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News Brief

Saudi Arabia has decided to renew the expired visa and extend the iqama for 24 more days and if required they will extend it more, the expired visa extension process would start on Sunday.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen said to media after coming to know the information from Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Dr. Mohammad Javed Patwary over phone yesterday. Saudi government has given landing permission to Biman. Bangladesh has also given permission to all Saudi airlines to land in Dhaka and take Bangladeshis to the KSA, said the Foreign Minister.

From September 23, Bangladesh Biman has been allowed to operate a total of 4 flights a week to Riyadh and Jeddah. Biman Bangladesh Airlines will operate two chartered flights to Saudi Arabia, on Dhaka-Jeddah and on Dhaka-Riyadh on September 26 and 27 respectively only for the passengers those have return tickets of Biman's suspended March 16 and 17 flights to these destinations.

Earlier, attending an inter-ministerial meeting with Expatriates' welfare and Civil Aviation ministries, the Foreign Minister said, Saudi Arabia wants to send Rohingyas, who take shelter there in 1980, to Bangladesh urging Dhaka to issue passports for them. He added, "We told them that if those Rohingyas had Bangladeshi passport, we would issue travel documents in favour of them. But, we won't take responsibility if they had gone to Saudi Arabia from somewhere else.." A committee headed by the Foreign Secretary, has been formed to resolve the issue of Rohingyas, he said. The Foreign Minister and his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud are likely to have a telephone conversation on Sunday. Bilateral and current issues will be discussed during the talks.

The Newly appointed Ambassador of Sweden-Alexandra BERG VON LINDE Francisco de Asis Benetiz Salas of Spain and Espen Rikter-Svendsen of Norway to Bangladesh separately presented their credentials to President Md. Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban yesterday. Welcoming the envoys, the President sought their respective country's cooperation to mount pressure on Myanmar for the safe and dignified return of Rohingyas staying Cox's Bazar to their homeland. The President also urged the developed countries and multinational corporations to come forward to make coronavirus vaccine available to all states, irrespective of rich and poor.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has stressed the need for a "strong global partnership" on digital cooperation for the future generation to achieve the common goals. The Premier was addressing a high-level virtual event on the sidelines of the 75th United Nations General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York yesterday. The Premier said, in an endeavour to build "Digital Bangladesh" by 2021 and to be an advanced economy by 2041, the Bangladesh government pledged to establish digital academies and centres of excellence in every secondary school of the country by 2030.

President Md. Abdul Hamid has asked the Bangladesh Public Service Commission to provide all-out efforts for ensuring transparency and accountability in every aspect of its recruitment process. The President gave the directive when PSC's new Chairman Md. Sohrab Hossain called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday witnessed a power-point presentation on Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban development plan aiming to solve the accommodation problems of 1,321 officials and employees at the Parliament Secretariat utilizing a 52,097sqft of land of North Plaza of the JS Bhaban. Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury was also present.

Road, Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, about 50 per cent of the metro rail's construction work has been finished. The Minister came up with the information while virtually inaugurating two field hospitals at Gabtoli and Uttara for metro rail employees infected with

coronavirus. The Minister also said, the 11-kilometer flyover of the first section from Uttara to Agargaon has already become visible. He further said that initiatives have been taken to launch metro rail in Chattogram.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque while inaugurating a workshop in the capital said, an agricultural engineering wing would be set up at the Department of Agricultural Extension to recruit concerned field-level engineers who will help the growers adopt farm mechanization. He said, a project of Taka 3,020 crore has also been taken by the government to make the agriculture mechanization popular among the people.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal accompanied by Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das visited the Gandhi Ashram at Madhurchar in Dohar near the capital yesterday. The Home Minister said, India is our tested friend and the friendship between the two countries is becoming stronger day by day.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud at a views-exchange meeting with newsmen at his ministry yesterday said, proving all apprehensions wrong Bangladesh's GDP tops almost all countries in Asia, even amid the Coronavirus epidemic as the wheels of economy have been kept moving for dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He said, the situation of Bangladesh in combating COVID-19 is better than other countries.

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase yesterday in a virtual meeting with Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal in the chair, approved four proposals involving a total cost of around Taka 334.41 crore, including one for procuring 25,000 metric tons of bagged granular urea fertilizer.

Two contracts were signed yesterday for appointing Japanese firms for consultancy services to Matarbari Port Development Project, a 'Fast Track Project' in the city. Planning Minister M A Mannan and State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury virtually joined the ceremony.

Rwanda is interested to boost bilateral trade and commercial ties with Bangladesh, Foreign Minister of the East African country Vincent Biruta has said during a phone conversation with his Bangladesh counterpart Dr. A K Abdul Momen. Dr. Momen urged Rwandan Foreign Minister to import pharmaceutical products, PPE, readymade garments, and bicycles from Bangladesh.


The country yesterday recorded 37 more fatalities from the COVID-19, in a daily count raising the death toll from the pandemic to 5,044. At the same time recovery count rose to 2,62,953 after another 2,163 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 1,666 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,52,287. A total of 14,150 samples were tested across the country during the time, it added.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque attending the inaugural function of modernization and expanded programme of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday said, Bangladesh is keeping constant communication with those companies, which are at the final stage of COVID-19 vaccine development.

Joytu Sheikh Hasina International Online Chess tournament begins today on the occasion of the 74th birthday celebration of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. A total of seventy four chess players, from fifteen countries are taking part in the tournament.

Chief Election Commissioner K M Nurul Huda attending a meeting with law enforcers at the DC office in Pabna on Pabna-4 By-election, slated September 26, said, none can cast their votes on the night before the election day, as ballot papers will now reach the polling stations on the morning of the voting day.

The nationwide Vitamin A plus campaign will commence from October 4 and continue until October 17.


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