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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address a press conference tomorrow afternoon, about the outcome of her just-concluded official visit to the USA, an online news portal said quoting Deputy Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Hasan Jahid Tushar. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned home on Friday night from Washington DC via Helsinki wrapping up her USA visit. Earlier, the Prime Minister reached New York to attend the 76th United Nations General Assembly-UNGA, on September 19 after a two-day stopover in Helsinki, the Finish capital. During her stay in New York from 19 to 24 October, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressed the general debate of the 76th session of the UNGA. She also attended high voltage side events, close-door meetings as well as bilateral talks with head of governments, states and organizations. The Premier later left New York for Washington DC on September 25 after wrapping up her week-long official visit to New York.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate condolence messages, expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of Jatiya Party-JaPa Secretary General, former Minister and DUCSU GS Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, who passed away while undergoing treatment at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 66.

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury referring to a number of development projects, already completed in her constituency said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken multiple initiatives to provide various urban facilities to villages aiming at turning every village into a town. The Speaker was laying the foundation stone of the 1,000-seat auditorium cum-multipurpose hall at Pirganj upazila of Rangpur district yesterday, joining virtually. The Speaker further said, there is no more darkness across the country as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has extended electricity facilities to all villages in Bangladesh.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has chastized the BNP for turning their back on elections, putting it down to a 'fear of losing' on the part of the opposition. While addressing a press conference yesterday, the Minister further said, BNP is now saying that they would join polls if a neutral caretaker government is formed but the party knows it very well that the issue of caretaker government is a settled one. "Who did scrap the caretaker government system? Caretaker government system was scrapped in light of the verdict of High Court. Caretaker government was an interim system. It cannot run for a long period," he mentioned. The Minister said, the government will extend all kinds of cooperation to the Election Commission to ensure fair voting.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, the sky of Bangladesh is open, any foreign channel can broadcast here but it must abide by the law of Bangladesh as he was talking to newsmen at a discussion meeting marking Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 75th birthday at Chattogram Shilpakala Academy yesterday. According to the law of Bangladesh, foreign channels cannot show any advertisement in Bangladesh, he said adding, the same law exists in Europe, America, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and other countries of the subcontinent. He said that foreign channels were broadcasting advertisements showing thumbs to the country's law for years. As a result, the country is being deprived of investment worth around Taka 2,000 crore every year. All the foreign channels that are running without advertisements are airing programs as usual, he mentioned.

Meanwhile, the leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists-BFUJ and Dhaka Union of Journalists-DUJ in separate messages yesterday welcomed the initiative of implementation clean feed foreign TV channels broadcasting as per the directive of Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud. The Association of Television Channel Owners-ATCO and Broadcast Journalists Center-BJC also welcomed the initiative.

Bangladesh is concerned by increased crimes, human and drug trafficking and unrest in the Rohingya camps as their stay in Bangladesh is prolonging, the Foreign ministry posted at its verified facebook page yesterday. It said, "We urge Myanmar as well as the international community to take effective steps to sustainably repatriate the Rohingyas (the FDMNs) to Myanmar at the earliest." Earlier in the morning, Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen in a text message for journalists strongly condemning the murder of Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah said that the government would take stern action against the killers, no one will be exempted involved in the murder. He suspected that some vested quarters killed the Rohingya leader as Mohib Ullah wanted to return to Myanmar, their land of origin. Meanwhile, four suspects have so far been arrested in connection with Mohib Ullah's murder.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque has said, 20 per cent people will be vaccinated by December this year under COVAX facilities. He came up with the information as he met Director General of the WHO Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in Geneva, Switzerland on Friday. The WHO Chief agreed to send coronavirus jabs to Bangladesh for 40 per cent people of Bangladesh in phases, he said. During the meeting, the WHO DG lauded Bangladesh's success to contain the spread of COVID-19 and he assured that WHO will extend all possible technical support to Bangladesh for manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines, the Minister said.

The government would bear Taka 1,600 for each RT-PCR test for the aspirant migrants, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmad said this yesterday while virtually exchanging views with the Bangladeshi expatriates living in the United Arab Emirates. Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi, Bangladesh Ambassador to the UAE Abu Zafar also addressed the program.

All the elderly persons would be brought under the allowance program in phases. The present government is working sincerely in this regard, State Minister for Social Welfare Md. Ashraf Ali Khan Khasru said this at a function in the city yesterday.

A total of 7.90 lac doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine arrived last afternoon at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka from Germany under COVAX facilities. Senior Secretary of Health Service Division Lokman Hossain Mian, Director General of the DGHS Prof. Dr. A B M Khurshid Alam and German Ambassador to Bangladesh Achim Tröster received the consignment at the airport.

Eight more compartments and four engines of Dhaka Metro Rail project reached Mongla port yesterday from Japan's Kobe. In addition to the compartments and engines, the ship, left Japan's Kobe port on September 14 for Mongla, has 32 more packages. In May, six coaches of metro train reached Mongla port from Japan. On March 31, the first set of metro train with six coaches reached Mongla port.

The Supreme Court is going on a 16-day vacation beginning today, leaving 10 vacation benches of high court division to deal with the urgent matters at the High Court.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association-BGMEA is expecting to obtain GSP Plus facilities in the European Union market after the country's graduation from LDCs status. BGMEA President Faruque Hassan said this in a press conference on the outcome of his recent visit to the United States and Canada in a city hotel yesterday. The BGMEA President, however, said obtaining GSP facilities in the US market will not be so easy even after fulfilling all the conditions as political issues are related here.

The country yesterday recorded 24 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the total death toll to 27,555. With 589 fresh cases, the lowest since May 16, the number of infections surged to 15,57,347. The positivity rate stood at 3.41 per cent, as 17,283 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,17,642, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. Besides 188 dengue patients got hospitalized in the last 24 hours till last morning, the DGHS informed.


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