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## News Brief

Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at PMO in Dhaka yesterday. During the meeting, the Premier stressed the need for a pivotal role of the OIC in forging unity of the Muslim community and stopping fratricidal conflicts among them. While exchanging views, the Iranian FM informed the Prime Minister that Tehran is going to hold a seminar marking the birth centenary of Father of Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 2020. The Iranian FM also called on Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury at her Parliament office in Dhaka yesterday. Javad Zarif arrived in Dhaka Tuesday to attend the 3rd IORA Blue Economy Ministerial Conference to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Hotel InterContinental this morning.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the country's businesspersons to stay alert against the propaganda now being carried out against the government as this is ultimately affecting the businesses of the country. The PM made the call as a delegation of BGMEA led by its President Dr. Rubana Huq called on her at the PMO in Dhaka yesterday. Mentioning that the garments sector has been playing a great role in the country's development, the Premier also urged the businessmen to give more importance to the diversification of products to boost exports further.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while exchanging views with leaders of the Hindu community at Ganabhaban in Dhaka last afternoon on the occasion of Janmashtami urged them not to undermine themselves by saying minority. Pointing out the prevailing communal harmony in the country, the Premier said the people of all faiths have equal rights in Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday witnessed a power-point presentation at the PMO on the master plan of a project for establishing Sheikh Hasina University in Netrakona. The university is being set up on 500 acres of land in Netrakona at a cost of Taka 2,637 crore with a target to complete it by December 2021.

All local television channels would start their full-fledged transmission using the Bangabandhu Satellite-I on October 1. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to open it formally. Meanwhile, the process of launching country's second satellite Bangabandhu-2 has begun. To this end, Bangladesh Communication Satellite Company Limited yesterday organised a stakeholders' meeting to get opinions and requirements to frame the project proposal. Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar spoke at the meeting.

ADB will fund the upgradation of the country's four highways, Dhaka-Sylhet, Rangpur-Banglabandha, Rangpur-Burimari and Faridpur-Barishal into four-lane ones with separate lanes for slow-moving vehicles. ADB Country Director Manmohan Parkash made the disclosure when he met Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader at his ministry yesterday. Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud while addressing a meeting of the Chattogram Port Advisory Committee at the training institute of the port put special emphasis on increasing the capacity of the port by keeping pace with the national economic growth. Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun inaugurated the four-day '20th Textech Bangladesh International Expo-2019' at International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka yesterday. Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi while speaking at the 'Canada-Bangladesh Business Forum 2019' at Toronto in Canada on Tuesday called upon the Canadian entrepreneurs to invest in the country's Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam during a meeting with the Japanese State Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshiko Abe in Male yesterday on the sidelines of the 4th Indian Ocean Conference sought Japan's support for repatriation of the Rohingyas with safety and dignity to Myanmar. During the meeting, both sides agreed on timely implementation of ODA signed on during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Japan. The Japanese side reassured their support and cooperation to build a railway bridge over the Jamuna. Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne while visiting the Balukhali Rohingya camp at Ukhiya in Cox's Bazar yesterday said, her government will help Bangladesh in the repatriation of Rohingya people to their homeland at Rakhine State of Myanmar. Meanwhile, NGO Affairs Bureau of the government has banned operations of two more international NGOs- Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and Al Markazul Islami in the country for 'financing an anti-repatriation campaign' at Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar.

Foreign Minister of Pakistan Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Tuesday phoned his Bangladesh counterpart Dr. A K Abdul Momen and shared current issues. South Africa is considering for opening a diplomatic mission in Dhaka to increase its socio-economic relations with Bangladesh, Ambassador Dr. Anil Sooklal, Deputy Director-General for Asia-Pacific and the Middle East of DIRCO, South Africa, told a lecture session at BIISS auditorium in Dhaka yesterday. Biman Bangladesh Airlines will get its fourth brand new Boeing 787-8 'Rajhangsha' on September 12.

The government has signed two project agreements to exploit the potentials of seaweed industry in Bangladesh and develop sustainable soil management for nutrition-sensitive agriculture. ERD under the Ministry of Finance and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations signed the agreements at NEC Conference room yesterday.