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**News Brief**

President Md. Abdul Hamid hosted an Iftar party for Islamic scholars, injured freedom fighters and family members of Birshresthas, orphans and Bangabhaban officials and employees at Bangabhaban yesterday. On the occasion of the iftar, a special munajat was offered seeking divine blessings for continued peace, progress and prosperity of the country. Before the Iftar, the President exchanged pleasantries with the guests and enquired about their well-being.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque has said, the government is planning to export around 5 to 10 lakh tonnes of Boro rice as the country witnesses a surplus production of rice this year. The Minister said this at a press conference at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. The Agriculture Minister said, the country witnessed a partial loss of different standing crops on 63,063 hectares of land in 35 districts by the cyclonic storm Fani.

Ministers and senior officials concerned have proposed construction of more cyclone shelters for the southern coastlines, reinforced embankments and improved ICT communication systems as they joined a post-Fani review meeting at the PMO yesterday. Prime Minister’s Principal Secretary Md. Nojibur Rahman moderated the meeting. The meeting proposed that project implementation and monitoring committees should be formed with the inclusion of local people particularly to oversee the proper use of funds.

Bangladesh has outplayed West Indies by eight wickets in the first match of the Tri-Nation Series at the Castle Avenue in Dublin, Ireland yesterday. After restricting West Indies to 261, Bangladesh reached the target in 45 overs.

Bangladesh and India have discussed various aspects of making a feature film on the life and works of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The shooting of the film is expected to begin by November next. The issue was discussed at a meeting between Secretary Amit Khare and other officials of India's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and a Bangladesh delegation led by Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr. Gowher Rizvi in New Delhi yesterday. Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Syed Muazzem Ali and Information Secretary Abdul Malek took part in the discussion.

The nation observes the 158th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore in a befitting manner across the country today. On the occasion of Tagore’s birth anniversary, President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages paying rich tribute to the poet. Various programmes have been taken to celebrate the birth anniversary of Kabiguru.

Renowned singer and composer Subir Nandi breathed his last at a hospital in Singapore yesterday. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of this Ekushey award-winning singer.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed deep shock at the death of many people in a Russian passenger aircraft crash. In a condolence message sent to her Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev yesterday, the Bangladesh Premier said, she is deeply shocked to learn about the tragic accident. The Prime Minister wished a fast recovery of the injured people at the crash.

The World Thalassemia Day is being observed today in the country as elsewhere in the globe with the theme "Make-sure electrophoresis test of blood before marriage to protect the upcoming new born baby from thalassemia". Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued a message wishing a success of the day's programmes.

Overall investment proposals with the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority rose by 6.92 per cent during the January-March quarter in 2019 compared to the previous quarter October to December of 2018.

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