



Most Urgent
For: Bangladoot, All Missions
MSG: 57/2021-22
Date: Tuesday, 31 August 2021

From: PIO, PID, Dhaka
Fax: 9540553/9540026
E-mail: piddhaka@gmail.com
Web: www.pressinform.gov.bd

News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government is committed to building Bangladesh with non-communal spirit, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader came up with the remark while virtually addressing a discussion arranged by Mohanagar Sarbojonin Puja Committee on the occasion of Janmashtami yesterday. A vicious circle, which is a communal force, is trying to destroy the country's long non-communal tradition and their ill-efforts to create an artificial wall of division will never succeed, he said. The incumbent government has taken a harsher stance against those who want to create an unstable situation in the country and the wrongdoers have no political party, he added. Urging the country's Hindu community not to think themselves of minority, he said that as a citizen of the country, everyone has the equal rights. Recalling the horrific memories of the BNP-Jamaat government in 2001, the Minister further said that these horrible memories have not been erased yet as a large number of houses of the Hindu community were destroyed and many Hindu women were humiliated during the BNP-Jamaat reign.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, terming 1975-1996 as a black chapter in history said, during the time, anti-liberation forces and communal consciousness were established everywhere in the country by deliberately distorting and fragmenting the history of Liberation War. While addressing at a commemorative meeting and doa mahfil recalling all the martyrs killed in grenade attacks on August 21, 2004, and the National Mourning Day at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, he opined that the August 15 and August 21 massacres were interrelated. The Minister said, the promoters, backers and beneficiaries of the August 15, 1975 massacre need to be exposed before the nation. The Minister also underscored the need for setting up a commission to unveil the perpetrators.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, BNP's founder Ziaur Rahman had started the politics of killing and disappearance in the country after occupying the state power. And Begum Zia continued the trend, he said to newsmen at his official residence yesterday. Dr. Hasan said, Zia killed hundreds of members of armed forces to cling to the power, adding, people were killed after being taken away from prisons also. BNP leaders including Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Ruhul Kabir Rizvi should remember how many people were killed and disappeared by Zia, he added. Zia was actively involved in the killing of Bangabandhu. So, the BNP men have no right of talking about the killing and disappearance, he added. Earlier, the Minister addressed a discussion virtually organized by Press Institute Bangladesh-PIB, marking the National Mourning Day. He directed the PIB concerned to preserve the statements of the veteran journalists over the period of 1971 and 1975. Information and Broadcasting Secretary Md. Mokbul Hossain, among others, addressed the discussion.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq has said, after assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members in 1975, Awami League leaders waited for a call to rise again, which they did not get. After becoming President without any votes, Ziaur Rahman had formed a government with the people from anti-liberation forces. So it is proved that he is not a real freedom fighter, the Minister said. He was speaking at a webinar organized by AL Information and Research sub-committee on Sunday. The Minister reiterated his call to form a commission to identify the perpetrators of Father of the Nation's killing.

