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News Brief

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday unanimously adopted a condolence motion expressing profound grief over the death of eminent personalities including former Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, Advocate Shahara Khatun, Israfil Alam, followed by a general discussion. The Parliament also took obituary references over the deaths of several elite personalities including Sector Commander during the Liberation War Major General (retd) Chitta Ranjan Dutta and Lt. Col (retd) Abu Osman Chowdhury and others. The JS condoled the casualties triggered by air-conditioner blast in the mosque in Narayanganj, tragic explosion in the Lebanese capital Bairuf and the deaths caused by the plane crash in Indian Kerala state as well.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while taking part in the discussion on the obituary motion, paid homage to former Indian President Pranab Mukherjee saying that he always stood beside them at their bad times during the 1971 Liberation War and after August 15, 1975 carnage when they took refuge in India. About the bravery of Sahara Khatun, the Premier said that she went to the BDR headquarters after the mutiny took place and saved many people risking her life.

Describing the Narayanganj mosque blast on Friday night as a very tragic incident, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that directions have been given to the concerned authorities to unearth the reason behind the deadly explosion. The Premier added, it is essential to oversee whether mosques are constructed in the country maintaining the due designs and with permission from relevant authorities so that such incidents do not happen again. Now air-conditioners are being installed in the country's mosques in an unplanned way or mosques are built anywhere without planning, the PM said further. The Premier said that her government has taken every possible measure to provide better treatment to the burn injured people.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the AC explosion has reached 24 while 13 others are undergoing treatment at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery. The Health minister Zahid Maleque visited the victims yesterday. Meanwhile, Islamic Foundation has asked committees of all mosques to check electrical connections to avert any unwanted situation. Chinese Embassy, Australian and Canadian High Commission in Dhaka in separate condolence messages have expressed deep shock at the loss of lives in explosions at a mosque in Narayanganj.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque while visiting the National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital yesterday to know the health condition of the Ghoraghat UNO Wahida Khanam said, her health condition is gradually improving as the government has provided all necessary treatment facilities. There is no need to send her abroad for better treatment at this moment but a decision in this regard will be taken later, if needed, the Minister added. The right side of her injured body is still paralysed. Doctors said it will be cured with physical therapy, he said. Meanwhile, the key accused, Asadul Islam in the UNO Wahida Khanam and her father Omar Ali attack case who was handed over to the Detective Branch of police in Dinajpur on Saturday night was, taken on seven-day police remand yesterday.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque while addressing a meeting of the National Coordination and Advisory Committee on Fertilizers at his ministry yesterday said, the government would procure additional 1 lakh metric tons of urea and 2 lakh metric tons of DAP fertilizer. He further said, under the agri-friendly government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the price of DAP fertilizer has been reduced from Tk 90 to Tk 28, TSP from Tk 80 to Tk 22 and potassium from Tk 70 to Tk 15. It was a landmark decision of the government as part of good governance in fertilizer management.

Ambassador of Switzerland in Dhaka Nathalie Chuard has said, Bangladesh has achieved huge capability in foreign trade and investment. The Swiss envoy made the remark while meeting with

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi at his ministry yesterday. The envoy lauded the tackling of coronavirus and the continuation of export trade during the Corona period in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh yesterday recorded 32 more fatalities from the novel coronavirus in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 4,479. At the same time recovery count rose to 2,21,275 after another 3,423 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 1,592 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,25,157.

Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-BCSIR has completed genome sequencing of 263 COVID-19 samples at its laboratory among 300 samples collected from coronavirus positive patients across the country, BCSIR Chairman Prof. Dr. Md. Aftab Ali Sheikh told a meeting yesterday. Science and Technology Minister Architect Yeafesh Osman addressing the meeting said, genome sequencing of COVID-19 is an important task for an effective vaccine development.

The literacy rate in Bangladesh has stood at 74.6 per cent which was 53.5 per cent in 2005. State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Zakir Hossain came up with the information as he was speaking at a press conference at his ministry yesterday marking the International Literacy Day. Primary and Mass Education Senior Secretary Akram-Al-Hossain present at the press conference said, there will be no examinations if schools cannot be reopened this year. He said, if the schools can resume academic activities in October or November, the government would consider evaluation of the students to promote them to the new grades.

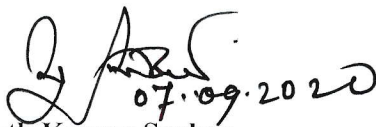
Centre for Research and Information-CRI Vice-Chairperson and autism expert Saima Wazed Hossain has called upon everyone to change the mindset 'being minor in age means being minor in knowledge'. She made the remark at the closing session of 'Let's Talk' yesterday, organised by Young Bangla, the youth wing of CRI. Recounting how Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at his prime jumped onto the political landscape out of his call to protect the interest of his community and finally founded a nation, Saima voiced for breaking the stereotype that age alone indicates one's depth of knowledge.

The Chinese Embassy in Dhaka has regretted sending gifts to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on her fake birthday, mentioning that it was a mistake on their part as they were not aware of this fake birthday. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs raised the issue with the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka when they came to know about it. The Chinese Embassy expressed apology for it and assured that they will take care of it, sources informed media yesterday. Khaleda Zia's birthday is a matter of controversy in Bangladesh as there were four birth dates: August 5, 1944; August 19, 1947; September 5, 1946 and August 15, 1946 - appeared in the media on various occasions.

Malaysia has imposed restrictions on entry of citizens from 12 countries including Bangladesh. Migrants who came to Bangladesh on vacation will now have to wait until December 31. State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam said, Bangladesh will continue discussion with Malaysia over the issue. Meanwhile, Turkish The Airlines has decided to increase its flight frequency on Istanbul-Dhaka-Istanbul route to five weekly flights from today.

Unilever Bangladesh Ltd, British American Tobacco and banglalink-deposited Taka 17.05 crore to the Bangladesh Workers' Welfare Foundation and handed over the cheques to the State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Munnujan Sufian yesterday.

Bangladesh, as requested by the Lebanese government, has sent 3,360 kg of glass products through a special flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines as aid to the Lebanese capital of Beirut that was shattered last month due to the huge explosion.


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