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News Brief

Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi yesterday called his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina over phone and greeted her on the occasion of the holy Eid-ul-Fitr, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim told BSS. During the five-minute telephonic conversation, the Bangladesh Prime Minister also extended Eid greetings to Narendra Modi and the people of India. The Bangladesh Premier wished continued peace, progress and prosperity of the people of India. Narendra Modi also wished continued peace, progress and development of the people of Bangladesh, the Press Secretary said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday greeted all Freedom Fighters (FFs) of the country on the occasion of the Eid-ul-Fitr. The Premier sent flowers, fruits and sweetmeats to the war-wounded FFs and members of the martyred families at Martyred and War-wounded Freedom Fighters' Rehabilitation Centre at Gaznavi Road in the capital's Mohammadpur area as a mark of her good wishes for them. The war-wounded FFs and members of the martyred families thanked and expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for remembering them on every national day and festival. They wished her good health and long life.

President M Abdul Hamid yesterday urged the rich people of the society to stand by the poor as their level best in this tough time triggered by the coronavirus pandemic and super cyclone 'Amphan'. In his speech on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr the President also expressed his profound sorrow and sympathy at the loss of lives due to COVID-19 outbreak as well as damages from the cyclone 'Apmhan' and also prayed for the early recovery of the victims. Meanwhile, President M Abdul Hamid yesterday offered Eid-ul-Fitr prayers along with his family members and some senior officials at Bangabhaban Durbar Hall for Covid-19 crisis.

The holy Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated yesterday in line with the government's directives including maintaining physical distancing, avoiding mass gathering and abiding by the health rules as the country is at risk of the fatal COVID 19 outbreak. The Eid was also celebrated with due solemnity, fervor and gaiety as the holy Ramadan, the month of fasting and abstinence came to an end and the people remained themselves confined in houses after offering Eid prayers to the nearest mosques in their vicinities. Meanwhile, State Minister for Religious Affairs Advocate Sheikh Md Abdullah yesterday before offering his Eid prayers at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque here expressed gratitude and gave thanks to the people for offering Eid prayers as per the government's directive.

Bangladesh yesterday reported 21 more deaths from COVID-19 bringing the death toll from the pandemic to 501. The caseload has also surged to 35,585 after another 1975 people tested positive for COVID-19, the highest in a daily count, in the last 24 hours, said Additional Director General (Admin) of Directorate General of Health Services Prof Nasima Sultana in a virtual media briefing. Nasima said the recovery rate from the disease in Bangladesh currently stands at 20.61 percent, while the mortality rate is 1.41 percent so far. She said a total of 2,53,034 samples have so far been tested adding 9,451 tests in 48 labs across the country in the past 24 hours. Nasima said now 55,405 people are at quarantine, nearly 4,446 people have now been kept in isolation and over 20, 66,334 PPE were distributed and 3,88, 803 are in stock.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday after attending an Eid jamaat at his official residence in city's Minto road urged the well-off people to stand beside the poor people who cannot celebrate the festival of Eid. Greeting the countrymen on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Fitr, the Minister said I firmly believe that the new sun will rise after the darkness. We will be able to combat the pandemic with all-out efforts in unison and the progress of the country will be continued. Hasan, also Awami League Joint General Secretary, prayed for early recovery of the coronavirus infected people and for eternal peace of the departed souls of those who died of COVID-19. The Minister also prayed for welfare and prosperity of the country and the people as well.

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Md Atiqul Islam yesterday exchanged Eid greetings with the doctors and nurses engaged in rendering treatment to COVID-19 patients. The DNCC mayor visited two coronavirus dedicated hospitals – Kurmitla General Hospital and Bangladesh Kuwait Maitry Hospital – and exchanged Eid greetings with doctors and nurses and gave Eid gifts to them. During the visit, Atiqul exchanged Eid greetings with dedicated doctors and nurses through video conferencing. Later, he also exchanged greetings with the patients. The Mayor expressed his gratitude and respect to the health workers and gave assurance of staying beside the doctors, nurses and other health workers.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam joined US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R. Miller at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) to see off Beximco's first shipment of 6.5 million world-class Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) gowns to American brand Hanes for ultimate delivery to US Federal Emergency Management Agency, a press release said here. State Minister Alam said It's remarkable to see that within this short span of two months Bangladesh was able to foray into this very regulated market with such a sensitive healthcare product with just not ten or twenty thousand pieces but six and half million pieces.

The 121st birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was celebrated yesterday in a limited scale in the awake of the coronavirus pandemic. Marking the day, State Minister for Cultural Affairs K M Khalid, on behalf of his ministry, placed a wreath on the grave of the poet besides the central mosque of Dhaka University at 11 am. Besides, the Dhaka University authority also placed a wreath on the grave of poet. On this occasion, doa and fateha were offered seeking eternal peace of the poet's departed soul.

A moderate earthquake jolted different parts of the county including the capital Dhaka last night. The earthquake was felt at 8:42 pm, a Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) press release said. The epicentre of the 5.1 magnitude earthquake was in Kakching in the Manipur state of India, about 366 km North-East of the BMD Seismic Centre at Agargaon in the city. No damage caused by the quake has been reported yet.

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