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### News Brief

Bangladesh Awami League decided to hold its 21st National Council on December 20 and 21 next at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital. The decision was taken at the AL Central Working Committee meeting at Ganabhaban last evening with Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina in the chair. Presiding over the meeting, the PM asked the party leaders and workers to work for the people by keeping up their confidence and trust to reach the desired goal and build Sonar Bangla as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The Prime Minister said her government brought down the poverty rate to 21 percent and attained 8.1 percent GDP growth. The Prime Minister gave financial assistance of Taka 13.65 crore to different organisations and individuals including freedom fighters, cultural activists and sportsmen at Ganabhaban last evening. Meanwhile, the Premier attended the passing-out parade of the BCS 36th batch of probationary Assistant Superintendents of Police at Sarda Police Academy in Rajshahi today. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate on Tuesday next the 4th Boeing 787-8 'Rajhangsha'. Earlier, the dreamliner reached Dhaka from the USA yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will travel to India on October 3-6 for talks with her Indian Counterpart Narendra Modi, with Dhaka's concerns about people excluded from Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC) expected to figure on the agenda. As reported by Hindustan Times, India-Bangladesh relations have been strengthened under the two leaders, who have jointly lunched several projects, especially in connectivity. Besides holding talks with Modi, the PM Sheikh Hasina is set to address the India Economic Summit of the World Economic Forum on October 4. The two sides are also expected to review progress in the implementation of development projects funded by India and the sharing of river waters.

The prestigious Diplomat Magazine of the Netherlands unveiled its latest edition with a cover story featuring Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina titled 'Sheikh Hasina: The Mother of Humanity'. The edition was introduced to members of the Hague-based diplomatic corps, international media, think-tanks, business personalities in a ceremony at a local hotel in the Hague recently.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury while laying foundation stone of the 'Pirganj Model Mosque and Islamic Cultural Centre' at Laldighee Bazar in Pirganj upazila of Rangpur yesterday said, the government is constructing 500 model mosques across the country. The mosques will play important role in infusing human values to future generations on way to build a peaceful, prosperous and enlightened society, she said. Earlier, the Speaker paid floral tribute at the grave of the PM's husband and nuclear scientist with international repute, Dr. M A Wazed Miah at his family graveyard in his ancestral village of Laldighee Fatehpur in Pirganj upazila.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud at a discussion on a book named 'Bangladesher Muktijuddho : Kolkatar Sangbadikra o Press Club Kolkata' at Kolkata Press Club in India yesterday reminiscing the contribution of the journalists of Kolkata to the War of Liberation of Bangladesh said, their role will be written in golden letters in history. Later, the Minister inaugurated the exhibition of artworks on 'Bangabandhu o Bangladesh' at Indian Council for Cultural Relations auditorium in Kolkata. The Minister will inaugurate the first-ever 'Bangladesh Film Festival at Agortola today. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Information published on its website the gazette of the 'Ninth Wage Board Award' for journalists and workers of newspapers and news agencies on September 12, reports the daily Observer.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid while addressing a meeting at Bidyut Bhaban in the capital yesterday held for ensuring uninterrupted power supply to the industries and factories said, a committee comprising public and private representatives of industrial organizations will be formed under the leadership of the Chairman of Bangladesh Energy and Power Research Council where the existing inconsistencies, possible solutions or future plans of the power sector can be discussed. The State Minister while talking to media said, the power generation capacity of the country has reached over 22,329 MW and the government is working relentlessly to raise the capacity to 24,000 MW by 2021. By 2030, the country's power generation capacity will reach 40,000 MW and by 2041 it will go up further to 60,000 MW, he said.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Abdur Razzaque while inaugurating the '7th Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference' in a city hotel yesterday said, Bangladesh is committed to ensure biosafety as an adaptor of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Local Government Minister Md. Tazul Islam at an award giving ceremony arranged by the Dhaka WASA at a city hotel yesterday said, the canals and lakes in Dhaka city that have been occupied and polluted due to various reasons will be retrieved from the illegal occupants to make them fit for plying of lighter water vessels.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Fazilatunnesa Indira will leave Dhaka today for Kenya to join the 12th Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting to be held in Nairobi on September 19-20 under the theme 'From Commitment to Action: Accelerating Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment for Sustainable Development'. Women and Children Affairs Secretary Kamrun Nahar will also attend the meeting.

A number of UAE business groups are set to invest US\$10 billion in Bangladesh, according to the Bangladesh Economic Forum which takes place at Conrad Dubai Hotel in Dubai today. PM's Adviser for Private Industry and Investment Salman F. Rahman is leading a 20-member government delegation at the Forum.