Md. Murad Hassan returning home after an 11-day official visit to Canada said that Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's self-confessed fugitive killer Noor Chowdhury, living in Toronto, must be brought to justice on the soil of the country. He was taking to newsmen at his Secretariat office yesterday. Earlier, the State Minister attended a view exchanging meeting on 'Digital Communication and Mass Media' at Ryerson University in Canada organized by Bangladesh Television.

The United States has provided another 25 lac doses of Pfizer vaccine to Bangladesh. The US Ambassador Earl R Miller and the USAID Mission Director Kathryn Stevens handed over the jabs to Health ministry's Additional Secretary Syed Mojibul Huq and Director General of DGHS Professor Dr. Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam at the EPI headquarters in the city yesterday.

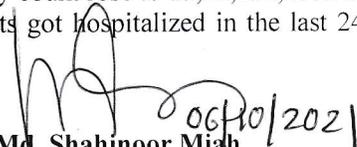
Indian High Commissioner Vikram K. Doraiswami, on behalf of the people and Indian government, handed over two life support ambulances at a ceremony held at the Sylhet Osmani Medical College and Hospital, Sylhet yesterday. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen was present at that time. These Ambulances are part of the overall program for supply of 109 Life Support Ambulances, as announced by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his state visit to Bangladesh in March 2021.

The Hindu community will celebrate Mahalaya across the country today, the auspicious occasion heralding the advent of goddess Durga.

Dhaka University authorities are likely to reopen its dormitories for first, second, and third year students on October 10. In-person classes and exams are likely to resume from October 16 after a long closure for the Covid pandemic. The recommendations came from a Provost Standing Committee meeting with DU Vice Chancellor Prof Aktharuzzaman in the chair yesterday. Meanwhile, the residential halls of DU reopened yesterday for Honours final year and Master's students.

The Asian Development Bank has appointed Edimon Ginting as its new Country Director for Bangladesh. Ginting assumed office succeeding Manmohan Parkash.

The country yesterday recorded 23 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the total death toll to 27,614. With 694 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,59,452. The positivity rate stood at 2.72 per cent, the lowest in 7 months, as 25,499 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,20,296, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. Besides, 197 dengue patients got hospitalized in the last 24 hours till last morning, the DGHS informed.


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