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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid asked the government along with the people's representatives and volunteers of different socio-cultural organizations to come forward to prevent corruption from the society. The President came up with the call as a delegation of the Anti-Corruption Commission-ACC led by its Chairman Iqbal Mahmood, submitted its 'Annual Report – 2019' to him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked Norway to invest more in Bangladesh's economic zones, especially in the ICT and jute sectors, to get easy access to markets in South and Southeast Asia as a congenial environment for doing business is now prevailing in Bangladesh. The Premier made the call when Norwegian Ambassador Espen Rikter-Svendsen paid a courtesy call on her at Ganabhaban yesterday. Later, High Commissioner of Malaysia Haznah Md. Hashim paid a courtesy call on the Premier. During the call on, the Prime Minister said, Bangladesh needs LNG in the special economic zones being built across the country while Malaysian Envoy expressed her country's desire to export LNG to Bangladesh. The Malaysian Envoy also assured Bangladesh of continuing its support in solving the Rohingya issue, saying that they are always in favor of Bangladesh regarding the matter.

Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh, Mustafa Osman Turan said, the only solution of the Rohingya problem is to repatriate the Myanmar nationals to their homeland. Turkey will stay beside Bangladesh on the Rohingya issue in the days to come, the Envoy said while paying a courtesy call on the Premier at Ganabhaban yesterday. The Premier expressed her satisfaction over the existing bilateral relations between the two countries. The Envoy mentioned that a Turkish organization is going to invest 100 million USD in LPG sector in Bangladesh.

The countrywide COVID-19 vaccination campaign began yesterday with Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque inaugurating the campaign through video conferencing. Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, along with other 54 judges got vaccinated on the first day of the program. The Health Minister along with Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, Fisheries and Livestock Minister S M Rezaul Karim, Post and Telecommunication Minister Abdul Jabbar, Science and Technology Minister Architect Yeafesh Osman, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Shahab Uddin and State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain received COVID-19 vaccines at the Sheikh Russel Gastro Liver Institute and Hospital. Besides, Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam and other Secretaries of the government got vaccinated. A total of 31,160 people were administered Covid-19 vaccines on the day, according to DGHS.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, defeated leaders of BNP who failed in both elections and movements are now out to create a chaotic situation in the country in the name of political program. The Minister issued a note of warning to BNP, saying that none of the party's wrongdoings would be left unchallenged as he was addressing a press conference yesterday. He said, BNP leaders do not have their own remarks rather they read out the messages sent from the bank of the Thames River as like as parrots.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, mentioning that 1.20 lac tons maize oil can be produced commercially in the country that can drastically reduce our edible oil import dependency, called upon the entrepreneurs to make investment in this sector. He said this after visiting oil and animal feed industries at Mirzapur in Tangail yesterday. The Minister also said, the overall

production of the third major cereal crop has increased significantly in the last ten years and now stands at 54 lac tons.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud on Saturday handed over crests of honor to a number of Indian citizens who were recognized with the 'Freedom Fighter Friendship Award' for their outstanding contribution to Bangladesh's Liberation War. The Minister recalled a line from Bangabandhu's speech- 'Bangladesh-India friendship will exist forever' at the function held at the historic Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata where Bangabandhu gave the historical speech in presence of about 10 lac people on February 6, 1972. Ministry of Information of Bangladesh with the help of Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata, India organized the function marking the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, 50th anniversary of the independence of Bangladesh and the historic rally of Bangabandhu at the Brigade Parade Ground, Kolkata, in February, 1972.

Bangladesh has taken measures to deploy more women officers to the UN peacekeeping missions to fulfill 15 per cent women officers' quota, set by the UN, Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen said this yesterday while addressing a virtual event celebrating 20 years of UN Security Council Resolution 1325: Women, Peace and Security, jointly organized by the Foreign ministry and UN Women. Noting that Bangladesh has pioneered in women's peacekeeping he said, the country sent over 1900 women in various Peacekeeping missions. Besides, Dr. Momen informed media yesterday that the South Korean embassy in Bangladesh will resume receiving visa applications from Bangladesh nationals from today, that got suspended due to COVID-19 pandemic.


Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said that the Dhaka International Trade Fair-DITF 2021 will be held this year at the newly built exhibition center at Purbachal if the coronavirus situation improves, as he was addressing the handing over ceremony of China-Bangladesh Friendship Exhibition Center to Bangladesh by China at his ministry yesterday. The exhibition center has been built on some 20 acres of land in Purbachal area with technical support and financial grant from China. Chinese Ambassador to Dhaka Li Jiming joining the program virtually termed Bangladesh as a 'trusted friend' of China and hoped that this center would play a supporting role to highlight Bangladeshi products in the global arena.

Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr. Gowher Rizvi said, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has created the field of blue economy after the independence of the country. His worthy daughter, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has established a significant domination on the country's unlimited resources over an area of 1,18,000 square kilometers in the Bay resolving border disputes with its neighboring countries within just four years, he said. He was speaking at a seminar, organized by the Ministry of Shipping in a city hotel yesterday marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation.

The Editors' Guild of Bangladesh in a statement yesterday termed the Al Jazeera's documentary titled "All the Prime Minister's Men" as an example of "bad journalism", saying that it violated journalistic ethics in many ways and was politically motivated and biased. "The documentary is based on some informal talks. No acceptable evidence was presented to prove that," the statement said.

The World Bank yesterday approved US\$40 million, an additional financing to the Digitizing Implementation Monitoring and Public Procurement Project to help Bangladesh expand the coverage of electronic government procurement (e-GP), with new features to respond to Covid-19 challenges.

Meanwhile, with the death of 15 more people yesterday, the number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 8,205. At the same time recovery count rose to 4,83,372. With the detection of 292 new cases, the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 5,38,062.


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