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News Brief

The first ever 'Sheikh Russel Day' is being observed in the country today with the theme 'Sheikh Russel Dipto Joyollash, Odommo Atmo-Bishwash', marking the 58th birthday of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's youngest son Shaheed Sheikh Russel. Sheikh Russel, also the youngest brother of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was brutally killed along with most of his family members, including his father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, on August 15, 1975. To observe the day, government bodies, ruling Awami League and its associate bodies, and different socio-cultural organizations have taken various programs. Awami League will place floral wreath at the graves of all martyrs, including Sheikh Russel, of the August 15 carnage, in the city's Banani graveyard this morning marking the Day. Subsequently fateha, milad and doa mahfil will also be held by the party members there. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to join the inaugural and award giving ceremony of the Sheikh Russel Day at Bangabandhu International Conference Center this morning virtually. The Premier will also join a discussion at AL central office in the city's Bangabandhu Avenue area at 3:30pm tomorrow.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages paid rich tributes to Shaheed Sheikh Russel, on his 58th birthday. The President, in his message said, Russel is alive today as a human entity in all parts of the country... in order to build a happy and prosperous 'Sonar Bangla', the new generation had to be built as worthy citizens. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in her message said, his birthday is declared as 'Sheikh Russel Day' so that every year, children and teenagers could learn about the life of the child Russel.

Marking the 58th birthday of Shaheed Sheikh Russel, two e-posters have been published at the initiative of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Birth Centenary Celebration National Implementation Committee.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina terming the displaced Rohingyas and stranded Pakistanis as burden for Bangladesh said, they are putting pressure on country's economy, as the newly appointed Ambassador of the Netherlands to Bangladesh Anne Gerard Van Leeuwen paid a courtesy call on her at Ganabhaban yesterday. The Envoy expressed his realization that the solution is rooted in sending back the Rohingyas to their native land Myanmar. The Premier while discussing various issues, said that her government is doing the river dredging in the country as part of the measures to increase water reservoirs to preserve water. The government is converting the Cox's Bazar airport into an international airport to attract more tourists, she added. She said that her government is setting up 100 economic zones at different parts the country to attract more domestic and foreign investment and thus spur the country's overall development. The Ambassador appreciated Bangladesh's development under the visionary and dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The Prime Minister said, Bangladesh is developing the Syedpur Airport as a regional one and Nepal can use the airport. The Premier made the comments when Ambassador of Nepal in Bangladesh Dr. Banshidhar Mishra paid a farewell call on her. She also offered Nepal to use Mongla and Paira ports. The Nepalese Envoy sought cooperation from Bangladesh for development of their agriculture sector. He also praised Bangladesh's overall development saying that they are moved with its development.

Germany has expressed its interest to cooperate Bangladesh on climate and energy issues. The newly appointed German Ambassador to Bangladesh Achim Troester expressed the interest while paying a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday. The Envoy appreciated overall Bangladesh's development and the mechanism to tackle the COVID-19 situation aptly. The Prime Minister highlighted various measures taken by her government and said a total of six crore doses (with single and double doses) have so far been given to Bangladeshi people against COVID-19. On the climate change issue, the Premier said, Bangladesh has started the adaptation and mitigation programs with its own resources.

BNP is the father of communalism and all wrongdoings in the country, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader made the remark while addressing a scholarship giving and study material distributing ceremony marking the 58th birthday of Shaheed Sheikh Russel at Dhaka University Laboratory School and College yesterday, organized by AL's Relief and Social Welfare sub-committee. Mentioning that BNP is invalid without Jamaat and Jamaat's reliable umbrella is BNP, the Minister said, BNP and Jamaat have very strong ties which will never be severed. Noting that the defeated forces of 1971 had carried out the 1975 carnage, after the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the poisonous tree of communal evil forces has spread its root deep into the soil. He urged all to remain alert as the communal evil forces are mounting up ahead of the next general elections and they can carry out severe attack whenever they will get any scope.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, mentioning that the Cumilla puja mandap incident was aimed at destroying communal harmony of the country said, the perpetrators will be arrested soon. While talking to newsmen at his ministry yesterday, the Minister also said, exemplary punishment will be meted out to those involved in the incident through proper investigation.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, those, who are doing communal politics, all are in BNP's alliance and they want to turn the country into a Taliban state and Islamic Republic. While talking to newsmen at his ministry yesterday, Dr. Hasan further said, their motive is clear that why they did a video clip viral in social media. Earlier, the Minister said, the position of Bangladesh in the Global Hunger Index 2021 among 116 qualifying countries is 75th while the position of the neighboring India is 98th and Pakistan is 88th. Bangladesh is third in producing vegetables, rice and fish of fresh water and seventh in producing potato under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, he added. The country has been exporting agri-products worth over one billion dollar, he said adding, the government has a plan to increase the export to two billion and more in phases. He further mentioned that Bangladesh is also ahead one step in the rule of law index.

