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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually inaugurated the South Asian Regional Office of Global Centre on Adaptation-GCA in Bangladesh jointly with GCA Chair and former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon yesterday. The opening of the center in Dhaka has been dedicated to the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte also joined the virtual function.

The Bangladesh Premier in her speech on the occasion urged all countries concerned to increase their “determined contributions” to combat the climate change menace and execute the 2015 Paris Agreement. Highlighting her government’s various mitigation and adaptation to offset climate change impacts, the Prime Minister said, so far US\$ 430 million has been allocated under Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund established in 2009. The PM added that her government has also been spending about 1 percent of GDP equivalent to US\$ 2 billion per year since 2010 for adaptation purposes. She said, the government has formulated a 100-year plan called ‘Bangladesh Delta Plan-2100’ as a long-term plan to face the challenges of climate change and natural disasters. The Prime Minister expressed the optimism that the regional office of GCA in Dhaka will serve as a ‘Centre of Excellence’ and a solution-broker for climate adaptation measures in the South Asia region. Ban Ki-moon in his speech said, people around the globe know well that Bangladesh is the best example of successful case to tackle climate change and natural calamities and that is why we’ve decided to set up GCA regional office in Dhaka.

The Gazipur Unnayan Kartripakkha Bill 2020 was passed in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday to turn the fast-growing Gazipur city into a planned, livable and environment-friendly urban area. Besides, the Bangladesh Reference Institute for Chemical Measurements (BRICM), Bill 2020 was passed in the Parliament, aiming to facilitate it to conduct the tests of chemicals at micro level. A bill titled ‘Bangladesh Engineering Research Council Bill 2020’ was also passed in Parliament yesterday to promote engineering research in the country.

Liberation War Affairs Minister A K M Mozammel Haque while talking to newsmen after a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order at the home ministry yesterday said, the government will set up 24 watch towers, construct fence and install CCTVs to monitors activities in Rohingya camps round-the-clock to check criminal activities. The meeting also agreed to continue anti-drug operations and identify patrons of drug smuggling to bring them to book. Measures are underway to update the existing Narcotics Control Act-2018 to ensure visible punishment for smugglers, he said. The Minister said, a committee will be formed to coordinate all reports prepared by intelligence agencies on various issues. The meeting decided to bring more than 500 foreign nationals, staying in Bangladesh without legal documents, in a camp and deport them to their origin countries, he added. We have also decided to bring upazila complex under security and CCTVs surveillance, the minister added.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quaderhas called upon the BNP to wait until the next parliamentary elections if it wants changeover of government. In democratic system, changeover of government takes place through elections. Without polls, there is no such situation prevailing in the country for government changeover through movement, he said. The Minister was addressing a virtual meeting on progress of the Bus Rapid Transit project from Gazipur to Dhaka airport yesterday.

India has expressed deep shock at the terrible loss of lives and injuries at the Narayanganj mosque. External Affairs Minister of India Dr. S Jaishankar in a letter to Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr. A K Abdul Momen conveyed the condolence.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the AC explosion has reached 28 yesterday, while one recovered and returned home and 8 others in critical condition, are undergoing treatment at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto arrives Bangladesh tomorrow on a brief official visit to boost up the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Hungary.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Md. Zakir Hossen addressing a function marking the 'International Literacy Day-2020' in the city yesterday revealed that the literacy rate in the country has risen to 74.7 per cent so far which was 53.5 percent in 2005 during the BNP-Jamaat government. Noting that Father of the Nation paved the way of progressing the primary education by nationalizing 36,165 primary schools and 157,724 teachers in 1973, he said, adding that following the footsteps of her father, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also nationalized 26,139 primary schools in 2013.

The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education is preparing to reopen primary schools following the health and hygiene rules during the Covid-19 pandemic. A circular containing instructions in this regard was issued by the ministry yesterday.

Bangladesh yesterday recorded 36 more fatalities from the novel coronavirus in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 4,552. At the same time recovery count rose to 2,27,809 after another 3,236 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 1,892 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,29,251.

Ambassador of Thailand to Bangladesh, Arunrung Phothong Humphreys yesterday handed over Swab Testing Units to IEDCR and icddr.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate condolence messages have expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of Maleka Begum, mother of Birshreshtha Shaheed Mohammad Mostafa Kamal. Maleka Begum died of old-age complications at her Moutupi village home at Bhola Sadar upazila last morning at the age of 96.

The government launched a three-month long campaign by Digital Security Agency and LICT project of Bangladesh Computer Council, titled 'AsolChini' to stop rumors and fake information in the online and social media. State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak inaugurated the campaign yesterday.

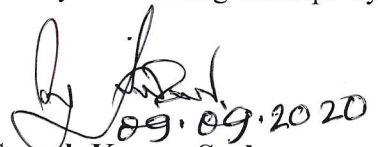
The government is planning to set up dedicated light engineering industrial park at five districts – Dhaka, Narayanganj, Jashore, Bogura and Narsingdi- to harness the immense potential of the domestic light engineering industry. At the same time, Light Engineering Training Institute will be set up to ensure the supply of skilled manpower for the industries set up in the industrial parks. The decision was taken at an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday with Industries Secretary K M Ali Azam in the chair.

The physical condition of Ghoraghat UNO Wahida Khanam, who is undergoing treatment at National Institute of Neurosciences, has improved. Doctors said, the condition of her right hand which was critically injured, remained unchanged and physiotherapy is continuing.

Bangladesh Railway has taken steps to operate 84 more commuter, mail, express and local trains by September 16 as a part of its plan to normalize train services in the country.

A weeklong photo exhibition organized by Bangladesh High Commission in Australia on political life, struggle and leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was inaugurated at the Australian capital Canberra as part of global celebration of 'Mujib Year' marking Bangabandhu's birth centenary. Bangladesh High Commissioner to Australia Sufiur Rahman inaugurated the exhibition.

Most of the banks in the country are keeping their ATM Booth operation suspended for 6-8 hours at night following an alert issued by Bangladesh Bank on possible cyber hacking attempt by foreign hackers.



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