The government is putting continuous efforts to turn the country's large population into human resources with the combined technical knowledge and skills to match with the current jobs demand of the globe, Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni made the remarks yesterday while virtually inaugurating the Chartered Accountants students and members' placement automation of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh. The Minister stressed on taking advantage from the 4th Industrial Revolution, adding that nothing is vital than building human resources.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, who left for Geneva on Sunday morning, will attend the Asia-Pacific regional review meeting on the implementation of the Istanbul Program of Action in preparation for the fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (UNLDC-5). Bangladesh and Canada will co-chair the event in Geneva that will continue till September 2 beginning from yesterday (August 30). The Foreign Minister, will deliver a statement at the event. While in Geneva, Dr. Momen is also expected to have meetings with Heads of different UN agencies. Meanwhile, the meeting of the Global Center on Adaptation-GCA, where former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is the Chair, will take place in Rotterdam, the Netherlands on September 6-7. Dr. Momen is a Board Member of the GCA, and he will participate in the meeting. Dr. Momen will also have bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister of the Netherlands Sigrid Kaag. The Foreign Minister is likely to return home on September 9.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid has said that the government has taken various stimulus packages for expansion of Renewable Energy in the country. Rooftop solar and net metering system is getting popularity day by day as a business model, he said as the British High Commissioner Robert Chatterton Dickson met him virtually yesterday. During the meeting, the State Minister discussed Bangladesh's Energy Transition, its possibilities and power system master plan review with the Envoy. The State Minister said, solar home system has been providing electricity to around 2.0 crore people at off-grid areas across the country due to incentives. He said that the initial cost and storage of renewable energy system is a huge challenge. In this case technical, economic and experience exchange is essential, the State Minister added. He said that initiatives have been taken to import hydropower from Nepal and Bhutan.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a condolence message, expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of Biman Bangladesh Airlines pilot Captain Nawshad Ataul Qayyum, who passed away yesterday at Kingsway Hospitals in the Indian state of Maharashtra. He was in "coma" and under ventilation support at the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital during the last four days as he suffered a "massive cardiac arrest" in mid-air at a Dhaka-bound Bangladesh Biman Airlines flight (BG-022) from Muscat on Friday. The Prime Minister also expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of eminent Bengali writer Buddhadeb Guha, who died of post-COVID-19 complications in a Kolkata hospital on Sunday. He was 85.

Newly appointed Ambassador of Netherlands to Bangladesh Anne Gerard van Leeuwen has praised the progress made by the RMG industry of Bangladesh and expressed interests in cooperation and collaboration for the development of the industry. The Envoy came up with the appreciation as he paid a courtesy call on the BGMEA President Faruque Hassan on Sunday at the BGMEA PR office in Dhaka and discussed various issues of the sector. The BGMEA President sought the support of the government of Netherlands through extension of transition period for smoother graduation from LDC.

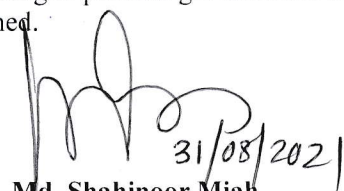
Resident Representative (Asia and Pacific Department) of International Monetary Fund-IMF Jayendu De has expressed the willingness of IMF to support the development activities in the apparel sector of Bangladesh. The international financial institution is also interested to work closely for the betterment of the RMG industry, said the BGMEA. The IMF official met BGMEA President Faruque Hassan on Sunday and discussed issues of mutual interest. A high-level delegation of IMF will visit BGMEA in December to hold discussions and explore avenues of how IMF, a specialized agency of the United Nations, can support the growth and development of Bangladesh's RMG industry, BGMEA President informed.

The government has allowed 428 business organizations to import 17.02 lac tons of rice within October this year aiming quick supply of the staple to ease domestic price. The Food Ministry gave the permission from August 17 to 30, and informed Commerce Ministry about it. Meanwhile, on August 12, the government reduced rice import duty to 25 per cent from 62.5 per cent.

A book corner after the name of Bangladesh and Bangabandhu was set up at the University of Technology Brunei-UTB, marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam inaugurated the Book Corner at a virtual event yesterday organized by Bangladesh High Commission in Brunei Darussalam and UTB. The Bangladesh High Commissioner in Brunei Darussalam Nahida Rahman, among others, attended the event. The State Minister highlighted how Bangabandhu wanted to put a country newly liberated from the ravages of war into the development trajectory leading to the 'Sonar Bangla' as envisioned by Bangabandhu. Despite his sad demise on 15 August 1975 and numerous setbacks in its aftermath, the State Minister said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, through her dynamic leadership, has established Bangladesh today as one of the promising countries which would soon graduate to become a middle-income country from the status of least developed country.

The world's largest mangrove forest, the Sundarbans, is set to reopen tomorrow after nearly a five-month closure due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The decision was taken at a meeting of officials from the Forest Department and the Tour Operators Association of the Sundarbans on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the country yesterday recorded 94 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the death toll to 26,109. With 3,724 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 14,97,261. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 14,21,883, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. Besides, a total of 233 dengue patients got admitted in different hospitals across the country in the 24 hours till 8am last morning, DGHS informed.



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