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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked the Bangladesh Chhatra League-BCL leaders and activists to build themselves up adhering to the ideology of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in their heart imbued with patriotism and keeping their organization's tradition in mind to lead the country in the coming days. The Premier was addressing a discussion program at Krishibid Institute, Bangladesh, marking the 73rd founding anniversary of BCL, joining virtually from Ganabhaban yesterday. Earlier, the BCL leaders and workers paid rich tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion by placing a wreath at his portrait on Bangabandhu Bhaban premises in the morning.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader strongly condemning BNP's announcement of holding demonstration program on January 10, the historic homecoming day of Bangabandhu said, it is nothing but an anti-state conspiracy. The Minister in a statement yesterday also said, BNP showed their characteristics as an anti-liberation force and revealed their hatred towards Bangabandhu by announcing such program. The demonstration is also the outburst of BNP's evil efforts to destroy the hard-earned democracy of the people, he added.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud paying rich tribute to noted litterateur Rabeya Khatun, who passed away on Sunday said, the sad demise of Rabeya Khatun is an irreparable loss to the field of Bangla literature. He was talking to reporters after placing floral wreaths on the coffin of Rabeya Khatun at Bangla Academy in the capital yesterday. State Minister for Information Dr. Md. Murad Hasan also condoled Rabeya Khatun's death.

Following the remarks made by the chief of Serum Institute of India -SII regarding the bar of export of vaccine, India's Ministry of External Affairs has confirmed that the ban on Covid-19 vaccine export will not be applicable for Bangladesh. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen said this to reporters at a briefing at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday adding that the remarks made by the SII was "personal and premature" and does not reflect the policy of the Indian government.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque while talking to newsmen at his ministry yesterday, assured that Bangladesh will get COVID-19 vaccine doses in time as the country signed an agreement with the Serum Institute of India. Secretary of the Health Service Division Md. Abdul Mannan reiterated the same.

Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla ruling out the media reports quoting Serum Institute of India regarding the ban on export of the virus vaccine, said, Bangladesh has nothing to be worried as India will provide the COVID-19 vaccine to Bangladesh on a priority basis. While talking to an online portal, he added, initially the vaccine will be sent to Bangladesh on Government to Government arrangement for the people of the country and it will not be brought under any commercial arrangement. The vaccine will be supplied to Bangladesh under commercial arrangement when India will go for large scale production, he added.

In this connection, a report quoting Rabbur Reza, Chief Operating Officer of Beximco Pharmaceuticals, the local partner of Serum Institute of India said, Bangladesh will get three crore doses of Covid-19 vaccines on time.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's drug regulator authority Directorate General of Drug Administration-DGDA on Friday approved the coronavirus vaccine developed by Oxford University for emergency use. Under the proposed project, the Department of Health has proposed to set aside a total of Taka 4,314 crore 49 lac and 17 thousand for the purchase and storage of corona vaccine.

The number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 7,650 yesterday with the death of 24 more people. At the same time recovery count rose to 4,61,515, Directorate General of Health Services-DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. With the detection of 910 new cases, the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 5,16,929.

A flight carrying 48 passengers from London landed yesterday in Sylhet's Osmani International Airport and 42 of them were put under institutional quarantine to curb the new strain of coronavirus. Meanwhile, Biman Bangladesh Airlines has cancelled its Sylhet-London flights on January 23 and 30 due to an increase in coronavirus infection in the UK.

Bangladesh now can afford more borrowing to address the economic fallout from COVID-19 pandemic as the country managed public debt to GDP ratio in a conservative way, as per a policy note titled 'COVID-19 Crisis and Fiscal Space for Bangladesh Economy: A Comparative Analysis with South Asian Countries', prepared by Bangladesh Bank.

The Department of Disaster Management under the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief has framed a draft project to bolster the ongoing disaster management with an estimated cost of Taka 2,275.99 crore. The official said, the project is scheduled to be placed before the ECNEC meeting today.

The digital lottery for admission of the students from class one to nine in government secondary schools will be held on Jan 11 at 3 pm. Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni will inaugurate the lottery.

Police arrested six people on Sunday on charge of assisting Rohingyas in getting included in the voter list, in Naikhangchhari upazila of Bandarban.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic is taking its toll on the global economy, the National Board of Revenue-NBR collected a total of Taka 34,238 crore as revenue over the last six months which is Taka 1,545 crore or 4.73 per cent higher than the last tax year. Besides, a total of 24,09,357 individual taxpayers submitted their returns till December 31 which is 9 per cent higher than the last tax year, the NBR informed.

Bangladesh yesterday won two gold, two silver and five bronze medals along with six technical awards at the 22nd International Robot Olympiad-IRO held online and conducted from Daegu, South Korea. A 19-member Bangladesh team participated in the IRO from BCS Innovation Centre in Dhaka on December 12 and 13.



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