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From: PIO, PID, Dhaka
Fax: 9540553/9540026
E-mail: piddhaka@gmail.com
Web: www.pressinform.gov.bd

News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked the world community to treat the Covid-19 vaccine as a 'global public good' and urged the United Nations to ensure its timely availability of the vaccine to all countries at a time. The Prime Minister yesterday made the plea while virtually addressing the general debate at the 75th UN General Assembly-UNGA in Bangla like the previous years following the footprints of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The PM during her pre-recorded speech said, if Bangladesh is provided with the technical know-how and patents, it can launch mass-scale productions of inoculates as pharmaceutical industries in the country have higher infrastructural capacity. The Premier highlighting Bangladesh's response to fight COVID-19 added, the government announced 21 stimulus packages amounting US\$13.25 billion in the financial sector, gave assistance to more than 10 million families. Amid the COVID-19 crisis, the country achieved 5.24 per cent GDP growth, which is expected to be 7 per cent in the next fiscal, she said. The Premier also reiterated her call to the world community to play a more effective role in solving the protracted Rohingya crisis.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury while addressing virtually a function arranged for distribution of cheques of 'Bangabandhu Youth Loan' among trained youths of Pirganj upazila of Rangpur yesterday, marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman said, the government is working tirelessly to bring women to the forefront through providing various training and easy loans.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen and his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud will discuss bilateral and current issues over phone this afternoon. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam yesterday on his Facebook ID said, there is no crisis of Saudi Arabia's flight ticket adding that who are willing to move Saudi, will be able to fly before ending the current month of Arabic calendar. If necessary, the number of flights will also be increased.

Despite apprehensions regarding acquiring plane tickets and Covid-19 certificates over the last few days, a total of 302 Saudi-bound Bangladeshi passengers were able to leave Dhaka on a flight of Saudi Airlines yesterday. On another flight, 32 Bangladeshi expatriate workers were not allowed by the immigration authority to go to Saudi Arabia as they got tested for Covid-19 at private hospitals instead of the government approved test centre.

Bangladeshi passengers will no longer need to present Covid-19 test report from their homeland to go to Singapore, but they are required to go under a 14-day mandatory quarantine, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said yesterday. The Covid-19 test of these people will be conducted in Singapore. Biman Bangladeshi Airlines would assume flight operations on Dhaka-Singapore route from October 1. Italy is going to resume flights with Bangladesh from October 8, the Italian embassy in Dhaka confirmed.

The country yesterday recorded 36 more fatalities from the COVID-19, in a daily count raising the death toll from the pandemic to 5,129. At the same time recovery count rose to 2,68,777 after another 1,753 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 1,106 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,57,873. A total of 10,765 samples were tested across the country during the time.

The ruling Awami League and its affiliated bodies have drawn up various programmes to celebrate AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 74th birthday tomorrow. Along with other programs, a discussion will be held at Krishibid Institution of Bangladesh in the capital at 3 pm. Doa mahfil will be offered at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque and other mosques and

religious organizations in the country on the day after Johr prayers, seeking good health and long life of AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

'Hasina: A Daughter's Tale', a docudrama bringing to life the trials and tribulations Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina went through following the assassination of her father, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, would be screened tomorrow on a number of television channels including Bangladesh Television marking the Premier's birthday.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has said, forty-six years ago on 25 September in 1974 Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered his maiden speech in his native Bengali language at the 29th UNGA, placing multilateralism and global peace and prosperity at the centre of his foreign policy. He said this while virtually addressing a function marking 'Bangabandhu's speech at the 29th UNGA' arranged by Bangladesh High Commission in London on Friday. Chaired by Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Saida Muna Tasneem, IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim and Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland also spoke on the occasion.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar while speaking at a function in the capital yesterday said, Bangladesh is exporting software to 80 countries around the world. He said, computers in Nigeria and Nepal, and mobile phones in the United States are also being exported. From the mobiles produced in Bangladesh, 82 per cent of the country's demand for mobiles is being met, he added. The Minister said, high-speed broadband connectivity has already reached 3,800 unions in the country. Work has started to provide broadband internet in the remaining 738 unions including remote chars, haors and islands.

The 'World Tourism Day' is being observed in the country today with the theme "Village will be City". President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages on the eve of the day urging the private entrepreneurs and non-government organizations to work together along with the government for the development of the tourism industry.

The ruling Awami League's candidate Nuruzzaman Biswas has been unofficially declared elected in Pabna-4 by-election by a huge margin with 2,39,937 votes while his nearest rival BNP's Habibur Rahman Habib got 5,548 votes.

The World Bank has approved US\$200 million loan in the Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Human Capital Development Project being implemented for the rural people in the country.

The government has promoted 98 joint secretaries as Additional Secretary. The Public Administration Ministry issued a notification in this regard yesterday.

DMP has started the process of dismissing 26 police personnel, found positive in dope tests. DMP Commissioner Shafiqul Islam said this while inaugurating the office of the newly formed Mirpur Traffic Division yesterday.

GM Megaranto Susanto of Indonesia emerged unbeaten champion on the concluding day in the Joytu Sheikh Hasina International Online Chess Tournament, arranged on the occasion of 74th birthday celebration of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.



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Surath Kumar Sarker

Principal Information Officer
Phone: 9546091