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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has attended the opening ceremony of Abu Dhabi Sustainable Week and Zayed Sustainability Prize ceremony yesterday. The Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2020 was formally opened at the ICC Hall in Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre at 11 in the morning. On her arrival at the exhibition center, the Prime Minister was received by Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan. This year Zayed Sustainability Prize was given to 10 organisations and institutes of different countries under five categories. At the function, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan and Sheikh Hasina along with seven other heads of state and government handed over the prizes to the winners. The Premier joined an envoys' conference at her place of residence at Shangri-La Hotel in Abu Dhabi yesterday evening attended by Bangladesh Ambassadors to Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arab and the UAE. Sheikh Hasina also met UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid al Maktoum and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan and wife of UAE Founder and Founding President Sheikh Fatima bint Mubarak Al Ketbi.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought investment from Dubai-based company DP World in Bangladesh's port, shipbuilding and ICT sectors. The Premier said this when delegations of the prominent UAE companies including the DP World called on her at her place of residence in Abu Dhabi yesterday. The Prime Minister called upon the UAE companies, particularly the DP World, to set up a hi-tech park in Bangladesh. Besides, a team of eminent UAE businesspeople called on the Prime Minister in Abu Dhabi. Meanwhile, the (Addendum to the previous MoU) signed between Emirates National Oil Company, UAE, and the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Bangladesh was inked in the presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid signed the MoU on behalf of Bangladesh.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, the party is in favour of use of electric voting machine in principle in the upcoming Dhaka two city corporations polls slated for January 30. He said this while addressing at a discussion marking the Homecoming Day of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman arranged by Bangladesh Krishak League at the AL central office in Dhaka yesterday.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud arrived in New Delhi yesterday on a four-day official visit to inaugurate broadcasting programme between Prasar Bharati, the public service broadcaster in India and Bangladesh Betar today. He will also hold bilateral meeting with the Information and Broadcasting Minister of India Prakash Javadekar this morning.

Social Welfare Minister Nuruzzaman Ahmed has said, the government is giving allowance to 15.45 lakh insolvent physically challenged people aiming to ensuring their overall development. He said this while replying to a question in the Jatiya Sangsad in Dhaka yesterday.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md Shahab Uddin has said, the government has taken an initiative to plant one crore saplings across the country to mark the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He informed this while addressing at a function at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday unanimously adopted an obituary reference on Awami League lawmaker and its President of Bagerhat District unit Dr Mozammel Hossain. Speaker

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Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury moved the obituary references with brief resume on former State Minister and Freedom Fighter Mozammel on the second day of the sixth session of the 11th parliament.

The High Court yesterday summoned the Director General of the Department of Environment to appear before it on February 2 to explain why this problem cannot be contained, issuing a nine-point directive to bring down air pollution level in Dhaka. The HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader issued the order following a writ filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

Payra coal-fired power plant has initiated electricity generation yesterday after successful synchronisation with the national power grid. The power plant started with supplying around 100 megawatts of electricity, and it will increase generation, according to Power Division.

Foreign loan in the country's public and private sector has increased in the last three years to US\$ 20.77 billion from \$ 38.88 billion in 2016 to \$ 59.56 billion in 2019. The share of the public sector loan was \$ 45.52 billion while it was \$14.05 million in the private sector, the official sources said. The World Bank, Asian Development Bank, International Monetary Fund, China and Japan mainly provided the loans under various programme.

The number of foreign tourists visiting Bangladesh is increasing every year owing to the government pragmatic steps to draw foreigners through projecting Bangladesh beautifully before the world. Records show that some 3,23,295 tourists visited the country last year, a 21 percent higher than that in 2018, media reports.

The timely initiative of providing cash incentive on remittance transfers has started yielding results as remittance saw a sharp rise in the first half of FY20. Wage-earners' remittance inflow increased by 23 per cent year-on-year to over Tk 7.71 billion during the July-December period from Tk 6.29 billion one year ago, Bangladesh Bank suggests.

Brazil football legend Pele, real name Edson Arantes do Nascimento, the only man to have won the World Cup of football thrice, may visit Dhaka later this month, possibly coinciding with the Bangabandhu International Gold Cup to be held on January 15-25 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in the capital. An initiative inspired by this year's designation as 'Mujib Barsho' to honor the contribution of the Swadhin Bangla Football team in the Liberation war of Bangladesh. Moreover, it is anticipated that Pele will witness a two days programme named '100 years, Father of the Nation'.


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