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News Brief

The European Union has lauded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's climate leadership and the Mujib Climate Prosperity Decade Plan 2021-2030, recognizing Bangladesh's leading role in the Climate Vulnerable Forum-CVF, saying that Bangladesh has a wealth of ideas on how to address the challenges of climate change both at home and in the wider world. The word of praise came at a roundtable discussion on climate change held on Monday here ahead of the COP26 meet scheduled to take place in Glasgow from October 31. The new Ambassador of the EU Delegation to Bangladesh, Charles Whiteley, formally opened the discussion, underlining the important role played by both Bangladesh and the EU in the climate discourse. Issues explored in the discussion included the need to ensure that pledges on climate finance are met, the importance of technology transfer and capacity building, the need to preserve ambition to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the imperative of international discussion on climate-induced migration, the impact of COVID-19 and the importance of building resilience.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has provided financial assistance of Taka 3,03,000 for 303 puja mandaps at Kotalipara in Gopalganj under her personal fund for celebration of Durga Puja. On behalf of the Premier, leaders of the local Awami League handed over financial assistance to the representatives of the puja mandaps yesterday. Some 500 kgs of rice has also been allocated for each puja mandap from the government.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, BNP's plan to build a mass upsurge aiming to oust the government is not only impossible but totally unrealistic. While addressing a press briefing, the Minister criticizing a remark of BNP's Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir that 'the government will be given no more time' said, country's Constitution and the people have fixed the tenure of the government. The Minister further said, different social and cultural organizations including the journalists usually organize meeting in the Jatiya Press Club but BNP is organizing political gathering inside the press club which is totally illegal and unacceptable. About the issuance of driving licence, the Minister said, printing and distribution of nearly 12.50 lac driving licences have begun from October 10 and the process would be completed within the next six months.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, Bangladesh is now a unique example of communal harmony before the world. The country would reach its dream destination with united efforts of all communities, he added. While addressing a function, marking the Moha Saphami of Durga Puja organized by Sanatan Somaj Kallyan Sangha on the premises of Krishibid Institute yesterday, the Minister further said, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had established the independent state Bangladesh in the non-communal spirit. There is no place of communal forces in Bangladesh which achieved independence through blood of all religions under the leadership of Bangabandhu, he said adding, Bangabandhu's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina believes that 'religion is for individuals, festivals for all'.

Dr. Hasan said, the demise of eminent actor, academician and Ekushye Padak recipient Dr. Enamul Haque is truly painful for all. He said this while talking to the newsmen after placing wreath on the coffin of Enamul Haque on the premises of the Central Shahid Minar in the capital yesterday. Dr Enamul Haque was laid to rest at Banani graveyard in the capital last afternoon. Earlier, His namaz-e-janaza was held at Buet campus after Zohr prayers.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has urged the Non-Aligned Movement-NAM to put less restrictions on mobility of resources to help boost economic growth of its members. He was addressing the 60th anniversary event of the NAM, held in Belgrade on Monday. Dr. Momen also highlighted the long persecution of the Rohingyas in Myanmar which calls for urgent action. He also urged the global community to address the global inequalities in access to COVID-19 vaccine immediately by treating the vaccine as a global public good. He called upon the NAM countries to work together towards post-pandemic sustainable recovery and proposed to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation, through establishment of a forum of Ministers of Foreign, Finance and Development of the global South.

Meanwhile, Dr. Momen has welcomed the decision taken by the UN Human Rights Council-HRC to establish the post of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and climate change. The resolution in this regard was adopted at the HRC in Geneva on October 8 at the 48th Session of the UN's supreme body for human rights. Speaking for the CVF Presidency, Dr. Momen commented that this was a proud achievement for the people of the world's most climate threatened nations, where many of them are being deprived of their rights to life and decent living due to climate change related displacement. The CVF's Thematic Ambassador for Vulnerability, Saima Wazed, Speaker of the Maldives People's Majlis, and former President of Maldives Mohamed Nasheed who is now the CVF Thematic Ambassador for Ambition, along with other Ambassadors, also welcomed the decision.

Bangladesh has outperformed Sweden, and even India, in combating COVID-19 pandemic, UNFPA Country Representative Dr. Asa Britta Torkelsson, a Swedish citizen, said this during a farewell call on Planning Minister M A Mannan at the latter's office yesterday. Briefing reporters after the meeting, the Planning Minister said, the UNFPA Country Representative had noted that although Bangladesh has almost twenty times higher population than Sweden, but the number of deaths from the pandemic is same, which indicates the sound COVID-19 management of the country. Dr. Asa also opined that Bangladesh has got back to its pre pandemic situation overcoming the losses.

Bangladesh has strongly condemned the Houthi bomb-laden drone attack which targeted King Abdullah Airport in Jazan, Saudi Arabia on October 8 injuring civilians including few Bangladeshis workers. "Such attacks are a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, moral values and completely unacceptable," the Foreign Ministry in a statement said yesterday. While urging a peaceful resolution of Yemen conflict, Dhaka expressed its solidarity with the Saudi Arabian government and its brotherly people in condemning such irresponsible activities.

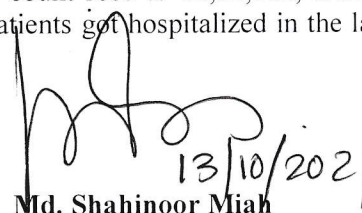
The Armed Police Battalion has arrested eight Rohingya terrorists, including Selim Prakash Master Selim, the top leader of the terrorist group, from Ukhia Rohingya camp in the district. They were detained in a raid at Jamtali Rohingya Camp Number-15 in the early hours yesterday. They were preparing to rob a hilly area of Jamtali Rohingya Camp.

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021 is being observed in the country today focusing on "International cooperation for developing countries to reduce their disaster risk and disaster losses." President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the occasion.

All regular students of Dhaka University have been brought under health insurance and life insurance scheme, a DU press release said. Also, teachers, officers and employees of the university have been brought under the health insurance and life insurance scheme.

A campaign for vaccinating school students aged 12-17 will begin in the country within a week. And, they will receive Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine shots to combat the deadly virus. Director General of the DGHS Prof. Dr. A B M Khurshid Alam came up with the remarks while talking to reporters after attending a program at the DGHS yesterday. He said that they will first run a trial run of the vaccination program where 50-100 selected children will be given the jab initially. The main campaign would start after evaluating the side effects of the trial run, he said.

The country yesterday recorded 14 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the total death toll to 27,713. With 543 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,63,501. The positivity rate stood at 2.35 per cent, as 23,155 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,25,168, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. Besides, 182 dengue patients got hospitalized in the last 24 hours till last morning, the DGHS informed.



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