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase-CCGP in a virtual meeting yesterday chaired by Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal approved eight proposals, including one for setting up a 660-megawatt power plant at Gazaria upazila of Munshiganj. The meeting also approved another proposal of BPDB to extend the existing contract for five years (17/03/2021 to 16/06/2026) to import 160 MW power from Tripura, India. Three separate proposals for procuring 90,000 metric tons of granular urea fertilizer from KAFCO, Muntajat, Qatar and SABIC, Saudi Arabia were approved in the meeting. The meeting also approved the proposal of procuring 20 lac Novel Corona Virus RT-qPCR Diagnostic kits with a cost of Taka 117.41 crore. Besides, the CCGP approved the proposal of procuring two bollard pool tugboats and necessary equipment and services from the Khulna Shipyard Limited with a cost of Taka 131.73 crore. The committee approved the proposal for printing, binding and supply of free textbooks in five lots of Bengali and English versions for the primary level (3rd, 4th and 5th class) with a cost of Taka 8.06 crore.

Dhaka has urged the EU countries to support Climate Vulnerable Forum's-CVF, chaired by Bangladesh, demands regarding climate adaptation and financing during the upcoming UN climate conference, COP 26 to be held in Glasgow. The urge was made while Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen along with Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md. Shahab Uddin briefed the Ambassadors of the EU countries stations in the country regarding Bangladesh's preparation and expectation centering the COP26 at the Foreign Ministry yesterday. During the COP 26, the Minister said Bangladesh's major issues will be to get support from developed countries in climate adaptation to refrain people from being climate refugees. Dr. Momen, highlighting the measures taken by the government to tackle the climate vulnerabilities added, as the President of CVF Dhaka has proposed to hold a high-level climate summit on the sideline of COP 26. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with other world leaders is set to join the high level session of COP 26 in Glasgow from November 1 to 3.

To celebrate the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Golden Jubilee of Independence of Bangladesh, Ministry of Commerce, GoB and Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry is going to host a week-long International virtual Summit titled "Bangladesh Trade & Investment Summit 2021" from 26th October-01 November, 2021. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be present as the Chief Guest of the virtual inaugural ceremony of the summit, a press briefing at DCCI Auditorium confirmed this in presence of Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi yesterday.

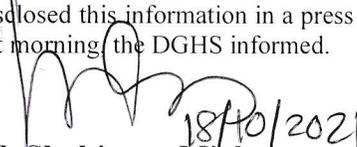
South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Lee Jang-keun stressed that the two countries have great potential to further develop mutually beneficial economic ties. The Envoy said this at a roundtable meeting on South Korea-Bangladesh economic relations held at the World Trade Center in Chattogram, organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in cooperation with Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday. He also reaffirmed his commitment for making efforts to elevate the bilateral relations to a new height and diversify the areas of cooperation through more engagement with the business community in Chattogram.

The government has taken a plan to produce 140 million kgs of processed quality tea in the country by 2030 to export the product abroad after meeting its growing domestic demand. Bangladesh Tea Board-BTB Chairman Major General Md. Ashraf Islam said this at a views-exchange meeting at Circuit House auditorium in Panchagarh district yesterday. He added, the government has plans to set up a tea auction market in Panchagarh, the second largest tea producing zone in the country.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has raised the number of flights from Dhaka to Delhi and Kolkata. It will operate five flights to Delhi and four to Kolkata every week from tomorrow under an "air bubble" deal amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The government has rescheduled the official holiday of Holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi on October 20 instead of October 19. The Ministry of Public Administration rescheduled the holiday and issued a notification yesterday.

The country yesterday recorded 16 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the total death toll to 27,768 p. With 314 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,65,488. The positivity rate stood at 1.74 per cent, as 18,097 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,27,862, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. Besides, 201 dengue patients got hospitalized in the last 24 hours till last morning the DGHS informed.


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