



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA



Most Urgent
For: Bangladoot, All Missions
MSG: 77/2021-22
Date: Monday, 20 September 2021

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

News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid asked the Anti-Corruption Commission-ACC to take steps so that the corrupt individuals are punished properly. The Head of the State gave the directive as ACC Chairman Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah and its Commissioner Md. Zahurul Haque paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban last evening. During the meeting, the ACC Chairman informed the President about the overall activities of the commission. The President, in the meeting, also called upon the authorities concerned of different educational institutions, society and family to take necessary initiatives so that the young generation can grow up with anti-corruption attitude. The ACC would take strict measures to curb institutional corruption as well as informal corruption, the President hoped.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reached John F. Kennedy International Airport, New York in the early morning to attend the 76th United Nations General Assembly-UNGA. Ambassador Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN and Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA M Shahidul Islam greeted the Premier with flowers on her arrival at the Airport. Earlier, the Prime Minister left Helsinki, the capital of Finland, for New York last evening. Bangladesh's Non-Resident Ambassador to Finland Md. Nazmul Islam saw the Premier off at the airport. On September 17, Friday, the Premier reached Helsinki on her en-route to New York, USA to attend the UNGA and made a two-day stopover there. This is the Premier's maiden foreign tour after one and a half years since she visited Italy in February, 2020. During her stay in New York, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address the General Debate of the 76th Session of the UNGA at the UN Headquarters on September 24 in Bangla like the previous years following the footprint of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who had delivered his historic speech at the UN in Bangla in 1974.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while addressing a press conference yesterday strongly condemned BNP's demonstration and protest prior to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's arrival in New York to join the UNGA. He said, the Premier did not go abroad for the last 19 months due to coronavirus pandemic but she decided to join the UNGA in person instead of joining it virtually as there are scopes to hold bilateral talks with leaders of different countries on mutual interests on the sidelines of the UNGA. The Prime Minister did not want to lose the scopes of expressing opinions in favor of Bangladeshi people on different issues including Covid-19 pandemic, climate change and Rohingya crisis at the large forum of the UN in view of the importance of the assembly. Mentioning that BNP lost people's confidence due to evil politics, the Minister said, BNP again started hatching conspiracies under new strategies to make hindrance on the ways of strengthening democracy. Pointing to BNP, he said BNP's evil attempts to thwart the country's prevailing stability will never be successful.

The government extended BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia's jail suspension for another six months as per section 401 (1) of Code of Criminal Procedure, considering her plea in this regard, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal came up with the information while talking to reporters at his ministry yesterday. With this, the government extended Khaleda Zia's conditional jail suspension for the fourth time, he said. The Home Ministry issued a gazette notification to this end, saying the order will come into effect from September 25 for the next six months.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud urged all to cast their votes for those who stand beside the people and will be with the countrymen in future instead of the "guest birds" in politics. He further said, the scenario of the country has changed in the last 13 years for the dynamic and farsighted leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The country would move ahead if the trend of development continues, he added. Awami League has turned into a party of mass people because of the root-level activists, he said, addressing a civic meeting at Circuit House in Gaibandha yesterday before joining an extended meeting of AL district unit there. The Minister said, many leaders of the party made mistakes and many leaders left the party. But the activists of AL were united always and they keep the party afloat, he added. About elections, Dr. Hasan said, everyone would try to get nomination from AL in the next national polls. But, the AL does not need anyone except the dedicated leaders, he added.

Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni said although the students have been following the hygiene rules since the opening of the educational institution, the guardians in most places are not following. "We need to be more aware," she said while addressing students and parents while visiting Jatrabari Ideal School and College in the capital yesterday. Universities can be reopened with the decision of the Academic Council after vaccination. Instructions in this regard have already been given to the Vice-Chancellors, she also said. Dr. Dipu Moni said, all the classes will be taken after the reduction of the infection rate. However, if the "rate increases", measures will be taken as per the situation. Earlier, the Minister visited Jatrabari Tamirul Millat Kamil Madrasa.

Local Government Minister Md. Tazul Islam said, all roads and buildings of the country will be built using standard size bricks and maintaining quality. While addressing a meeting at his ministry yesterday, he said, "We have to keep in mind that a little disparity of the quality may hamper the sustainability." Replying to a query, the Minister said, the government is working tirelessly to ensure environment friendly bricks using by 2024.

