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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reached Baku yesterday on a four-day official visit to Azerbaijan to attend the 18th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement. A special flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying the Premier and her entourage members landed at Baku Heydar Aliyev International Airport at 9:10 pm local time last evening. Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Ali Javad Oglu Ahmadov received the Premier at the airport. Earlier, the Premier left Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka for Baku at 4 pm on the same day. The two-day summit of the NAM, a forum of 120 developing countries, begins at Baku Congress Centre in the Azerbaijan capital today.

Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has urged journalists to play responsible role towards the society by providing objective news to readers being imbued with the spirit of Liberation War. The Speaker made the call while addressing the 9th founding anniversary of The Daily Sun in Basundhara residential area in Dhaka yesterday. The mass media of Bangladesh is passing its golden era under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, as the government believes that mass medias' effective role boosts the practice of democracy, the Speaker added. Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud who also joined founding anniversary ceremony of the Daily Sun yesterday said, newspapers can play a pivotal role to take the country ahead by presenting accurate information.

A fast track court in Feni yesterday sentenced all 16 accused to death and fined them Taka one lakh each in the sensational case lodged over murder of Sonagazi Madrasa student Nusrat Jahan Rafi. Judge Md Mamunur Rashed of Feni Women and Child Repression Prevention Tribunal pronounced the judgement at the jam-packed courtroom at around 11.20 am in presence of all the 16 convicts. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal at a function at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in Dhaka yesterday said that 16 were awarded with capital punishment in the Nusrat murder case through proper investigation. A flawless charge sheet will be given soon in BUET student Abrar killing case after identifying the miscreants involved in the murder, the Minister added. Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday on behalf of the government expressed satisfaction over the verdict in the murder case of Sonagazi madrasa student Nusrat Jahan Rafi.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud has said, the government will work with the broadcast journalists and workers to ensure legal protection of their jobs and other facilities. The Minister said this while addressing a discussion arranged by Broadcast Media Center and Press Institute of Bangladesh in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister said, a big revolution has taken place in Bangladesh's media sector during the Awami League regime under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheik Hasina.

A number of Japanese companies working to build power plants from waste in different countries took part in a workshop on the same issue at the Hotel Intercontinental in Dhaka yesterday. Minister for Local Government Md Tajul Islam while addressing the function said, Public awareness and participation is the key to successful waste management.

Japan's second largest telecom company KDDI has shown its interest to invest in Bangladesh's 5G network, IOT, other digital technologies and special economic zones. The information was revealed when a two-member KDDI delegation led by its Global ICT Division General Manager Hiroyasu Morishita called on Posts and Telecommunications Division Minister Mustafa Jabbar at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

For the first time in its history, Bangladesh Railway has introduced a locomotive simulator to train entry-level loco masters. Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan while inaugurating a set of simulators at Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital yesterday said, apart from taking new projects for the development of railways, the government has taken initiatives to modernize the existing railway system. Project Director Nur Ahmed Hossain said, currently railway is struggling as there is a crisis of loco masters as an entry-level loco master needs minimum eight years to drive trains on main lines. The training time would reduce by one and half a year to two years with the help of the simulator, he said.

Bangladesh has ratified the 'Torremolinos' declaration with an aim to ensure the fishing vessel safety and security of the fishermen as well. State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury signed the declaration on behalf of the country while he was attending a three-day minister-level International Maritime Organization conference that began on October 21 at the Mediterranean resort city of Torremolinos in Southern Spain.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid at a ministerial-level meeting of "Enabling Energy Transformation Through Technology and Policy Innovations" at Baku in Azerbaijan yesterday urged the International Energy Charter Forum to play a significant role to ensure energy security by investing in the sector, sharing technologies and developing expertise.

Singapore Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan has said, his country would raise the Rohingya issue at the 35th ASEAN Summit that will begin in Bangkok on October 31. The Singaporean Minister's remarks came as a delegation from Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs headed by its Chairman M Faruk Khan called on him at his Ministry in Singapore yesterday.

The government will set up a digital archive on Bangabandhu to inform the new generation about different aspects of his life and ideology. The information was revealed in a meeting of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Birth Centenary Celebration National Implementation Committee at International Mother Language Institute in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh has moved eight notches up in the 'Ease of Doing Business Index 2020' of the World Bank as it has ranked 168th among 190 economies across the world. Bangladesh's rank was 176 in the last year's index. The World Bank Group announced the new ranking for 2020 last Wednesday.

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