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From: PIO, PID, Dhaka  
Fax: 9540553/9540026  
E-mail: [piddhaka@gmail.com](mailto:piddhaka@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.pressinform.gov.bd](http://www.pressinform.gov.bd)

### News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has called upon all to come forward jointly to overcome the loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Head of the State made the call while exchanging views with "cross-section of people, including people's representatives and professionals, at President Md Abdul Hamid Auditorium at Itna upazila of Kishoreganj district yesterday. The President, giving a salient feature of country's overall development, urged the government officials, people's representatives and all concerned to work with sincerity and devotion so that people can enjoy the benefits of this development. Earlier, the President visited the development activities of Itna Upazila Parishad, under-construction power station and various development activities of the upazila including extended buildings and shelters of President Abdul Hamid Government College. The President also visited the old Kachari house in Mithamain.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed the optimism that one day Bangladesh's organization would definitely get the "UNESCO-Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman International Prize on Creative Economy" like Uganda's MoTIV Creations Limited, which has got the maiden prize for their contribution to the creative economy in generating employment. While taking part in a special discussion yesterday in the Parliament on a thanks giving motion, to express gratitude to UNESCO, the Premier further said that it was a great honor for Bangladeshi people as the UN body named the prize after the Father of the Nation. A number of MPs took part in the special discussion. The Premier also expressed her gratitude to UNESCO for recognizing the 7th March Speech of Bangabandhu by including the speech in the Memory of the World Register as a documentary heritage on October 30, 2017 and recognizing February 21 as the world mother language day. The PM said that her government has been creating the scope for the young people to flourish their talents and creativity.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in separate condolence messages, expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of noted novelist Prof. Hasan Azizul Haque, who passed away at his residence in Rajshahi city last night from old age complications. He was 83.

BNP is carrying on the inheritance of the politics of destruction. The mask of BNP's politics with deceptive colors is now exposed to people, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader made the remarks at a press conference yesterday. Mentioning that the main task of the BNP is to make any good deed of the government as well as the country controversial, he said, they take part in the elections to make those questionable. Noting that BNP was the main actor behind the Hefazat's terror acts over sculpture, the Minister said that BNP rehabilitated them by instigating and patronizing the country's communal forces.

Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal has urged the UAE to take more professionals and workers from Bangladesh and also to take steps for boosting bilateral trade and commerce. He made the request at the fifth session of the Joint Commission between Bangladesh and the UAE held in a face-to-face and virtual format in the capital yesterday. Along with the Finance Minister, the meeting was co-chaired by UAE's Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh. Both sides agreed to hold the sixth meeting of the Joint Commission on cooperation between the UAE and Bangladesh in Abu Dhabi.

Dhaka and Colombo is looking forward to further strengthening air and maritime connectivity for the greater benefit of the people of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The observation was made as Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen held bilateral meeting with his Sri Lankan counterpart Professor Gamini Lakshman Peiris at State Guest House Padma in the capital yesterday. The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister is visiting Dhaka from November 15-18 to attend the 21st meeting of the IORA Council of Ministers' hosted by Dhaka. During the meeting, the two Ministers also further emphasized on expeditious conclusion of PTA and enhancement of trade and commerce between the two countries.

The United States has purchased 18 trucks to help Bangladesh establish a dedicated fleet of specialized cold-chain vehicles to deliver COVID-19 vaccines across the country. The US Embassy's Acting Deputy Chief of Mission William Dowers and USAID Mission Director Kathryn Stevens yesterday at a function handed over the trucks to Health Minister Zahid Maleque. With this support, total US government COVID-19 assistance to Bangladesh exceeds \$121 million, a US Embassy press release said.



'The 'Iodized Salt Act, 2021' has been enacted for the overall management of the country's salt sector by ensuring the use of iodine in edible salt and the use of iodized salt in human and other animal feed, Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun said this while speaking at a workshop on the 'Iodized Salt Act, 2021' at a city hotel yesterday. He added, a national salt committee will be formed under this act, that will make recommendations on salt cultivation, processing, storage and sale. The committee will also recommend on iodine supply and management policy for salt factories, he said.

