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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid who is now on a seven-day visit in Kishoreganj, put emphasis on the joint-initiative of the administration, people's representatives and common people to establish the rule of law for the welfare of the people. The Head of the State said this at a view-exchange-meeting with eminent personalities, including professionals and elected representatives at the President Md. Abdul Hamid Auditorium in Mithamain upazila of Kishoreganj district yesterday. During the view-exchange-meeting, the President highlighted various development works in haor region in different fields, including communication and education. The President called upon all concerned to come forward with the attitude of service properly using the tourism potentials centering the Itna Mithamain-Austagram highways.

The President witnessed the progress of the construction work of 'Mithamain Cantonment' yesterday. On his arrival at the cantonment area, Chief of Army Staff General S M Shafiuddin Ahmed welcomed the President. Later, the President took part in a milad and doa mahfil held at Mithamin on the occasion of death anniversary of his father late Haji Md. Tayeb Uddin.

Indian President Ram Nath Kovind will attend the Victory Day celebrations here on December 16 apart from his other key engagements, at the invitation of his Bangladesh counterpart Md. Abdul Hamid, Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen confirmed the matter. Bangladesh is also expecting a high-level participation from Bhutan.

The 15th session of the 11th Parliament began yesterday with Speaker Dr. Shirin Chaudhury in the chair. On October 17, President Md. Abdul Hamid summoned the session, exercising the power bestowed upon him as per Article 72 (1) of the Constitution. Bangladesh Patents Bill, 2021 was placed in the Parliament yesterday aiming to make the century-old patent law more time-befitting one and strengthen the safeguard of intellectual property rights. Besides, the Boilers Bill, 2021 was placed in the House aiming to check boiler-related accidents and ensure a safer work environment in industrial mills by constructing and using standard boilers there.

Those abandoned by the people and afraid of standing by the countrymen have become bankrupt now. Those bankrupts are now talking about others, which is absolutely ridiculous. In fact, the BNP has become bankrupt now, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader made the remarks yesterday responding to an allegation of BNP leaders. The Minister was virtually inaugurating two bridges built under the Khulna Road Zone : the 305-metre Manikkhali Bridge, constructed on Satkhira-Ashashuni-Goaldanga- Paikgacha Road and a 140-metre bridge, built on Mathavanga River on Meherpur-Kushtia-Jhenaidah Road.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal while replying to a tabled question in the Parliament yesterday said, Bangladesh faces the illegal drug problem due to its geographical location as narcotics come here from the neighboring countries-India and Myanmar. Reiterating the government's zero tolerance policy against drugs, the Minister said, a total of 31,545 drug smugglers were brought to book by filing 23,800 cases in the first three months (July-September) of the current financial year. In the cases, 15,549,938 pieces of yaba, 116.187kg heroin, 20,742kg cannabis, 81,864 bottles of phensedyl, 19,248 ampoules injecting drug and 57,971 bottles of foreign liquor were seized.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, on Saturday placed a wreath at the bust of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman set up at Awami League leader of the UK unit Afsar Sadek's own initiative in London. Dr. Hasan extended thanks to Sadek for setting up the bust in front of his own house, saying that Sadek faced many problems to set up the bust and even a case was lodged in this regard. Later, Dr. Hasan talked with eminent journalist, writer and columnist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury over mobile phone and enquired about his health condition and treatment. Dr. Hasan is expected to return home on November 17, Wednesday.

The statement of Judge Mosammat Kamrunnahar of Dhaka 7th Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal over Raintree hotel double rape case judgement is embarrassing for other judges, Law Minister Anisul Huq made the remarks while talking to newsmen yesterday. He added, statement of the said judge was a wrong direction for the law enforcement agency. So, taking action against her was very necessary. She will be asked to show cause, the Minister said. Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain earlier temporarily seized the trial conducting power of Judge Mosammat Kamrunnahar and asked her not to sit in the courtroom.

Local Government Minister Md. Tazul Islam has said, civic facilities such as health services, education, play grounds, swimming pools have to be ensured while constructing high-rise buildings. He came up with the suggestion at a discussion at the BIRDEM hospital auditorium in the capital yesterday marking 'World Diabetes Day-2021' organized by Bangladesh Diabetic Association. The government is working tirelessly to that end he said adding, necessary parks and playgrounds have been approved in the Detailed Area Plan-DAP.

Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni has warned all of stern actions for taking any kind of ill attempt to leak question papers of this year's SSC and equivalent examinations or spreading rumor about it. The Minister came up with the warning while talking to the journalists after inspecting the exam centre of Motijheel Government Boys High School yesterday.

Bangladesh will propose 'IORA-Dhaka Development Initiative (IORA-DDI)' for inclusive regional development as Dhaka is set to host the 21st Council of Ministers (COM) meeting of Indian Ocean Rim Association-IORA on Wednesday, Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen made the disclosure at a briefing on the event at his ministry yesterday. More than 15 IORA Member States with 11 Ministerial level delegations are expected to join in-person while another eight to ten Ministers or junior ministers will virtually join the event. In total, around 80 delegates are coming to Dhaka to participate in the meetings and they all are expected to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Dr. Momen said. Before the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM), the IORA's apex body that meets annually, the 23rd Committee of Senior Officials' meeting will be held on Nov 15-26.

Dr. Momen while responding to a question, reiterated that the border killing is a matter of shame for India and unfortunate for Bangladesh as Bangladeshis are losing their lives. Dr. Momen said, the decision was taken at the level of heads of government and also at various levels that the two countries do not want to see any killing along the Bangladesh-India border. "But it happens from time to time," he added.

The government has planned to conduct the sixth population and housing census from December 24 to 30 this year, Planning Minister M A Mannan came up with the information while replying to a tabled question in Jatiya Sangsad yesterday. The Minister said, the government has also a plan to conduct the census in digital method.

The government is working relentlessly to increase food stocks and ensure fair prices for farmers' paddy aiming to build a hunger-free Bangladesh, Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder said this while addressing the foundation stone laying program of Rice Silo and Premix Kernel Factory at Central Storage Depot-CSD campus in Narayanganj yesterday. Textile and Jute Minister Golam Dastagir Gazi addressing the event said, farmers get fair price as the government directly buys paddy from them.

Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Essa Yousef Essa Alduhailan paid a courtesy call on IGP Dr. Benazir Ahmed at the Police Headquarters yesterday. They discussed various issues of mutual interest. The Ambassador expressed satisfaction over the safety of Saudi nationals living in Bangladesh.

Italy is keen to invest in solid waste management and development of green technology in leather sector in Bangladesh. Italian Ambassador to Dhaka Enrico Nunziata expressed this intention during a courtesy call on Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation-BSCIC Chairman Mustaque Hassan at his office yesterday. The BSCIC Chairman urged Italian investment in different economic zones in the country.

Meanwhile, the country yesterday recorded 04 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the total death toll to 27,922. With 223 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,72,501. The positivity rate stood at 1.14 per cent as 19,517 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,36,515, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. Some 131 dengue patients got hospitalized in the 24 hours till 8:00am last morning, DGHS informed.


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