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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will virtually inaugurate the newly built Bangladesh chancery complex in Turkish capital Ankara tomorrow. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen is leaving Dhaka today for Turkey on a four-day visit to join the program and for holding a bilateral meeting with his Turkish counterpart Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu on September 15. Rohingya crisis, D-8 summit and trade cooperation between Bangladesh and Turkey will be highlighted in the meeting. Dr. Momen is also likely to call on Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sent a cow and Taka 10,000 in cash to a financially insolvent couple of Lalmonirhat district to lift out them of the curse of extreme poverty after coming to know the agony of the struggling couple published in some newspapers and online news portals.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader about the remarks of BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said, Awami League's power does not grow out of barrel of gun rather people are the source of its power. AL's root is very deep in that soil, he said. The Minister was addressing the inaugural ceremony of a representatives' conference of Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh at Kakrail in the city yesterday through videoconferencing. The country's most glorious achievement, the great independence, was attained under the leadership of AL, he said adding that those, who think that AL's position is as like as a house of cards, are living in a fool's paradise.

Bangladesh has regained its top position out of about 122 participating countries by sending 6,731 peace keeping forces on current UN missions. ISPR in a press release confirmed this yesterday. ISPR has also informed, Major General Main Ullah Chowdhury of Bangladesh Army has been elected the Deputy Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan. Meanwhile, some 180 female members of Bangladesh Police on Friday left for Congo to join the United Nations Mission in the country.

The USA has assured Bangladesh that it will continue its support to bringing about a peaceful resolution to the protracted Rohingya crisis. The assurance came during a phone call by US Defence Secretary Mark Esper to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Friday. During the telephonic conversation, Prime Minister also sought the US Defence Secretary's support in repatriating Rashed Chowdhury, Bangabandhu's fugitive convicted killer, who is now residing in the USA. Secretary Esper assured the Premier of extending cooperation in this regard. Secretary Esper expressed his appreciation for the generosity shown by Bangladesh on the Rohingya issue and thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in this regard. He also lauded the role of Bangladesh as the number one troop-contributing country in the UN Peacekeeping Operations.

Dhaka has suggested Myanmar to engage non-military civilian observers from its friendly countries like ASEAN, China, Russia, India or other friends of their choice in Rohingya repatriation process to reduce trust deficit among the forcibly displaced people for returning to their land of origin in Rakhine with safety and security. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen said this as he was addressing the virtual ministerial meeting of 27th ASEAN Regional Forum. Meanwhile, eight Security Council members of the United Nations in a statement on Friday called for the Rohingya minority victims participation in Myanmar's upcoming elections slated on November 8. The statement also urged Myanmar to create conditions conducive to the safe, voluntary, sustainable, and dignified return of Rohingya refugees staying in Bangladesh.

Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla has said, connectivity between Bangladesh and India directly and positively impacts both the North East India and Bangladesh. He said four of the six pre-1965 rail links between the two countries have been made operational, and work is underway on the remaining two. The Indian Foreign Secretary was addressing a webinar on "Self-Reliant India: Reimagining the North East India in terms of Employment and Skill" recently.

As part of the celebration of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and on the occasion of Bangladesh getting membership in the United Nations, a discussion programme will be broadcast on Bangladesh Television, other private TV channels, social platforms and online media on September 17 next. Besides, another discussion programme and a documentary will be broadcast on September 25 next on the occasion of Bangabandhu's speech at the UN. The decision was taken in an online meeting of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Birth Centenary Celebration National Implementation Committee yesterday. Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, among others, was present on the occasion.

Bangladesh yesterday recorded 34 more fatalities from the novel coronavirus in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 4,702. At the same time recovery count rose to 2,38,271 after another 2,247 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 1,282 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,36,044. Meanwhile, clinical trials of AstraZeneca and Oxford University Covid-19 vaccines resumed yesterday after a brief safety pause as a UK volunteer developed an unexplained illness.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan while inspecting the construction work of the rail line from Dohazari to Cox's Bazar said, if one of the fast track projects of the government, is completed then the country will face massive change in its tourism industry. It is informed that the rail line from Dohazari to Cox's Bazar is expected to be completed on June in 2022. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Railway resumed selling train tickets at station counters yesterday. Some 25 per cent tickets will be sold from the counters while another 25 per cent will be made available for online booking, the rest 50 per cent seats will remain vacant to contain COVID-19 pandemic.

State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury has called for keeping active multi-dimensional waterways between Dhaka and Barishal for using alternative routes while facing difficulties. The State minister said this while inspecting the Laxmirchar-Alurbazar-Ishanbala-Hijla-Ulania-Miarchar waterway on the Dhaka-Barishal route in Chandpur yesterday.


State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid has said, everyone should avoid additional power consumption, which is not permitted from the authority. If necessary, consumers can receive assistance from power offices to ensure safety and avoid accidents, he said while addressing the inaugural function of Smart Pre-Payment Meter Installation in Narail through video conferencing yesterday.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh has decided to allow the country's all airlines to carry passengers covering its all seats like the pre-Covid 19 period from today.

The health condition of Ghoraghat UNO Wahida Khanam has improved further, doctors at the National Institute of Neurosciences yesterday said adding she's now out of danger and has no health complications. Police arrested a suspended fourth-class employee at the UNO office, Rabiul Islam on Friday in connection with the attack on Ghoraghat UNO and he confessed to the police about the attack. The police recovered the hammer and other weapons used in the attack.

The UN Resident Coordinator in Dhaka Mia Seppo and US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R Miller have appreciated the first sentencing under Bangladesh Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act. In the first verdict under the Act, a Dhaka court on Wednesday sentenced three policemen to life term imprisonment and two police informants to seven years' jail in a case filed over custodial death.

TCB starts selling onion at Tk 30 per kg and some other essential items, including sugar, lentil pulses and soybean oil, at different points in the capital and elsewhere in the country on the working days which would continue till October 31.


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