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**News Brief**

President Md. Abdul Hamid leaves for Kishoreganj today for a five-day visit from September 24-28. He will attend several programmes at Austagram, Itna and Mithamain upazilas during his visit.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reached New York yesterday to join the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly. Bangladesh Ambassador to the US Md Ziauddin and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UN Masud Bin Momen received the Premier, on her arrival. Besides attending the UNGA, the PM will join different programmes during the 10-day trip.

The Prime Minister has honored the Islamic scholars by giving equal status of Dawra certificate to the Masters degree. Islamic Foundation Governor Misbahur Rahman Choudhury said this while addressing a discussion arranged by the United Islamic Scholars Forum at the National Press Club in Dhaka yesterday.

Speaker of Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has said, foreigners are conducting research on the success stories of Bangladesh in attaining autarky in food production and food security. Speaker said this while exchanging views with local people and addressing street rallies in Rangpur yesterday.

Expecting another decade of vibrant economic activities, Finance Minister A M A Muhith has said, Bangladesh's economy has been performing well for the last 10 years. The Minister said this while speaking at an international conference on the Sustainable Development Goals at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. The government is working to enhance trade relations all over the world, including in the South Asian region, he added.

Highlighting massive development of the country under this government, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has urged party leaders and activists to work together to win the next general election. The Minister said this while addressing a rally as part of his three-day organizational trip from Dhaka to Cox's Bazar that began yesterday.

Planning Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal has said, the pre-condition for any country's economic advancement is improved communication system and there is a need to further improve the roads in the country. The Minister said this while addressing a seminar at the NEC Conference Room in Dhaka yesterday.

The government has imposed a 22-day ban, starting October 7, on catching, selling and transporting hilsa in a 7,000-km breeding river ground to ensure the safe spawning of this popular fish during its peak breeding period. The ban prevails in the rivers of 37 districts. The decision was made at a meeting of the National Taskforce formed to implement the 'Mother Hilsa Protection Campaign 2018' held yesterday with Fisheries and Livestock Minister Narayon Chandra Chanda in the chair.

Bangladesh has invited Qatari entrepreneurs to make investment in Bangladesh as the government is ready to give one or more Special Economic Zones to them under very liberal investment policy. State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam said this at a function in Doha on Saturday.

Bangladesh defeated Afghanistan by three runs in the Asia Cup Cricket at Abu Dhabi, UAE yesterday.

Bangladesh emerged unbeaten group F champions in the second qualifying round of the AFC Women's Under-16 Football Championship Qualifiers with a 2-0 win over Vietnam at Bir Shrestha Shaheed Shipahi Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Dhaka yesterday.

DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, lost 0.94 per cent, or 51.80 points, to close at 5,467.05 points yesterday.

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