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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina laid emphasis on intake of balanced food to meet nutrition demand alongside carrying out awareness building campaigns among the people for it. The Premier said this while addressing an event of National Safe Food Day-2021 at Hotel Intercontinental in Dhaka virtually from Ganabhaban yesterday. The Premier directed the authorities concerned to move up with stern punitive measures against adulteration of food, saying people can sell food items calculating profit margin but adulteration would not be accepted anyhow. Prime Minister said the government is working to materialize the hunger-poverty-free and developed “Sonar Bangla” as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman where food security, balanced food, safe food and nutrition would be ensured alongside people’s healthy and developed life.

The government will bring easy-bike and other three-wheelers and auto-rickshaws under the purview of registration in an effort to ensure road safety and check road accidents throughout the country. Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said this while addressing at the 28th meeting of the national road safety council at Bangladesh Road Transport Authority head office virtually from his residence yesterday. People’s long-time sufferings for getting driving licenses is also going to be dissolved as the works of ‘standard driving licenses’ distribution will begin from the last week of this month.

Law Minister Anisul Huq at a virtual meeting of Commonwealth Law Ministers recently said, Bangladesh urges developed countries in the Commonwealth to come forward to meet vaccine needs for free of LDCs, LLDCs, small states, island developing states, and countries with special needs. He said, Bangladesh has done quite brilliantly in saving lives and livelihoods from the deadly Covid pandemic with prudent policy decisions of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He also said, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh issued ‘Special Practice Directions’ for the effective adjudication of civil and criminal cases through virtual courts.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, the role of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the 1952 Language Movement remaining unpublished was a national mistake and state failure. Addressing at a seminar titled ‘Bangabandhu in Language Movement’ commemorating the birth centenary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday he also said, even Bangabandhu went on a hunger strike in prison but these issues have never been made public before and keeping those unpublished was unfair. Bangabandhu first prepared Bangalees mentally for independence by declaring the six-point demand and then participated in the election, taking a mandate for 6 points, the Minister added.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen received COVID-19 vaccine with a numbers of foreign diplomats at Sheikh Russel Gastro Liver Institute and Hospital in Dhaka yesterday. After receiving the vaccine, while talking to journalists he said, a strong global political commitment is needed to build strong partnership among the nations for ensuring universal access to COVID-19 vaccine. Among the diplomats British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson was vaccinated. The Foreign Ministry official sources informed, all around 1,200 foreign diplomats in Bangladesh will be vaccinated gradually. State Minister for Youth and Sports Mohammad Zahid Ahsan Russell also received COVID-19 vaccine at the same venue yesterday.

US Ambassador in Dhaka Earl R Miller expressed optimism that Bangladesh-US ties would further enhance in coming days under the new US administration. The US envoy made the comment as he met Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen at his ministry yesterday. The Foreign Minister also reiterated that Rashed Chowdhury, the convicted killer of the Father of the Nation, should be deported from the US without further delay. The US ambassador observed reiterated his country’s appreciation for Bangladesh for the mammoth humanitarian undertaking related to the Rohingya crisis, and stated that the US remains as the most vocal in this regard.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi while addressing at the inauguration ceremony of the ‘Bangabandhu Memorial Gallery’ and ‘Bangabandhu Corner’ at Bangladesh Tea Board in Chattogram yesterday said, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the first Bengali chairman of the Tea Board from June 4, 1957 to October 23, 1958.

The government will take effective measures to stop the use of polythene and throw-away plastic products. Environment Minister Md. Shahab Uddin said this while talking to reporters after attending the 15th meeting of the executive body of the National Environment Committee in the Secretariat yesterday. He said, the use of blocks instead of bricks will be made mandatory gradually to check air pollution and initiatives would be taken to reduce tariff and give stimulus in producing blocks.

Saudi investors are interested to invest \$5 billion in various sectors, including tourism. Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Essa Yussef Essa Al Dulaihan said this while he called on State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M Mahbub Ali at the secretariat yesterday. M Mahbub Ali conveyed gratitude to Saudi authority for extending support to Bangladeshi expat workers there during Covid-19 pandemic.

The Cultural Affairs Ministry has drawn up an elaborate programme at an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday with State Minister for Cultural Affairs K M Khalid in the chair to observe the 'Shaheed Dibash' (Language Martyrs Day) and the International Mother Language Day-2021 to be held on February 21 in a befitting manner, said a PID handout yesterday.

A number of Bangladesh cricketers and coaching staff have taken the vaccine of coronavirus at the Kurmitola General Hospital in the capital yesterday. The cricketers who are expected to be named for Bangladesh's tour in New Zealand get the priority in being vaccinated under the supervision of the Bangladesh Cricket Board, said its President Nazmul Hassan Papon, who was present during the vaccination of the cricketers. Bangladesh will play three ODIs and as many T20Is in New Zealand next month.

Meanwhile, a total of 2,61,945 people were administered COVID-19 vaccines across the country, giving rise to the number of vaccine receiver to 18,48,313 till yesterday. With the death of 15 more people yesterday, the number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 8,329. At the same time recovery count rose to 4,89,932, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. With the detection of 391 new cases, the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 5,42,268.

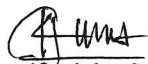
The government has made national flag hoisting at all public and private buildings in the country and its diplomatic missions abroad compulsory on the historic 7 March from this year. The decision was taken after making necessary amendment to the National Flag Rules, 1972. The Cabinet Division issued a gazette notification in this regard on February 15.

Bangladesh Supreme Court in a virtual event unveiled the "Amar Vasha" software which was developed with India's EkStep Foundation to translate court orders and judgments from English into the Bangla language. Law Minister Anisul Huq, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Law and Justice Division Secretary Md Golam Sarwar and Indian High Commissioner Vikram Kumar Doraiswami were attended the event.

Bangladesh has been witnessing a healthy inflation trend over a certain period of time. Statistics and Informatics Division Secretary Mohammad Yamin Chowdhury said this while addressing at a workshop titled "Stakeholder (media) Consultation Workshop" organized by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) for the members of the Bangladesh Development Journalist Forum in Dhaka yesterday. Director General of BBS Mohammad Tajul Islam and Principal Information Officer of PID Surath Kumar Sarkar were also spoke at the function.

Bangladesh is expected to remain among the fastest-growing world economies in 2021, said the International Institute of Finance-IIF in its outlook. The Washington-based institution came up with this update on its website outlook for frontier Asian economies, assessing their key risks recently.

The United States government has launched the Bangla language version of the State Department's ShareAmerica website, the State Department platform for communicating American foreign policy worldwide. US Ambassador in Bangladesh Earl Miller launched the Bangla version of the website during a virtual event organized at the US Embassy in Dhaka.

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