

President returns home

Bss, Dhaka

President M Abdul Hamid is returning home this morning after completing his health check-up at a hospital in Dubai of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

“A special VVIP aircraft (BG-148) of Bangladesh Biman Airlines, carrying the president and his entourage members, is expected to land at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 7:30am,” President’s Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told the news agency yesterday.

The head of the state left the country for Dubai on October 14 for health check-up and eye treatment.

The president was scheduled to return home on October 22 but he had to spend four more days in Dubai till October 26 on the advice of his foreign physicians, Abul Kalam Azad added.

The 76-year-old has been suffering from glaucoma for a long time.



Wires put up by internet service providers are cluttering the capital city's line of sight. Hung from electrical and telephone poles, they cling together and gather dust, while compounding the chance for accidents. This photo was taken yesterday from Mirpur-1.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Tk 1.53cr cash support for poor in south

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An NGO along with three other organisations is providing cash support of Tk 1.53 crore to the poor in Satkhira and Khulna.

Unnayan is implementing it in the southwestern and southern districts of the country, with direction and funding of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Foreign Commonwealth Development Office and European Union, says a press release.

Those who are in food crisis amid the pandemic in eight unions under three upazilas will get the money under “Pathways to Prosperity for Extremely Poor People Project” that started in 2019, it adds.

Unnayan has identified 1,700 poor households from in Ashasuni upazila of Satkhira.

To distribute the money through mobile financial service, the NGO held a programme at its Shovnali office in Ashasuni on Sunday.

‘A history of blood and conspiracy’

Says Quader on BNP

Bss, Dhaka

Criticising the political strategy of BNP, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP wears the mask of democracy as their political inheritance characterises blood and conspiracy.

“BNP’s ill-politics is the biggest impediment on the way to institutionalisation of democracy in the country as killings and designing conspiracies are their political culture,” he said in a routine briefing from his official residence in the capital.

Criticising BNP’s demand for resignation of the government and holding elections under a neutral one, Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, said the country is progressing under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina whereas they are trying to make an issue without any legal basis.

BNP is demanding the government’s resignation by resorting to social demonstrations against rape after failing to exploit previous two issues like movements for safe road and quota reform, the minister told the online briefing.

“BNP leaders should take lessons from all their failed movements. There is no necessity to make demand for resignation of the government as the elections will be held as per the constitution in due time,” he added.

Replying to a statement made by BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir on the possibility of peoples’ agitation on streets, Quader said, “It is doubtful whether Mirza Fakhru himself has any belief in it.”

Turning down BNP’s repeated claim that there is no freedom of media in the country, he said allegations made by BNP are false and outdated. Even they are clamouring that the government has no tolerance on dissidents, he added.

26th death anniversary of Rokeya Begum

CITY DESK

Today marks the 26th death anniversary of Rokeya Begum, mother of Hasan Jahid Tusher, a deputy press secretary to the prime minister, says a press release.

On this occasion, doa mahfil and Quran recitation have been organised at her village home in Sreerampur under Magura Sadar upazila. Food will also be distributed among the destitute.

Tusher sought prayers from all for salvation of the departed soul of his mother.

Rokeya, wife of late Miah Md Abdur Razzaque (a former agricultural official), died in 1994 -- leaving four sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.



Sea tourism

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said the island is not that attractive to tourists nowadays. “Around 2,000 tourists visit the island daily during the peak season (December to February). Now few domestic tourists visit due to bad weather and Covid pandemic,” he said.

The vice president of Tour Operators Association of Bangladesh (TOAB) also said sea tourism will bolster Bangladesh’s economy. “The government is building a tourist zone in Sabrang of Teknaf. Now tourists can enjoy the Bay of Bengal utilising the world’s longest marine drive.”

“The government should focus on the blue economy to tide over the economic crisis. As Bangladesh won the maritime boundary case with Myanmar and India in the International Tribunal, there is no problem in the Bay of Bengal. Ocean economy, known as the blue economy, offers opportunities in fishery, mineral resources, shipping and energy as well,” he said.

Shiblul said there are now 150 Abakash and 70 restaurants on Saint Martin Island. “The government should also set up a “waste treatment plant” there as soon as possible. Moreover, the solar capacity should be improved to light up the site,” he said.

Bangladesh has the right to fish and explore resources within 118,813 square kilometres of the Bay of Bengal. Sources said the ocean contributes around US \$6 billion annually to the Bangladesh economy. The gross value addition of Bangladesh’s ocean economy was US \$6.2 billion in 2015.

The total contribution of the tourism and travel sector to Bangladesh’s GDP was Tk 840.2 billion or 4.3 percent of the country’s GDP in 2016, according to Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute data. And according to the World Travel and Tourism Council, the sector would grow by 7.1 percent each year raising the total contribution to Tk 1,783 billion or 4.7 percent to the country’s GDP by 2027.

Tokon

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Thaakoor had said that even though he had finished shooting -- costs for other technical processes, such as background score and publication, were a concern. “The government grant simply did not provide enough to complete the film.”

Since 1976, the government has been funding films each year. However, from 1997-98 and 1999-2000, the government postponed the grants. From 2008-2018, some 22 feature-length films were funded, but are yet to be released. From 2007-2015, 41 films received grants, among which only 15 were released.

“The government funds come from people’s pockets, and so directors should at least finish production of these films,” said noted filmmaker Nasiruddin Yousuff. He expressed concern over how many directors fail to finish production, while many fail to even start production.

