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

News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina informed the parliament that measures are being taken to reopen the schools and colleges soon. The Premier said this while taking part in a discussion on an obituary reference at the death of incumbent lawmaker Hasibur Rahman Swapan from Sirajganj-6 constituency. The Prime Minister called upon all to maintain the health guidelines alongside taking initiative to clean inside and outside of their houses to contain the spread of coronavirus and dengue. The Prime Minister added that teachers have already been administered the Covid-19 vaccines while measures have been taken to inoculate students of schools in accordance with the WHO protocol. She said her government has already booked six crore doses of vaccine and money has already been sent to this end.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said, the parliament has adopted and implemented various programmes on the occasion of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Along with the radical development of the library, audio and video versions of 128 speeches of the Father of the Nation have been preserved and compiled. While speaking at the inaugural function of the 2nd Member of Parliament House at Manik Mia Avenue in the capital yesterday, she also said huge development has been achieved in the parliament.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, BNP wants to make the country's democratic system questionable. The Minister, in a statement in response to a remark of BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam yesterday also added, the tenure of the current Election Commission is going to be completed and that is why a new EC will hold the next general election. He said as the top BNP leaders indulged in corruption and established the reign of terror in the country, the party was repeatedly rejected by the country's people. But it shifted the blame to the people as well as the EC, he added.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, a decision has been taken to implement add free (clean feed) broadcasting of foreign TV channels from September 30. He also informed that another decision has been taken to bring all television cable networks of Dhaka and Chattogram cities under digital system by November 30 and all other divisional and metropolitan cities along with Dinajpur, Bogura, Kushtia, Cumilla, Rangamati and Cox's Bazar districts towns by December 31. The Minister informed these while talking to the reporters after a meeting with the representatives of Association of Television Channel Owners, Cable Operators Association of Bangladesh, Satellite TV Channel Distributor and Direct to Home at the meeting room of his ministry at Secretariat. He also warned that tough actions would be taken in showing unapproved TV through video streams on the internet, illegal DTH connections, screening illegal cinemas and advertisements at cable networks and for running cable networks without license. State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Murad Hasan and Secretary of the ministry Md Mokbul Hossain were present in the meeting.

The New Development Bank, established by BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) in 2015, has approved Bangladesh as a new member. The NDB Board of Governors gave the approval in a meeting held on August 20, 2021. Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal said, membership of Bangladesh to NDB has paved the way for a new partnership at a momentous time of 50th anniversary of our independence. He said membership in the NDB is an important step forward in meeting the development vision of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun urged domestic and foreign investors to set up factories for manufacturing vehicles and parts in Bangladesh. He said this while speaking at a memorandum of understanding signing ceremony between Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation and Mitsubishi Motor Corporation of Japan at the Secretariat yesterday. The MoU has been signed to determine the way to set up a joint venture factory based on a study and discussion on the possibility of setting up a joint venture company to manufacture Mitsubishi brand cars in Bangladesh by 2025. State Minister for Industries Kamal Ahmed Mojumder was present at the function.

The government has decided to purchase 16.5 crore more COVID-19 vaccines from China and WHO initiative to expedite the countrywide vaccination campaign. Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque said this while speaking at a meeting at his ministry yesterday. He said, Bangladesh will get 2 crore doses of Sinopharm vaccines from China each month, meaning six crore jabs of Sinopharm will arrive in the country within three months. The government is planning to vaccinate 1.5 to 2 crore people from the next month, he said. He also informed medical students will begin attending in-person classes on September 13

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Murad Hasan, while speaking at an award-giving ceremony in Dhaka yesterday said, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is the real hero of the nation as he has brought the independence of the country. Mentioning Zia as the mastermind behind Bangabandhu's assassination, Murad said, "There must be a posthumous trial for Zia in Bangabandhu's Bangladesh."

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in separate condolence messages, expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of veteran freedom fighter and Member of Parliament from the Sirajganj-6 constituency Md Hasibur Rahman Swapan, who breathed his last while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Istanbul, Turkey early Thursday. Meanwhile, in separate condolence messages, Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud and other cabinet members also expressed deep sorrow at the death of Md Hasibur Rahman Swapan.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in a condolence message yesterday expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of her party's Sylhet district unit AL President, the district council Chairman and former Ganoparishad member Advocate Lutfor Rahman. Lutfor Rahman, a close associate of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, breathed his last at a city hospital yesterday.

Bangladesh has shown an impressive track record for growth and development in the world for over a decade with the support of development partners. Salman F Rahman, Private Industry and Investment Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister said made the remarks while taking part in the Islamic Development Bank Group annual conference started in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan yesterday. He called for continued financial and policy cooperation for the developing countries.

Flight operations under the air bubble agreement between India and Bangladesh are likely to resume from September 4 instead of today (September 3), Civil Aviation Ministry sources said yesterday.

Elections to 161 Union Parishad in Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Noakhali, Chattogram and Cox's Bazar and 9 municipalities in the country, which were postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic, will be held on September 20 next, Election Commission-EC official sources said yesterday. Meanwhile, Awami League will distribute nomination forms for different polls and by-elections, announced by the EC from September 4 to 8. Intending candidates are requested to collect forms and submit those between 11am and 5 pm from September 4 to 8 from AL President's Dhanmondi political office in Dhaka, said an AL press release yesterday.

Press Club of India-PCI is going to set up a media centre after the name of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman marking the Birth Centenary of the great leader, who struggled throughout his entire life for establishing rights of people. Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, who will be visiting New Delhi from September 5 to 8, is expected to inaugurate the media centre on September 6, PCI sources said yesterday.

Meanwhile, India yesterday sent two Mobile Oxygen Plants, each with a capacity of generating 960 Litres of Oxygen per minute, to Bangladesh to support the efforts to fight the Covid pandemic.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl Miller, while handing over one million more doses of US's Pfizer vaccine at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka yesterday said, his country is expected to donate more COVID vaccines to Bangladesh in coming days.

The body of Biman's pilot Captain Nawshad Ataul Quaiyum, who passed away in India following a mid-air heart attack, arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka yesterday morning and was later buried in Banani graveyard. State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mohammad Mahbub Ali was present at the airport.

The country yesterday recorded 79 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the death toll to 26,362. With 3,436 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,07,116. The positivity rate stood at 10.40 per cent as 33,025 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 14,37,885, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. Besides, a total of 330 dengue patients got admitted in different hospitals across the country in the 24 hours till 8am last morning, DGHS informed.

DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange-DSE, also witnessed an upward trend like earlier yesterday, as it went up by 64.67 points or 0.94 per cent to settle at 6,981.06, the highest since its inception in 2013.



Principal Information Officer (Acting)
Phone- 9546091