News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned home from Abu Dhabi last night, concluding her three-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates. Bangladesh Ambassador to the UAE Muhammad Imran saw the Premier off at the airport. A VVIP flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying the Premier and her entourage members landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka at 12.05am.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, Bangladesh is now on right track to attain the Sustainable Development Goals due to her government’s time-befitting initiatives. The Premier said this while replying to a question in an interview session at the Future Sustainability Summit at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre in Dubai Yesterday. The Prime Minister said, nearly a quarter of all the families in the country have been covered under the social safety net programmes. About Rohingya issue, Sheikh Hasina said, Bangladesh has been providing all necessary physical support services including food, housing, health and other emergency services to over 1.1 million forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals. On climate issue, the Premier said, though Bangladesh is not responsible for carbon emission, it is one of the worst sufferers of the climate changes caused by the carbon emission.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked Bangladesh ambassadors in Middle Eastern countries to strengthen ties with Muslim countries, exploring new markets for Bangladesh products and draw their investment to the country. The Premier made the call while speaking at the Envoys’ Conference at her place of residence, Shangri-La Hotel in Abu Dhabi on Monday night. Sheikh Hasina simultaneously asked the envoys to use their diplomatic expertise in resolving any misunderstanding with friendly countries including neighbours saying such situations could emerge in foreign relations but those should be resolved through dialogues. The Premier asked them to protect Bangladesh workers interest abroad simultaneously reminding all that they were sending the maximum remittance from the Middle East countries. The Bangladeshi Envoys of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arab and the UAE were present at the conference.

The newly appointed Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr Ahmad Kaikaus, paid a courtesy call on President Md. Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The Premier’s Principal Secretary sought necessary cooperation and directives from the President in discharging duties properly.

The ‘Disposition of Surplus Money of Self-Governed Agencies including Autonomous, Semi-Autonomous and Statutory Government Authorities and Public Non-Financial Corporations to the National Exchequer Bill 2020’ was placed in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday to ensure the better use of the surplus money. Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal placed the bill in the parliament with Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the Chair. Later, the bill was sent to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Finance for further scrutiny within 7 working days. Meanwhile, the Parliamentary Standing Committee report on the Bangladesh Tariff Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was also placed in the House yesterday.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud and his Indian counterpart Prakash Javadekar jointly launched a broadcasting programme between Prasar Bharati and Bangladesh Betar at a function in New Delhi yesterday. The people of Kolkata and Agartala could now listen to the Bangladesh Betar programmes. The audience of Akashvani in Bangladesh could hear the Indian radio programmes. Listeners from across the globe would
also be able to enjoy Bangladesh Betar’s programmes by downloading www.newsonair.com apps from now on. Later, in an open discussion the Bangladesh Information Minister sought Indian support to develop the Bangabandhu Film City as per international standard. The Indian side has agreed to provide all out support to this end. Later, a MoU was signed between Bangladesh Film Development Corporation and National Film Development Corporation NFDC, India on producing the biopic of Bangladesh’s Founding Father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Bangladesh signed an agreement with the United Arab Emirates over allocation of land to build Bangladesh’s permanent embassy in the Abu Dhabi diplomatic zone. The deal was inked at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre in Dubai yesterday. Foreign Minister Dr A K Abdul Momen and his UAE counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan signed the agreement on behalf of their respective countries.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq has said, the government remained vigilant to ensure justice against the repression on women and children in the country. He stated this while addressing an award giving ceremony arranged by Manusher Jonno Foundation at the auditorium of Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in Dhaka yesterday.

Prime Minister’s ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy has urged ICT officials to be devoted in innovation, not to replicate the innovations of others in the ICT sector. He came up with the call while addressing a views-exchange meeting on activities, achievements and progresses of different agencies of ICT Division at ICT Tower in Dhaka yesterday. State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak handed over the Asian-Oceanian Computing Industry Organization’s ICT Education Award to Joy at the function.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Md Zakir Hossain has said, a total of 410,238 primary level students have been brought under the facility of school-feeding programme so that students of 2,166 schools under 16 upazilas can reap the benefit of the scheme marking the ‘Mujib Year’. He revealed the information while addressing at a school feeding inauguration programme at Rowmari upazila in Kurigram yesterday.

The 21st span of the much-awaited Padma Multipurpose Bridge was installed yesterday at Jajira point, making over 3 kilometres out of total 6.15km of the main structure of the bridge visible.

Ambassador Rabab Fatima, Bangladesh’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, has been unanimously elected President of the UNICEF Executive Board at elections at the UN Headquarters in New York yesterday.

The elections to the two Dhaka city corporations will be held on 30 January as earlier announced as the High Court yesterday rejected a writ petition seeking its deferment as the date coincided with the Saraswati Puja. On January 6, Advocate Ashoke Kumar Ghosh, a Supreme Court lawyer, filed the writ seeking its directive to defer the polls as Saraswati Puja will be celebrated across the country on the day.

The Supreme Court upheld the death sentence of Jatiya Party leader and former State Minister Syed Mohammad Qaiser for his collaboration in crimes against humanity committed during the War of Liberation in 1971. On December 23, 2014 the ICT-2 awarded him death penalty on the charges crimes against humanity in Habiganj area during the country’s Liberation War.

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