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News Brief

State Minister for Religious Affairs Alhaj Advocate Sheikh Md Abdullah passed away late night yesterday at Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka at the age of 74. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed their deep shock at his demise while they prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul. Both the President and the Premier conveyed as well deep sympathy to the bereaved family members.

The Namaz-e- Janaza of Awami League leader and former Health Minister Mohammad Nasim who passed away in Dhaka yesterday was held at Banani Jam-e-mosque this morning . He was buried with state honor at his mother's grave there. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have expressed profound shock at the death of Mohammad Nasim. In a condolence message, the President said, Mohammad Nasim was a fearless fighter in all the democratic movements of the country including our struggle for independence and the Liberation War. The Prime Minister in her condolence message said that Mohammad Nasim like his father Captain M Mansur Ali worked for the welfare of the country and the nation until his death following the ideals of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Bangladesh yesterday reported 44 more fatalities from the novel coronavirus in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 1,139. The tally of infections has also spiralled to 84,379 after 2,856 new COVID-19 cases were detected in the last 24 hours, DGHS came up with the disclosure at its daily health bulletin. It said the recovery count rose to 17,827 after another 578 patients were released from hospitals in the same period. In the last 24 hours, 59 coronavirus testing laboratories across the country tested the highest ever 16,638 samples, it added.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister and Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said, BNP's typical criticism over the proposed budget is not new and it is not beyond their conventional way of opposing the government. He said, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir talked about keeping 5 percent allocation for the health sector but if he considered the health sector's capability of budget implementation, he never made such a comment. The AL general secretary termed BNP secretary general's thought as 'out of box' and 'exaggerated', saying Fakhrul's observation is not realistic. The minister said, the proposed national budget is a pro-people one amid the global crisis and it would foster the way to overcome the economic crisis triggered by the outbreak of deadly novel coronavirus pandemic.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud urged the countrymen to change their way of movement for their own safety, stressing on self-protection during the ongoing fight against coronavirus. He was addressing the inaugural function of a Covid Isolation Centre at City Hall in Agrabad of Chattogram yesterday. Mentioning that despite being a developing country with 17 crore people, the Bangladesh government had kept all the activities closed for more than two months. Everyone has to keep in mind that we have to protect both life and livelihood of ourselves, he also said.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque has said, the government will continue its support to agro-processing sector. He gave this assurance while inaugurating PRAN mango collection and pulping activities yesterday.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar yesterday said, Bangladesh Post Office -BPO is taking full-fledged preparation to help marginal farmers in selling their products offering free transportation. BPO has taken this initiative to help the farmers to get fair price of their products, said the minister while he was opening free of cost mango transportation service from Chapainawabganj.


As COVID-19 cases and fatalities continue to rise alarmingly in Bangladesh, the government has taken all necessary preparations to bring some virus hotspots -Red Zone under lockdown and declaring general holidays there to prevent entry to and exit from those areas. The areas where infection rate is high will be declared as 'Red Zone' and general holiday will be announced in those areas but countrywide general holidays will not be declared anymore, State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain told media yesterday. Offices will remain open as usual maintaining health guidelines even after June 15. Public transport movement will continue. Meanwhile, the government has urged all people, living in the government announced red zones irrespective of religions, to say their prayers at respective homes in the wake novel coronavirus outbreak. The Religious Affairs Ministry issued a notice in this regard.

A total of 391 stranded Bangladeshis returned home early in the morning yesterday from Dubai while 153 Bangladeshi nationals left London at 10:30 am local time to back home by separate chartered flight of Biman Bangladesh airlines as those were stuck abroad amid flight suspension due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Bangladesh has called for more finance and the availability of technology for global adaptation and resilience building efforts. Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN Tareq Md Ariful Islam made the call while addressing as a member of the Steering Committee of the UN Group of Friends on climate adaptation and resilience at the virtual launch of the UN Group in New York, a press release said yesterday.

Palli Sanchay Bank launched a newly-introduced government credit scheme, the project titled "Grain Stock Loan" this year for marginal farmers across the country. Taking the advantage the marginal farmers now can stockpile their crops at barns for selling at government's procurement centers to grab fair prices and maximize benefit amid the coronavirus pandemic.

DNCC yesterday found Aedes mosquito larvae at 138 houses and establishments during the eighth day of the 10-day combing operation to destroy breeding grounds of the mosquitoes. During the operation, DNCC mobile court fined Tk 5,90,500 to building owners for having larvae.


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