“Previously, the given amount was not enough for films, but at present, I believe with the increased amount, it is more than enough to finish a film production,” expresses Bachchu. “It is a disgrace to arrest a director on such claims, as these issues could have been solved in another manner. Arresting a director will not solve this problem.”

Actor-director Animesh Aich, who plays a role in “Kaata”, feels that the funds should have been better managed. “Directors should allot their production budget in accordance with the received funds to avoid such problems in the future,” he said.

IUB hosts webinar series marking UN Global Day

CITY DESK

With an aim to explicate various international issues -- from health to foreign policy -- Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) hosted a series of webinars on October 22, on the UN Global Day.

The programme was jointly organised by Global Gatekeepers Club of the Global Studies and Governance (GSG) Programme of SLASS, says a press release. As part of it, four webinars were hosted, where external various luminaries and faculties from IUB participated, presented papers, and chaired the sessions.

The first webinar highlighted the study, research and student visa requirements for Germany and explained scholarship facilities. Dr Nafisa Huq, Head of IUB’s Department of Public Health talked on the topic ‘Pandemic and Education’. Annuroopa Dixit, Pooja Midha and Rumana Kabir from DAAD -- one of the world’s largest research and exchange student funding organisations -- were guest speakers for the session.

For the topic ‘Bangabandhu and Bangladesh’s Foreign Policy’, two separate webinars were held, where renowned educationist, scholars, policymakers and professional specialists of the country took part. Prof Milan Pagon, Vice Chancellor of IUB delivered the welcome speech. Former ambassador Muhammad Zamir chaired the afternoon session while Dr Fakrul Alam from DU’s Department of English, chaired the evening session.

Retired ambassador Tariq A Karim, Senior Fellow at Bay of Bengal Institute Project at IUB and Dr Delwar Hossain from Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka were discussants for the sessions, while various researchers and educators also spoke.

The discussants highlighted Bangabandhu’s role in building a progressive, all-inclusive, democratic and sovereign Bangladesh.

The other webinar was held with the title ‘COVID Unravelling’. Dr Meghna Guhathakurta, Executive Director, Research Initiatives, Bangladesh; Dr Md Mamun Habib, School of Business & Entrepreneurship at IUB; Dr Mohammad Sorowar Hossain from Department of Environment Science and Management at IUB and Dr Marsela Nyawara, Migration Health Officer (Covid-19 Response), IOM Cox’s Bazar were guest speakers of the programme.

Former VC of BSMMU Prof Tahir no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent medicine specialist and former vice chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh



Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Prof DR Mohammad Tahir passed away yesterday at a hospital in Dhaka.

He was 80 years of age. Prof Tahir breathed his last around 8am while undergoing treatment at Labaid Hospital.

He was admitted to the hospital following a cardiac arrest, Proshanta Kumar Shaha, public relations officer of BSMMU, told The Daily Star.

Vice Chancellor of BSMMU Prof Kanak Kanti Barua has expressed deep shock at his death.

Scrap digital

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repressive acts are taking the country to a wrong direction.

He also criticised the government for arresting some journalists, including Ruhul Amin Gazi and photographer Shafiqul Islam Kajol, under the Digital Security Act.

“Journalists are your (PM) friends as they present the truth to you and find out the truth. I would like to say no one can stay in power by indulging in repressive acts. You please release the journalists immediately and allow them to speak up and present the truth freely. This will pave the way for good governance in the country,” he observed.

Zafrullah said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir on Sunday demanded the release of arrested journalists, but he did not assure that their party, if returned to power, will revoke the “black law” and ensure freedom of the press and people’s freedom of expression.

He called upon all to get united to restore the freedom of expression in the country.

Zafrullah also urged the government to take steps for giving journalists a special incentive during the pandemic, in recognition of their contributions to the nation.



An alleyway in North Mugda has been in this state for nearly a month now. Even though they tolerated it for the first few days, residents of the area can no longer bear the suffering caused by it, especially as drainwater remains clogged as well, inset.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



Won’t spare

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navy official. They also verbally abused his wife, the navy official alleged.

Meanwhile, the incident went viral on social media, and generated strong reactions from netizens.

Md Ikram Ali Mia, officer-in-charge of the police station, said the driver of the car, Mizanur, was detained from the spot and shown arrested in the case.

Later, members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) conducted a drive at the Old Dhaka residence of Haji Selim and detained his son Irfan and Irfan’s bodyguard Zahid yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court placed Mizanur Rahman on one-day remand in the case.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Sufiyan Mohammad Noman passed the order when Dhanmondi Police Station’s Inspector Ashfaq Rajib, also the case’s investigation officer, produced him before the court in the afternoon, seeking a five-day remand.

WE MOURN

THE LOSS OF THE GREAT SOUL

Barrister Rafiqul Haque
(1935 – 2020)

Independent Ex-Director, RAK Ceramics

RAK CERAMICS

PARTEX GROUP

PARTEX PETRO

Partex Group is establishing Condensate Fractionation Plant at Dangerchar, Karnafuli, Chattogram. The project will use natural gas condensate as raw material.

Please download the **tender documents** from the following URL: www.partexpetro.com/tender

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Publish Date	Name of works	Last Date & Time for Tender Submission	Tender Opening Date & Time
1	2	3	4
27/10/2020	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Laboratory Equipment of Petroleum Products with all ancillaries.	20/11/2020 2 PM	20/11/2020 3 PM

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