



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA



Most Urgent
For: Bangladeshi, All Missions
MSG: 89/2021-22
Date: Saturday, 02 October 2021

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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in separate letters yesterday, greeted the Chinese leaders on the occasion of the 72nd founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China. They congratulated Chinese President Xi Jinping and hoped that the exchanges and cooperation between the two countries would further develop in the days ahead.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned home last 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 on September 19 after a two-day stopover in Helsinki, the Finish capital. During her stay in New York from 19 to 24 October, 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 organisations. The Premier later left New York for Washington DC on September 25 after wrapping up her week-long official visit to New York.

The government has a plan to build a tunnel beneath the river Padma at Daulatdia-Paturia point instead of constructing a bridge to sustain navigability of the river. Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said this while addressing a seminar on "Bangabandhu's Sonar Bangla: Sheikh Hasina's Struggle for Development, Khulna to Chattogram on Uninterrupted Dreamy Highway" at Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in Dhaka yesterday. Turning to politics, he said BNP's political stance in the name of Vision 2030 before the previous national polls is now in 'deep freeze'. The Minister said BNP's counter vision will never see light of the day as the party has become isolated from people because of its negative politics.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque said, the present government has successfully eradicated monga (famine-like situation) from the country by taking different initiatives. The Minister was virtually addressing a function organized by Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture marking the harvesting of specimens of BINA-16 and BINA-17 varieties of paddy at Taraganj in Rangpur yesterday.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mamud while speaking at a function in the capital yesterday said, media plays a very important role in shaping the life of people and building a nation. About the mobile court drives being conducted from today to implement ad-free (clean-feed) broadcasting of foreign TV channels, the Minister said if advertisements are not aired in foreign channels violating laws, the country's media industry would be benefited and thus the country's economy would get benefited too. Replying to a question over the OTT platform, Dr. Hasan said works are underway to formulate a policy on the OTT platform. Agriculture Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque and State Minister for ICT Junaid Ahmed Palak were, among others, present. Meanwhile, Association of Television Channel Owners and Broadcast Journalist Center-BJC welcomed the initiative of implementing ad-free broadcasting of foreign TV channels, said a handout of Information and Broadcasting Ministry yesterday. It said the BJC, in a statement, also congratulated Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud for this initiative.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has extended his heartiest congratulations to his Chinese counterpart and people of China on the occasion of their country's 72nd founding anniversary. The Minister has sent a letter of felicitation to Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister highlighting the fact that China has been a significant partner in the development endeavors of Bangladesh.

The World Expo-2020 also known as Dubai-Expo-2020, which is one of the largest expositions of the world, has formally kicked off in UAE in Dubai with the participation of some 192 countries including Bangladesh alongside many international organizations and companies. As part of Bangladesh's participation at the Expo, the Bangladesh Pavilion was inaugurated by Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi yesterday.

This is for the first time Bangladesh took part at the Expo with its own pavilion. The six-month long Expo would continue till March 31, 2022 where the socio-economic progress, history, culture and heritage of Bangladesh over the last 50 years would be highlighted.

The European Union will continue its support to Bangladesh in combating climate change. Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for the European Green Deal Frans Timmermans said this in a bilateral meeting between the EU and Bangladesh delegation led by Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md. Shahab Uddin in Milan of Italy yesterday, according a message received here. During the meeting, the Environment Minister sought EU's cooperation in all sectors, including technology transfer, capacity building, renewable energy and adaptation activities, aiming to deal with climate change impacts.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar said, Bangla or Bengali is established as the sweetest language in the world. He was speaking at a reception programme organized by Sahitya Sangathan Purbo-Paschim on the occasion of the 72nd birth anniversary of Director General of Bangla Academy and poet Mohammad Nurul Huda on Thursday. He hoped that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's efforts to establish Bengali as the official language of the United Nations would be successful.

State Minister for Culture K M Khalid said, 5 percent of welfare grants of the artists, would be reserved for person with disabilities. He was speaking at a discussion co-organized by the British Council and 'Sundaram' for the disabled and closing of Disability Drama Workshop' at a city hotel yesterday.

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Md Murad Hassan said, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had a dream that Bangladesh would be a non-communal Bangladesh free from hunger and poverty. He was speaking at a function titled 'Probashe Sharodiyo Durgautsab-2021' on the occasion of 'Toronto Durgabari Jug-purti' on Birchmount Road in Canada yesterday. In order to establish peace in the society by suppressing injustice, evil and demonic forces, and the Hindu community has been celebrating Durga Puja with great enthusiasm through various rituals and ceremonies, he said.

The National Productivity Day is being observed today across the country aiming to create mass awareness to raise productivity in all fields, including industrial, agricultural and service sectors. The theme of the day this year is "Productivity for Irresistible Advancement". President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the eve of the day, urging to increase productivity for sustainable development and growth.

Bangladesh got off to an auspicious start in the SAFF Championship beating Sri Lanka by a solitary goal at National Football Stadium in Male, the capital of Maldives yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in a condolence message yesterday expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of Hamida Wadud Poly, niece of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Hamida Wadud Poly breathed her last the age of 68 while she was undergoing treatment at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka yesterday.

The country yesterday recorded 21 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the death toll to 27,531. With 847 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,56,758. The positivity rate stood at 3.43 percent as 24,670 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,16,901, DGHS disclosed this information. Besides, a total of 165 dengue patients got admitted in different hospitals across the country in the 24 hours till 8 am last morning, DGHS informed.



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