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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has strongly condemned the two devastating incidents of mass shooting in the United States that killed 29 people and left dozens injured. The Premier in a message sent to US President Donald J. Trump yesterday said, terrorists have no colour, race or religion, their only identity is, they are terrorists. The PM also said, her government has a declared and practiced policy of 'zero tolerance against terrorism'.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury while visiting the prevailing clean-up campaigns in Sangsad Bhaban area yesterday underscored the need for keeping different residential and official areas clean to prevent dengue. The Speaker said, the parliament members are working to create public awareness against dengue in their respective areas. Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader talking to media yesterday said, letters have been sent to the bus owners to take steps for spraying aerosol in all buses before starting journey during the holy Eid-ul- Azha. NBR issuing a SRO yesterday lifted import tax and VAT on dengue test kits, dengue reagent and kits for platelet and plasma till October 31 to ease the diagnosis and treatment of dengue fever. Press Information Department yesterday issued a statement to make people aware of taking certain steps to stop spread of dengue and measures to protect them from being inflicted by the mosquito-borne disease. Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel while addressing a function at Dhaka Reporters'Unity in Dhaka yesterday said, schools would not be closed due to dengue outbreak as schools are safer than homes for students. According to Public Health Emergency Operation Centre and Control Room report, a total of 27,437 dengue patients were admitted to different hospitals across the country from the first day of January, 2019 till date. In the last 24 hours in the country, 2,065 dengue patients were admitted to different hospitals. Any citizen can collect information and lodge their complains of the disease by dialing the hotline numbers 01314-766069, 01314-766070, 02-47120556/ 02-47120557, said a PID handout. A help center has been opened at the head office of Bangladesh Scouts to provide blood for the dengue patients and anyone can contact the center by dialing 01-58312474.

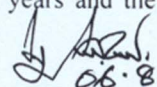
The 7th Bangladesh-India Home-Minister level talks will be held in New Delhi, India, on August 7. A 16-member Bangladesh delegation led by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan will leave Dhaka today for New Delhi to attend the talks. Different bilateral issues including trans-border security, cross border trafficking and border management issues are expected to come up for discussion.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while presiding over a coordination meeting at his ministry yesterday said, BRTA mobile courts and vigilance teams of law enforcement agencies will be at every terminal to ensure hassle free journey for the Eid-holidaymakers. The repair works of all roads and highways will be completed three days before Eid, he added.

The 70th birth anniversary of Sheikh Kamal, the eldest son of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was observed yesterday in a befitting manner. Awami League, its associate bodies and different political, socio-cultural and sports organisations observed the day through elaborate programmes. Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader and other party leaders placed wreaths on the grave of Shahid Sheikh Kamal at Banani in Dhaka yesterday. Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud while addressing a review programme on the books of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka yesterday urged the guardians and teachers to infuse human values and patriotism like Bangabandhu into the new generation to make them able citizens of the country. Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal presiding over a meeting at his ministry yesterday informed that the government has decided to provide cash incentive for the export of new products including medical and surgical instruments, home appliances and guts, stomachs, horns and bones of cows and buffaloes. Bangladesh Computer Council and renowned agency Mighty Byte at a function at Agragaon in Dhaka yesterday signed an agreement to develop a website named www.muji100.gov.bd on the occasion of the birth centenary of Bangabandhu. Speaking on the occasion, State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak, said, the Mujib100 website will be one of the main features in celebration of 'Mujib Year'.

The overall flood situation of the country has continued to improve as all the rivers are in falling trend that will continue for the next 48 hours as reported by National Disaster Response Co-ordination Centre. Till yesterday, the government allocated Taka 4.91 crore, 28,350 metric tonnes of rice, Taka 16.35 crore as house repair grants to the flood victims. The maritime ports of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal number three as squally weather is likely to affect maritime ports, North Bay and adjoining coastal areas. It was said at a met office weather bulletin yesterday.

Expatriate Bangladeshis sent US\$ 1,597.66 million remittances during the first month of the current fiscal 2019-20, which is apparently 21.20 per cent higher than the same period of the preceding year, according to a Bangladesh Bank (BB) data. The country received \$1,318.18 million remittances during the July in 2018-19 financial year, the data added. A meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Finance held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on July 28 was informed that the government signed foreign assistance agreements worth \$51.01 billion over the last five fiscal years and the inflow of foreign aid is likely to increase in the coming years due to implementation of the mega projects.


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