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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid left Dhaka early today on a 12-day visit to Germany and the United Kingdom for health checkup and treatment of eyes. The Head of the State is expected to return home on October 22.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while speaking at a regular press briefing at his residence in the capital yesterday said, those who contested in elections defying the party's command in the past will not get the party nomination for any polls at present and in future. About BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's comment that plans are underway to turn Bangladesh into a 'subservient' state, he said the people of the country know it very well which party wants to see Bangladesh as a subservient state. He said the nation didn't forget what BNP did in the guise of multi-party democracy. BNP's multi-party democracy was multi-party mockery, he said.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, the name of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman will remain inscribed as a killer and traitor in the pages of history. He made the remark while speaking at an art competition marking the 57th birth anniversary of Shaheed Sheikh Russell, the youngest son of Bangabandhu organised by Sheikh Russell Jatiya Shishu-Kishore Parishad in the capital yesterday. He stressed the need for ensuring family education for children so that they could grow up with patriotism and moral values. Dr. Hasan also said children and women were not killed on the Karbala battle ground but children and pregnant women were killed on August 15 in 1975.

Bangladesh has been added to the UK government's list of approved COVID-19 vaccines and the countries with approved COVID-19 proof of vaccination, according to an announcement from the UK's Department for Transport, said Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen in a message from Romania yesterday. The certification will be effective from 4am on October 11, he added. He also informed that Bahrain decided to remove Bangladesh from red list countries starting from October 10, 2021.

Meanwhile, Romania will donate 200,000 doses of the Astra Zeneca Covid-19 vaccine to Bangladesh. Romanian Foreign Minister Bogdan Aurescu made the announcement during official talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Dr. A K Abdul Momen in Bucharest yesterday. Dr. Momen urged Romanian investors and companies to enter joint ventures or 100% owned business ventures in the 100 special economic zones, which are currently being set up in Bangladesh, and in high-tech parks. He also sought support from Romania on GSP facilities in the European market.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Minister has congratulated his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi on his re-appointment as the Foreign Minister of Japan. The Minister expressed his firm intentions to work closely with the Tokyo to elevate Bangladesh-Japan partnership from the 'Comprehensive level' to the 'Strategic level'.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi while talking to the reporters after attending a function in the capital yesterday said, the government is working against the irregularities and corruption of e-commerce organisations. Regarding the increase in the price of onions, the Minister said that the price of onions has gone up in India due to rains.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister S M Rezaul Karim hopes that the price of eggs will be reduced through public-private joint ventures so that every person in the country can consume eggs. He said this while addressing a discussion marking the World Eggs Day at a city hotel yesterday.

Environment, Forests and Climate Change Minister Mohammad Shahabuddin said, the government has taken necessary measures for celebrating the Durga Puja peacefully throughout the country. He said this while virtually addressing a function organized by the upazila administrations at Barolekha and Juriupazila under Maulvibazar district yesterday. He said that the government has been working for building a non-

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar said 'Bangabandhu-2', second communication satellite of the country, will be launched within the stipulated time. He said these while speaking at a discussion marking the second anniversary of the launch of private satellite TV channels through Bangabandhu Satellite-1, first communication satellite of the country at a city hotel on Thursday night. Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud spoke as the chief guest.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in a condolence message yesterday expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of former lawmaker valiant freedom fighter Bharati Nandi Sarker, who breathed her last at the age of 73 at a hospital in Dinajpur yesterday.

Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Bangalee Hindu community, will begin on Monday with holding MahaShasthi puja at temples across the country amid festivity and religious fervor with maintaining health guidelines. It will end on October 15 with the immersion of the idols.

The West Zone of Bangladesh Railway will be given 40 new locomotive engines aimed at improving the standard of passenger services through infusing dynamism into railway services. The engines will be procured from the United States of America (USA). Eight of those have already reached the country and the remaining 32 will be brought in four phases, according to the Chief Mechanical Engineer of the zone.

The country yesterday recorded 7 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the death toll to 27,654. With 645 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,61,463. The positivity rate stood at 2.77 per cent as 22,321 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,22,591, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday.



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