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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is now on a five-day official visit to China, reached Beijing last morning after attending inaugural ceremony of the WEF Summer Davos in Dalian city. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Qing Gang received the Premier at the Beijing Capital International Airport. The Prime Minister is expected to have a meeting with her Chinese Counterpart Li Keqiang at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing today. The two leaders would witness signing of several agreements. Meanwhile, addressing a civic reception accorded to her by expatriate Bangladeshis at Legendale Hotel last evening, the PM said, Bangladesh is advancing by maintaining good relations with all countries including neighbours. There are many things that could be learnt from China, the Prime Minister added.

A Special Tribunal in Pabna yesterday sentenced 9 Bangladesh Nationalist Party leaders and activists to death and 25 others to life on charge of attack on a train carrying the then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, now the Prime Minister, in 1994. The tribunal judge also jailed 13 other leaders and activists of BNP and associate bodies for 10 years.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has urged the world leaders across the globe to make parliamentary diplomacy a focal point for building an inclusive and equity-based world order. The Speaker made the urge while addressing a session of the two-day conference on Development of Parliamentarism-2019 hosted by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation at World Trade Center in Moscow on Tuesday evening.

First hajj flight carrying the Bangladeshi pilgrims to perform the holy hajj left Dhaka for Saudi Arabia by a flight of Biman Bangladesh airlines this morning. State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Md. Mahub Ali and State Minister for Religious Affairs Advocate Sheikh Md. Abdullah were present at the airport to see off the pilgrims.

Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh Charlotta Schlyter yesterday at a courtesy call on Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader at his ministry in Dhaka assured that her country will continue its pressure on Myanmar to take back its nationals from Bangladesh. Meanwhile, Adviser to the Prime Minister on International Affairs Gowher Rizvi while addressing a seminar in the capital yesterday said that the Rohingya crisis, if not resolved, would derail all aspirations of development in this region and it would become a problem for the entire world. Besides, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Yanghee Lee yesterday repeated her call that the situation in Rakhine should be referred to the International Criminal Court. She made the call when a report released from Geneva said, Myanmar security forces and insurgents are committing human rights violations against civilians in the restive western states that may amount to fresh war crimes.

The world's largest burn and plastic surgery institute, Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn And Plastic Surgery, equipped with most modern facilities and technology is going to start its formal functioning today. Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque will inaugurate the programme of the specialized hospital adjacent to DMCH.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq has said, Bangladesh can apply experience of Singapore in easing backlog of cases in the country. The Minister said this to the newsmen after a meeting with Singaporean Envoy Derek Loh in Dhaka yesterday.

Railways Minister Md. Nurul Islam Sujon while talking to reporters after visiting Benapole Railway Station last afternoon said, a direct train service from Dhaka to Benapole will be launched on July 25 next. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the train service from Dhaka through a videoconference, the Minister added.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R. Miller has said, Bangladesh is one of the United States' most valued partners and one of the world's great development success stories. The US Envoy made the appreciation as he was addressing a reception marking the 243rd Independence Day of the United States in Dhaka yesterday.

The UNDP in collaboration with the government of Bangladesh has launched a six-year project titled 'Livelihoods Improvement of Urban Poor Communities Project' yesterday for improving the living standard of the capital's 4 million poverty-stricken people.

To ease growing traffic congestion, the city corporation has imposed ban on plying of rickshaws on three major roads in the capital. The ban is expected to come into effect on Sunday, July 7. Dhaka South City Corporation's Mayor Mohammad Sayeed Khokon yesterday made the announcement in Dhaka.

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