



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA



Most Urgent
For: Bangladoot, All Missions
MSG: 122/2020-21
Date: Monday, 28 December 2020

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News Brief

President M Abdul Hamid said, uniform policies should be formulated to ensure the recruitment of qualified candidates for teaching, mentioning irregularities in the recruitment of teachers in different universities. The president also commented, education is not a commercial product and we must not compromise on the quality of education. He said this while a delegation led by the University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Kazi Shahidullah presented the commission's 'Annual Report 2019' to the President at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the brand new Dash8-400 aircraft of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, expressing her conviction to establish a strong regional connectivity with neighboring countries cashing in on the country's geographical location in Southeast Asia. She said, I think this inclusion (aircraft) of Biman will be helpful in future to achieve this goal. The Premier joined the inauguration ceremony at the VIP Lounge of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport virtually from her official residence Ganabhaban yesterday. In the same program, the Prime Minister also inaugurated 20 newly built fire service stations in different places, six regional passport offices, women central jail in Keraniganj and a LPG station for jail.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reminded that power and prison go side by side for politicians as they may face detention while working for the welfare of the people. The Premier said this while virtually inaugurating the newly-constructed Women Central Jail and an LPG station at Keraniganj from Ganabhaban yesterday. In another programme of the oath-taking ceremony of newly elected chairman of Feni Zila Parishad Khairul Bashar Majumder at the Bangladesh Secretariat through a video conference yesterday, the Prime Minister called upon the public representatives to work for the people's welfare for changing their fate and thus gaining their confidence and trust.

A three-day 'Bangabandhu Tour-de-CHT Mountain Bike Competition-2020' begins today with the participation of 100 cyclists. The competitors will cover a distance of about 300 kms from Sajek, Rangamati to Thanchi, Bandarban from December 28 to 30. The Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs has organised the competition to pay homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman marking the birth centenary of the great leader and inspire the new generation in the development of the existing tourism industry of the country. President M Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages wishing the overall success of the competition and greeted the cyclists to be participated in the event.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister and Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said yesterday, Bangladesh's judiciary is working without government interference in the higher and lower courts, in response to BNP's allegations that the government is using the courts. The Minister also commented, when BNP wins a case, it says the judiciary is working independently but when the party loses, it talks about government intervention in the judicial process. BNP uses double standard when it comes to law, court, he added.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque said, the Coronavirus vaccine will reach the country in the middle of February and the government is prepared for vaccine distribution among people. The Minister also said, we have trained manpower for giving vaccines and have enough cold boxes with specific temperature to preserve them, adding that a guideline for the procedure of applying the vaccine has been prepared. The minister came up with the remarks while talking to reporters after visiting the two vaccine labs of the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) yesterday.


Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder said, the government has cut the rice import duty to 25 percent from the existing 62.5 percent in an effort to keep the rice market stable. The Minister said at a virtual press conference yesterday, the legal private importers have been asked to apply to the Food Ministry with all necessary documents within January 10 next year. The ministry will give approval for importing a certain amount of rice after scrutinising the applications, he added.

State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury lauded the role of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for making digital services available here and enabling Bangladesh to cope up with the world. The Minister commented, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, information and technology affairs adviser to the Prime Minister, is a visionary to fulfil the Prime Minister's Vision-2021 'Digital Bangladesh'. The state minister was speaking at the inauguration of e-port management system software at Burimari land port in Lalmonirhat via an online meeting yesterday.

State Minister for Information Dr Md Murad Hassan said, the media should come forward to unmask propaganda-monger spreading rumor against country's progress, and give them befitting reply as media is the mirror of the society. The Minister said, when Bangladesh is forwarding ahead in an indomitable pace under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the defeated communal force of 1971 is spreading propaganda in a planned way to interrupt the country's progress. Murad made the remarks yesterday while addressing a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club (JPC), marking the founding anniversary of the Daily Jonotar Adalat newspaper.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram K Doraiswami said, they want to move "very quickly" on water sharing of six common rivers during the 50th celebration of Bangladesh-India diplomatic relations. The Indian high commissioner told UNB in an interview, we see no barrier to sharing water with Bangladesh and the main thing is to come up with harmonizing data from both sides.

Bangladesh recorded 24 novel coronavirus deaths and 1,049 fresh cases in the last 24 hours. The recovery count rose to 4,51,961 after another 1,473 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. With this, the total death toll rose to 7,452 from the pandemic in the country.


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