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### News Brief

A meeting of the parliamentary nomination board and local government representatives' nomination board of the Awami League was held at Ganabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also Chairperson of Awami League parliamentary and local government representative nomination board, presided over the meeting. Awami League finalized candidates for a constituency, two upazilaparishads, 10 municipalities and two union parishads.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury left Dhaka for Italian capital Rome yesterday to participate in two-day Pre-COP26 parliamentary conference scheduled to begin today (Friday).

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said, all should work in unison with the government against drugs to eradicate this menace in the way militancy and terrorism were eliminated with collective efforts. The Minister was addressing at the inaugural function of a mental health counseling center of Oasis, organized by Bangladesh Police Welfare Trust in Hasnabad, Keraniganj yesterday. Appreciating Oasis as a good initiative and a modern quality hospital, the Minister said the government has been working to provide medical services to all. Speaking on the occasion, Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahed Maleque and State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid Bipu were present at the function.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had introduced the bastion of Bangladesh's victory spree in water, land and space. The establishment of the first satellite earth station at Betbunia and the inclusion of Bangladesh as a member of the UN Committee on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) had recognized the scientific and technological ideas of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, he said. The Minister stated this while addressing a function marking the second anniversary of broadcasting Bangladeshi channels through 'Bangabandhu Satellite-1' organised by Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited at a hotel in Dhaka yesterday. Post and Telecommunications Minister Mostafa Jabbar was present there.

Meanwhile, the Information and Broadcasting Minister said, BNP sounds much like empty pitcher as the party has no public support. The Minister stated these while replying to a comment of journalist after holding a views-exchange meeting with leaders of Editors Forum at the Secretariat yesterday. Replying to another query over a comment of BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on formation of Election Commission, the Minister said, there is no scope of caretaker government in Bangladesh. The present government will work as election period government for doing routine works, Dr. Hasan added. On the other hand, he said the elections will be held under the Election Commission like England, the USA, India and other countries of Continental Europe.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq said, the next Election Commission would certainly be formed through search committee. He said this while talking to newsmen after attending a function to unwrap a book titled "Swarane Sheikh Mujib: Sohrosrabder Shreshtho Bangali" at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh in the capital yesterday. The Minister earlier at the function said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman always did constitutional politics as he only believed in that.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen left Dhaka for two Balkan countries - Romania and Serbia- on a week long official visit yesterday. The first destination of Dr. Momen is Romania where he will hold a bilateral meeting with Romanian Foreign Minister Bogdan Aurescu, according to Foreign Ministry's official source. In Serbia, the Minister will attend a commemorative event marking the 60th anniversary of the first NAM conference in Belgrade.

Leading economists of Standard Chartered have observed that growth will be sustained over 7 percent in FY22-26 and this should drive Bangladesh's GDP up to US\$ 500 billion and per capita to \$3,000 by FY26. Bangladesh remains a compelling growth story, despite the global pandemic, they opined. Members of the bank's global research team were speaking at a media session held yesterday following the 2021 Bangladesh session of the Bank's Global Research Briefing series, said a press release. Planning Minister MA Mannan graced the event as the chief guest, while around 300 of the bank's clients joined via video conferencing during the virtual event.

Meanwhile, Planning Minister M A Mannan has said that citizens of the country have the right to know information about government activities and public procurement, as people want development and value for money. The Minister came up with the remarks while speaking at the 14th meeting of the Public-Private Stakeholders' Committees on public procurement in the capital yesterday.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said, comprehensive knowledge on trade documentation and custom procedures is crucial for building the competitiveness of the country. The Minister said this while awarding certificates to the participants of the Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute at the closing ceremony of a training program on "Rules and Procedures for Import and Export" in the city yesterday.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md. Shahab Uddin said, nature-based approach is the most effective way to confront the inter-related challenges of pandemic, biodiversity loss, climate change and achieving sustainable development. The Minister came up with the remarks while virtually speaking the 'Fourth United Nations Environment Program Session of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific' at Suwon in Korea from his official residence in the city yesterday. The Minister sought international funds and technological assistances for enhancing capacity to implement the action plans taken at the national level.

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Md Murad Hassan said, the development of the online portals has been possible in the country under the guidance of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He said this while addressing a function at the National Press Club yesterday. He praised the role of the media as the media personnel had performed their duties with utmost sincerity during the deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Dr. Md Enamur Rahman hoped Australia will continue its cooperation for safe repatriation of the Rohingyas. He made the remarks while a three-member delegation led by Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Jeremy Bruer called on him at the secretariat yesterday. The High Commissioner assured that the Australian government would continue to support the issue of the Myanmar nationals' repatriation. He also remarked that Bangladesh is a role model in the world in disaster management.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday starts operation of its first ever direct flight from Syedpur to Cox's Bazar without via Dhaka in a bid to connect the country's northern region with Bangladesh's most exciting tourist destination through air route. The national flag carrier will operate the direct flight from Syedpur to Cox's Bazar route every Thursday and a flight from Cox's Bazar to Syedpur on every Saturday. The State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Md. Mahbub Ali chaired the flight opening ceremony at Saidpur Airport while Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon spoke as the chief guest.


The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi (SM), marking the anniversary of the birth and demise of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM), will be observed in the country on October 20 with due religious solemnity. The decision was taken at the National Moon Sighting Committee's meeting yesterday.

Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority and National Board of Revenue signed a Memorandum of Understanding-MoU to ease of customs related services for the foreign and local investors of EPZs at BEPZA Complex in the city yesterday.

Nazmul Hassan Papon was elected the president of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday, just a day after he grabbed highest votes to be the director in the board of directors election. It was the third straight time, Papon was elected BCB president, while it's his fourth term in BCB as its chief.

Nepalese Foreign Minister Dr. Narayan Khadka, in a letter to his Bangladesh counterpart Dr. A K Abdul Momen said, the existing friendly ties with Bangladesh are set to grow further in the days ahead. Nepal and Bangladesh have always been enjoying excellent bilateral relations marked by goodwill, mutual understanding and cooperation, he wrote.

The country yesterday recorded 12 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the death toll to 27,647. With 663 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,60,818. The positivity rate stood at 2.97 per cent as 22,321 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,21,777, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday.

  
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