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News Brief

The countrywide Covid-19 vaccination starts today. As of 4:00pm yesterday, a total of 328,013 people have registered online to receive vaccines. Health Minister Zahid Maleque will receive the vaccine this morning at Sheikh Russel National Gastroenterology Institute and Hospital vaccination centre in Dhaka. Prior to his inoculation, the Minister will inaugurate the vaccination campaign through video conferencing from the health directorate.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has been awarded with the “Women of the Decade in Public Life and Leadership Award”. The Women Economic Forum-WEF presented the award to her virtually at the two-day Asian Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2021, started yesterday, organized by the Bangladesh-India Business Council of the Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries-WICCI.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, BNP is again carrying out its evil attempts to launch violence in the name of political program after failing to gain people's support. Their evil acts will be dealt with in an iron hand, he added while speaking at a press conference yesterday. Mentioning different achievements of the AL government, the Minister said, Bangladesh is marching towards prosperity under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and political stability is prevailing in the country while the country's economy started rebounding overcoming the adverse effects of coronavirus pandemic.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, despite geographical and political barriers, the connection shared between Indians and Bangladeshis cannot be erased. The Minister said this at the unveiling of a memorial plaque at the Kolkata Press Club premises, commemorating two deceased Indian journalists, Surajit Ghoshal and Deepak Banerjee, who sacrificed their lives in the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. Dr. Hasan then attended a program arranged by the Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh in Kolkata at Brigade Parade Ground, where Bangabandhu gave the historical speech in presence of about 10 lac people on 6 February in 1972. The Minister handed over the honorary crests to Indian personalities who were recognized with the ‘Freedom Fighter Friendship Award’ for their outstanding contribution to Bangladesh's Liberation War.

Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal while addressing an online workshop yesterday said, graduation from the Least Developed Country-LDC status would be a matter of great honour and pride for Bangladesh adding that it would be a manifestation of the dream of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. This will also be recognition of the unprecedented development stride the country has made under the valiant leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, he added. Speaking at the workshop, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi observed that the country should move towards signing of free trade agreements or preferential trade agreements in the long term to cope with the post-graduation scenario.

Local Government Minister Md. Tajul Islam said, the incumbent government is working relentlessly to ensure sustainable water supply as well as sustainable development across the country considering the future demand for water. The Minister was talking to journalists after visiting Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority-WASA's Gandharbpur Water Treatment Plant at Rugganj in Narayanganj yesterday. He said that there will be no water problem in the country as the water problem in Chattogram and Dhaka has now been resolved.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has said, Bangladesh is working to sue Al Jazeera for using inaccurate information in its report "All the Prime Minister's Men". He was talking to newsmen after attending an event at Dhaka's Army Stadium yesterday. Saying that Bangladesh is still being depicted negatively abroad, Dr. Momen urged media to portray a positive picture of Bangladesh as the country had overcome its poverty in a very short time under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Dr. Momen also said, Myanmar has written to Bangladesh through the Ambassador in Yangon, explaining why the military took over on February 1. The current interim government conveyed that some 10.4 million fake votes were cast in the national election held in November last year, Dr. Momen said.

The Al Jazeera report is "part of a conspiracy" and unfortunately, the root of it is within the country, Planning Minister M A Mannan said this while speaking at a memorial program for the late Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, in Dhaka yesterday. "Today, our identity as a nation can't be tainted with efforts like this. People across the country, in the villages, are not bothered about it. Only two-three per cent people in the city are making a fuss about it," he added.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon inaugurated two new pairs of Demu trains on Chattogram-Dohazari and Chattogram-Patiya routes on the Dohazari railway station premises in Chattogram yesterday. While inaugurating, he said, the construction of the railway line from Dohazari to Cox's Bazar will be completed by December 2022. The Minister said, there will be a sophisticated railway junction at Dohazari. Many jobs will be created here, he added.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar said, Bangladesh has vast prospect for tourism industry. He hoped that the tourism sector would play a significant role to the economic development of the country if the natural beauty of the country and modern hospitality of the people here could be tapped properly. The Minister said this while addressing a webinar organized by a private tourist operator organization yesterday.

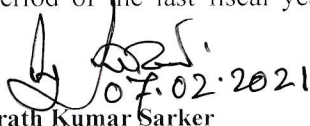
The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington, DC has introduced a tracking system to enable applicants to know the status of their passport, visa, No Visa Required-NVR seal and dual nationality certificate, as part of improving consular service coinciding the celebration of the "Mujib Borsho", the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will visit Bangladesh soon on the occasion of 50 years of Bangladesh-UK diplomatic relations, Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Saida Muna Tasneem expressed the optimism during a bilateral meeting with the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Permanent Under-Secretary Sir Philip Barton KCMG OBE recently. Bangladesh Army Chief General Aziz Ahmed, who is now on a visit to the United States at the invitation of the US Army Chief, paid a courtesy call on US Army Chief of Staff General James Charles McConville yesterday. Both of them discussed mutual cooperation and strengthening relations between the two armies.

Meanwhile, with the death of 08 more people yesterday, the number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 8,190. At the same time recovery count rose to 4,82,841, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. With the detection of 305 new cases, the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 5,37,770.

The first metro rail set will ship for Mongla port from Kobe on February 20 after a third party inspection in Japan, Managing Director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited-DMTCL M A N Siddique expressed the optimism yesterday while talking to media.

The Sonamasjid Land Port in Chapainawabganj, witnessed a whopping revenue collection growth of 194 per cent over the July-January period of the current fiscal year fetching Taka 324.02 crore. The revenue collection through this land port during the corresponding period of the last fiscal year was recorded at Taka 110.43 crore.


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