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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid yesterday gave his assent to the bill for setting up Sheikh Hasina Medical University, Khulna, passed in the Jatiya Sangsad during the maiden session of 2021.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked agricultural scientists to conduct further research over local fruits and agricultural items to expand their market. The Premier made the call while addressing at the cover unveiling ceremony of “The 100 Agro Technologies Atlas” at Bangabandhu International Conference Center virtually from Ganabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The Prime Minister hoped the agriculture production, processing and marketing along with others things could be made more technology based through research. Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council-BARC published the Atlas with 100 agricultural technologies, marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The Ambassador of Sweden to Bangladesh, Alexandra Berg von Linde yesterday paid a courtesy call on Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury at the latter’s office in Dhaka yesterday. During the meeting, the issues related to the celebration of the golden jubilee of Bangladesh’s independence, the COVID-19 situation, the current status of the COVID-19 vaccine and the development of bilateral relations came up in the discussion.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while speaking at a press conference on contemporary affairs at his official residence in Dhaka yesterday urged all to remain united to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on contemporary affairs to deal with the evil forces. He said Bangladesh has moved up four notches on the latest Democracy Index 2020 of the Economist Intelligence Unit-EIU while the scope of democracy has minimised in different parts of the world due to the coronavirus epidemic. The country’s democratic progress amid the COVID-19 pandemic was reflected in the EIU’s democratic index, he added.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud congratulated the COVID-19 vaccine ‘Bangavax’ inventors’ team leaders, Kakan Nag and Naznin Sultana of Globe Biotech Limited, saying that they are the pride of Bangladesh. He said while addressing a meeting to greet the two scientists at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. He said the vaccine is now waiting for the approval for clinical trail from Bangladesh Medical Research Council ethics committee. Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, Bangladesh is the second country in the subcontinent which invented this vaccine. There were many rumours over the vaccine issue, but the vaccine has reached on time and it reached district and upazila levels, he added.

Local Government Minister Md. Tazul Islam said, the USA has expressed keenness to work in public health sector in city corporation and municipality areas in Bangladesh. He came up with the statement after holding a meeting with US Ambassador Earl R Miller at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque while speaking at a discussion marking World Cancer Day at the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital-NICRH in Dhaka yesterday said, a vested quarter is conspiring over COVID-19 vaccines to undermine government’s

efforts for containing the spread of the deadly virus. Gradually people are showing their interest to get vaccines as of today (January 4) 1.5 lakh people have been registered online for receiving vaccine, he added. Meanwhile, with the death of 13 more people yesterday, the number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 8,175. At the same time recovery count rose to 4,81,917, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. With the detection of 485 new cases, the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 5,37,030.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Fazilatunnesa Indira speaking at a function to award the best-winners of 'Joyeeta' of Mymensingh and Barishal divisions virtually from Bangladesh Shishu Academy in Dhaka yesterday said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has set a unique example in the history of the country by providing houses to the homeless people. The houses have been deeded in the name of the concerned husband and wife jointly, which has ensured rights, protection and proper partnership of women, she added.

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation-BSC is going to purchase six LNG tankers for transporting liquefied natural gas. The LNG ship purchase proposal by the BSC was formally revealed in the inter-ministerial meeting with State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury in the chair in secretariat yesterday.

The government announced names of 21 eminent citizens for awarding prestigious Ekushey Padak, the country's second highest civilian award, for their contribution in respective fields. The Cultural Affairs Ministry disclosed the names of the recipients in a press release yesterday.

Leading diplomats and advocates for action on climate change at 'the CoP26 Diplomatic Dialogue on Adaptation' organised by the London-based Chatham House on Wednesday have praised the Bangladesh government for its extraordinary capacity of early warning and disaster preparedness specially Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's "Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan".

South Korea initiated a project in Bangladesh entitled "Support of the GEO-KOMPSAT-2A Receiving and Analysis System in Bangladesh". The project is scheduled to be completed by 2021, said the Korean Embassy in Dhaka. South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Lee Jang-Keun met Director of Bangladesh Meteorological Department Shamsuddin Ahmed and Senior Secretary of the Ministry of Defence Dr. Abu Hena Mostofa Kamal on February 1 and 4 respectively, and discussed details on the current and future cooperation programs between Bangladesh and Korea.

A Narail court yesterday sentenced BNP acting Chairman Tarique Rahman to 2-year imprisonment in a defamation case filed against him for making derogatory remarks about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at a BNP meeting in East London on December 16, 2014. Meanwhile, a Satkhira court has sentenced 50 people to different jail terms in the case regarding 2002's attack on the convoy of then-opposition leader and current Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The long-awaited working committee meeting on Rohingya repatriation between Bangladesh and Myanmar scheduled to take place on Thursday has been deferred due to the changed situation in Myanmar, a Myanmar source said over phone yesterday. A new date for the DG-level talks will be fixed once the new interim government in Myanmar becomes functional fully, it added.



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