Planning Minister M A Mannan stressed the need for framing the National Population Register-NPR in a comprehensive and concerted way in order to render all government services and civic facilities in a fruitful manner. The Minister said, once the NPR is prepared, it would help the government to detect forgery of data as well as ensure safety and security of data and thus move the country one step ahead in building a developed and prosperous "Digital Bangladesh". The Minister was addressing a workshop on NPR held at the NEC Conference Room in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area yesterday. State Minister for Planning Dr. Shamsul Alam, among others, spoke on the occasion.

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Md. Murad Hassan said, the dream of caretaker government will bring no outcome since the parliamentary elections will be held under the AL government as per the constitution given by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The State Minister while exchanging views with journalists at his ministry yesterday added, the polls will be held under the Election Commission while the people will cast their votes as per their wishes and decide who will run the state. He questioned, "What kind of election formula will Mirza Fakhrul give as he is a follower of a killer?"

The UN welcomes Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as she is joining the UNGA in person expecting that the Premier will raise most pressing issues facing Bangladesh currently, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Mia Seppo made this remarks at the 'DCAB Talk' organized by Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh -DCAB at the Foreign Service Academy in the capital yesterday. Advancing the discourse on the climate crisis, building a more equitable, green recovery from COVID-19, and facilitating vaccine equity - key focus areas (those are) expected in PM Sheikh Hasina's UNGA address, she said. Mentioning that Bangladesh will host an event on the sideline focusing on the Rohingya crisis during the UNGA, Mia Seppo said, it is a "shared responsibility" of the international community to make sure that the Rohingya crisis is not a forgotten one as the world faces more crises. Replying to a question, Mia Seppo said that the UN is at the final stage of starting operations for the Rohingyas in Bhashan Char. The UN is already in talks with the Bangladeshi NGOs working in Bhashan Char on how to work effectively there, she said. She said, Bangladesh government has made huge investments in Bhashan Char to make it a livable place but there were rather negative publicity.

The first phase elections to the postponed 160 Union Parishads is being held today as the Election Commission has already completed all the preparations for the polls. Besides, the sixth phase voting will be held in 9 postponed municipalities. Earlier, the EC had postponed the elections due to the surge of the coronavirus outbreak.

In view of experience due to rising prices in the last two years, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh-TCB started selling onions at subsidized rate across the country from yesterday. Onions are being sold at taka 30 per kilogram and each person can purchase two kg of onions.

The Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission-BTRC has shut down 59 unauthorized Internet Protocol Televisions-IP TVs. BTRC in a statement yesterday said, it only approves the IP-based data services (Streaming Service, IP-TV, Video-on-Demand) for the licensed ISPs. ISP operators, approved for IP TV service by BTRC, could show the broadcasts of satellite TV channels approved by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting only to their subscribers through the Internet. But required contract/approval/release paper must be taken from the concerned institutions for the promotion of each channel or program or content, it added. It has been noticed recently that some unscrupulous businessman is illegally displaying IPTV to the public buying domains or through Facebook or YouTube channels, which are not legally approved, the statement said. Such broadcasting without approval is "immoral and a violation of the Telecommunications Act" it said. The statement also said that the ISPs licensed by the BTRC for the IP based data services are not involved in such (illegal) activities.

Dhaka has advanced two more notches in the safe cities index, formed by The Economist Intelligence Unit. The capital of Bangladesh has ranked 54th out of 60 cities in the world this year.

A Dhaka court yesterday set October 31 by deferring the hearing on charge framing against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and nine accused in the Barapukuria coalmine graft case.

The Royal Thai Embassy in Dhaka resumes accepting applications for all visa categories and certificate of entry-COE for non-Thai nationals in Bangladesh from today. All travelers will have to fulfill each visa's requirements and eligibility as well as follow the Royal Thai Government's procedures and measures, including mandatory quarantine requirement of 14 days, regardless of vaccination status, the Embassy said.

The government is mulling vaccinating 20 million doses of Covid vaccines a month, Professor Dr. A B M Khurshid Alam, DG of Directorate General of Health Services- DGHS told journalists yesterday. "We are making efforts to expand the vaccination mission and citizens aged 60 years or above will be inoculated with on-spot registration at the centers," he said.

The country yesterday recorded 43 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the total death toll to 27,225. With 1,383 fresh cases, the lowest in 16 weeks, the number of infections surged to 15,42,683. The positivity rate stood at 5.62 per cent, the lowest positivity rate in seven months, as 24,623 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,01,541, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. Besides, 241 dengue patients got hospitalized in the last 24 hours till last morning, the DGHS informed.


Md. Shahinoor Miah

Principal Information Officer (Acting)
Phone- 9546091