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### News Brief

The cabinet has approved in principle the draft of a law keeping a provision of merging Dhaka Children Hospital and Bangladesh Institute of Child Health for providing better treatment facilities to the children. The cabinet meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday decided that a 12-member board of directors for three years tenure to run the hospital and a director will be the executive officer. The cabinet also approved the draft of the agreement to be signed between Bangladesh and Greece regarding assistance on education and culture. It was also decided in the meeting that a new device will be installed at every airport in addition to the existing equipment as part of the preventive measures to detect passengers for positive coronavirus. The meeting was informed that the Korean government wants to provide newer technology — having capacity of screening any kind of viruses — to Bangladesh as part of their goodwill gesture.

President Md. Abdul Hamid has urged lawmakers to strengthen relations between the government and the people to make the ongoing advancement and democratic polity sustainable. The Head of the State made the call while speaking at a banquet hosted in honour of the Prime Minister, Speaker, cabinet members and lawmakers at Bangabhaban yesterday. He also advised the Members of Parliament to visit their respective constituencies regularly and stand by common people. Earlier, the President along with his spouse Rashida Khanam welcomed the Prime Minister as she arrived at the President Palace at about 7.30pm. Later, the President and the Premier entered the Durbar Hall and exchanged greetings with the cabinet members and MPs. The Premier discussed different state-level issues, especially her recent visits to Italy, the United Arab Emirates and Spain, with the President.

President Md. Abdul Hamid assented to two bills passed in the sixth session of Parliament. The bills are Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation Bill, 2020 and Bangladesh Lighthouse Bill, 2020. The ‘Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation Bill, 2020’ was passed in Parliament on February 11, paving the way for offloading 49 percent share of the corporation in the capital market.

President Md. Abdul Hamid has asked publishers to pay more attention to ensure the quality of publication on Bangabandhu. The President gave the directive when a delegation of Bangladesh Foundation for Development Research led by its Director General Monayem Sarkar met him at Bangabhaban yesterday. The Head of the State said, the future generation will be able to know about Bangabandhu, struggle of Bangalees for the independence and the Liberation War through these publications.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has unveiled the cover of two books on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the ‘Bangabandhu Corner’ at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. The Prime Minister first unwrapped the cover of the book titled “Joy Bangla”, a compilation of interviews and conversation of the Father of the Nation. Sheikh Hasina wrote the prefix of the book, while former Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid and writer and poet Pias Majid collected and edited the write-ups. The Premier also unveiled the cover of the book titled “Bangabandhu Smriti Satta Bhabisyat” authored by versatile writer Syed Shamsul Haque and edited by Pias.

Awami League Parliamentary Party is set to held its meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban this evening. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will chair the meeting.

Bangladesh Honda Private Limited handed over two units of flagship motorcycle to Special Security Force in the presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday. Six more motorcycles will be handed over to the SSF shortly.

Please Turn Over

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal has said, extremist groups are not getting foreign fund to run their terrorist activities in the country as the government has taken surveillance measures to prevent such financing. He said this while addressing a discussion titled ‘Violent Extremism Funding and State Response in South Asia’ in Dhaka University yesterday.

Law Minister Anisul Huq while responding to a question informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday said, there is one judge for every 1 lakh people in Bangladesh while the number in India is 50,000 people. State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain informed the parliament that a total of 30,301 officials were recruited in different cadre services as per recommendation of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission -BPSC from January 2010 to December 2019. He also informed the House that the BPSC recommended 67,203 people for recruiting in the non-cadre services during the period.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi met Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen at his office in Dhaka yesterday. The Foreign Minister sought continued support from Qatar on Rohingya crisis for the quick repatriations of the Myanmar nationals to their homeland in a safe and secured manner. Meanwhile, State Minister level Foreign Office Consultations between Bangladesh and Qatar was held at State Guest House Meghna in Dhaka yesterday. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam and Qatar State Minister Al-Muraikhi led their respective sides at the meeting. Md. Shahriar Alam said, Dhaka and Doha may establish cooperation in sectors like aviation management, shipbuilding and maritime affairs. He urged Qatar to recruit skilled workers and professionals like doctors, engineers and nurses from Bangladesh. The Qatar State Minister desired to establish partnership with Bangladesh in different economic sectors.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen while talking to reporters at his ministry yesterday informed that the government is looking to see what it can do for the 171 Bangladesh citizens from Hubei province of China who have registered to return home amid coronavirus outbreak there. Meanwhile, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming while speaking at a function at Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday urged Bangladeshi businesses not to switch over its supply chain to any other countries as an alternative to China in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak. Acknowledging the impact of coronavirus to some extent, he said people are now getting back to work while businesses returning to normalcy. Director of the IEDCR at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday said, there is no need to keep all the China and Singapore returnees in hospital quarantine.

Nepal wants to use the Saidpur Airport for boosting connectivity, trade and tourism between Bangladesh and Nepal. Nepalese Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali expressed the interest while paying a call on Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. Tipu Munshi said, the process of signing the free trade agreement between Bangladesh and Nepal is moving fast.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) binned fears of harmful radiations from mobile phone towers calling such speculations “completely baseless”, BTRC Commissioner Md Aminul Hasan disclosed a recent study report of the regulatory authority on the issue at a discussion in the capital yesterday.

Metro rail is expected to begin its journey on Uttara-Motijheel route from the month of victory in 2021 as the entire rail coaches will reach in the country within June 15 this year, official of Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Limited told reporters yesterday. Meanwhile, a ‘mockup train’ coach of Metro Rail was brought in Dhaka from Japan and kept in the city’s Uttara area yesterday for giving people an idea about Metro Rail.