Dhaka South City Corporation-DSCC has taken a set of measures including revival of naval routes, construction of new roads and modernization of existing traffic system in coordination with the government's multilateral approach to ease the city's acute traffic congestion. The city corporation authority also pays attention on developing the existing roads, widening 53 intersections, registering non-mechanical vehicles, ensuring adequate places for parking and removing illegal occupants of roads to make city traffic system smooth. DSCC Mayor Fazle Noor Tapash, in an interview with the National News Agency, further said, they have initiated to construct a six-lane road from Kalunagar to Postogola Bridge. The Mayor said, "We are implementing the Internet of Things (IoT) traffic system." He said they have taken a project of Taka 5 crore to give facelift of the places under three flyovers after removing all the illegal occupants.

Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Advisor Salman Fazlur Rahman has said, the "Digital Bangladesh" idea envisioned by Sajeeb Wazed Joy, ICT Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister, brought revolutionary changes in government activities with fostering growth in the ICT-led export industries. While speaking at the closing ceremony of the 'WCIT 2021 and Silver Jubilee of WCIT' at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center on Sunday, he further said, the ICT Division, under the guidance and leadership of Sajeeb Wazed Joy, has achieved remarkable progress in four key areas of ICT-rapidly building Digital Connectivity and Infrastructure, comprehensive implementation of E-Government concept, facilitating Industry Promotion and developing Skilled and Quality Human Resources. State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak also spoke on the occasion.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram K Doraiswami has said, India and Bangladesh can take more initiatives to explore common opportunities for better future of the next generations. Doraiswami was addressing a dinner reception arranged in his honor by Rajshahi-based Assistant High Commissioner of India Sanjeev Kumar Bhati at Grand Palace Hotel in the metropolis yesterday. Local dignitaries were present there.

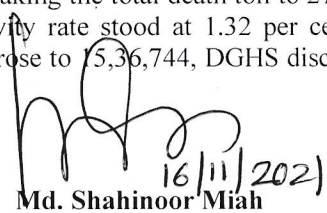
Britain as the permanent member would continue its effort at the UN Security Council-UNSC to find out a solution of the Rohingya crisis, the UK's visiting Minister for South Asia, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon came up with the assurance while giving a lecture on 'Bangladesh-UK: Partners in Progress' at Foreign Service Academy yesterday. The Rohingya crisis will only be resolved through political response, he said, adding that the UK has been pressing the issue at UNSC 'regrettably' without support of some other members. The UK Minister termed the voluntary Rohingya relocation to the island Bhashan Char as the right option and hoped that the UN and Bangladesh would work under a framework in this regards.

The EU will follow Bangladesh's next general polls closely without interfering as the country is becoming important global partner due to its economic advancement and geopolitical strategic location, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the EU to Bangladesh Charles Whiteley came up with the statement at the 'DCAB Talk' in the capital yesterday.

Chattogram Port Authority Bill, 2021 was placed in the Parliament yesterday keeping provision of maximum three years rigorous imprisonment and with an addition of Taka 3 lac fine for creating pollution in the Chattogram port area. The proposed law will be enacted through annulling the Chittagong Port Authority Ordinance, 1976.

Information and Broadcasting Secretary Md. Mokbul Hossain while attending a workshop on 'Needs to be Done to Meet the Challenges of 4IR', at the PID conference room in the Secretariat yesterday, arranged by PID said, new generation of the country will have to prepare themselves to lead the 4IR era. For that, they have to have in-depth knowledge in ICT. Principal Information Officer Md. Shahinoor Miah moderated the workshop.

Meanwhile, the country yesterday recorded 04 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the total death toll to 27,926. With 234 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,72,735. The positivity rate stood at 1.32 per cent as 17,700 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,36,744, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday.



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**Md. Shahinoor Miah**  
Principal Information Officer (Acting)  
Phone- 9546091