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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is going to inaugurate the distribution and plantation of one crore saplings across the country on the occasion of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from Ganobhaban today. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages greeted all concerned marking 1 crore tree plantation campaign across the country. Meanwhile, Environment, Forests and Climate Change Minister Md. Shahab Uddin addressing a virtual press briefing marking the tree plantation programme yesterday informed, the government would plant over 7 crore trees across the country this year.

The Imprisonment Day of Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is being observed today in a befitting manner. Sheikh Hasina was arrested from her Sudha Sadan residence at Dhanmondi in the city on July 16, 2007 during the military-backed caretaker government, which assumed power in the political changeover of 1/11 in 2007. Sheikh Hasina was released on June 11 in 2008 after remaining captive there for nearly 11 months. Awami League and its associate bodies will observe the day as the 'Imprisonment Day of Sheikh Hasina' while Krishak League observes it as 'Democracy Confining Day'.

A delegation led by Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka ITO Naoki called on Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader at his ministry yesterday. Expressing gratitude to the Japanese delegation, the Minister said, a number of important projects in the country's road transport sector including the metro rail project, have been implemented with the Japanese financing. After the meeting Obaidul Quader speaking at a press briefing warned that no wrongdoer would be spared and the arrests of Regent Hospital and JKG officials proved the government's tougher stance against the irregularities.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud while exchanging views with reporters at his ministry yesterday said, the arrest of Regent Group Chairman Mohammad Shahed has proved the continuous statements of BNP leaders absurd. About the registration of online news portals, he said, some processes has already been completed, 1,600 probe reports on online portals were received from one agency and about 100 reports from another. More probe reports will be received later this month and then the online portals registration will begin, he added.

Earlier, RAB arrested the chairman of Regent Hospital Shahed from the Devhata frontier area of Satkhira district yesterday over issuance of fake coronavirus certificates from the hospital. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal talking to media yesterday expressed government's tough stance against the culprits and said, Regent Hospital Chairman Shahed has ruined the image of the country globally.

Education Minister Dipu Moni speaking at a virtual meeting to mark the World Youth Skills Day 2020 organised by Prime Minister's Office in Dhaka yesterday said, the government is working on developing skilled youth to face future challenges and build a modern Bangladesh. She also said, the government has laid emphasis on technical education as it does not want to produce any educated jobless people any more.

Advisor to the Director General of WHO on Autism and Mental Health Saima Wazed Hossain, also the daughter of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, while addressing a webinar titled "The

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Women and Girls" on Tuesday said, Bangladesh government's initiatives taken for prioritizing girls and women have come in tremendous use during COVID-19 crisis.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das has paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday and discussed various issues of mutual interests.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam addressing the inaugural webinar of Asian Confluence NADI conversations organised by Asian Confluence, a premier Indian think-tank based in Shillong, India yesterday said, rivers are part of common heritage of the people of this region and the water bodies must be cherished for the nourishment of the people. Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das also spoke at the event.

Bangladesh yesterday recorded 33 more fatalities raising the death toll from the pandemic to 2,424. At the same time recovery count rose to 1,05,023 after another 1,796 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 3,533 new cases taking the total number of cases to 1,93,590. A total of 14,002 samples were tested.

The flood situation has further worsened in different parts of the country as the water level of major rivers, particularly the Brahmaputra, continue to rise due to onrush of water coming from the upstream. Fresh areas were inundated in Kurigram, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Bogra and Sirajganj districts, while the flood situation improved in Rangpur, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat districts, sources of Bangladesh Water Development Board said yesterday.

State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Monnujan Sufian while speaking at a meeting with leaders of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad at Srama Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday urged all employers to clear the salaries and Eid-ul-Azha bonuses of their employees by July 25.

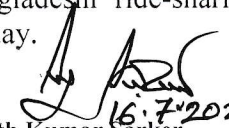
Speakers at a panel discussion organized by Bangladesh Permanent Mission in the United Nations in New York stressed the need for a 'data revolution' for curbing health emergency and protecting jobs in COVID-19 response and recovery. Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen and ICT Division Senior Secretary N M Zeaul Alam spoke at the meeting while Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the UN Rabab Fatima chaired the discussion.

The government has reappointed Fazle Kabir as the Bangladesh Bank Governor as his previous tenure ended on July 3, the Finance Ministry issued a gazette notification in this regard yesterday.

Former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. Dr. A A M S Arefin Siddique has been made Chairman of the Board of Directors of the state-run news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha, the Ministry of Information issued a notification in this regard yesterday.

The High Court yesterday ordered United Hospital authorities to give Taka 30 lakh each to the families of four patients, who were killed in a devastating fire that engulfed the hospital's makeshift corona unit on May 27, within 15 days.

State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak in a condolence message yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of Fahim Saleh, co-founder of Bangladeshi ride-sharing company Pathao, who was found dead at his apartment in New York on Tuesday.


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