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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked the Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry and recruiting agencies to take care of Bangladeshi expatriates, ensuring their security, especially the female migrant workers. The Premier said this while virtually addressing a program marking International Migration Day-2020 from Ganabhaban yesterday. Putting emphasis on the registration of migrant workers, the Premier urged the job seekers to go abroad attaining required skills and having accurate information about their work, averting any allurements of middlemen.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while virtually addressing a function yesterday said, in the last 12 years, Bangladesh set milestones in all development indexes due to continuity of the Awami League government. Mentioning that Bangladesh now is in top position in jute export, while first in hilsa production, second in readymade garment export and fourth in rice production, the Minister added, the cent per cent electricity coverage, Payra port, Matarbari power project, deep seaport, textbook festival on the first day of the year are the contributions of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Metrorail, Karnaphuli Tunnel and elevated expressways are under construction, while the Padma Bridge is now visible, he further said. The Minister also said, the government may reopen educational institutions in March, considering the situation and upon consultation with experts.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said to newsmen yesterday, people will not be allowed to flock to Bhasan Char for aimless wandering. The Minister also said, the decision to build barbed-wire fences around the Rohingya camps had been taken earlier and Bangladesh Army would implement it. There will also be walkways, with CCTV cameras installed on them, around the camps along with night patrolling for tightening the security, he said.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud termed the era of the present government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as 'epoch of indomitable development' while uncovering a photo album 'Sachithra Bangabandhu' published by the Department of Films and Publications-DFP, at his ministry yesterday. The Minister further said, Bangladesh is the third country among only 22 countries which achieved positive economic growth amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Mentioning that the remittance has been increased 35 per cent while the reserve of foreign currency has been increased 10 billion US dollars, he added, the poverty rate is now less than 20 per cent and the life expectancy is now 73.2 years from 65 years which is more than India and Pakistan.

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase-CCGP in a virtual meeting chaired by the Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal yesterday approved nine proposals including one for procuring 12.85 lac metric tons of refined fuel oil for January to June period of this year with a cost of Taka 4,384.58 crore. Chaired by the Finance Minister, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs also approved a proposal in principle to procure one lac metric tons of non-basmati rice and another 50,000 metric tons of atap rice on urgent G to G basis from India, along with another proposal in principle for procuring equipments, medicines, other materials and services on urgent basis for COVID-19 treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University on Direct Procurement Method with a cost of around Taka 10.26 crore.

Finance Minister after the meeting, responding to World Bank's forecast that Bangladesh's GDP growth will be 1.6 per cent in the fiscal year 2020-21 when the government set it at 7.4 per cent in the national budget said, World Bank is not consistent in its prediction about Bangladesh's economy. He, reiterated that the economy of Bangladesh is in good shape, highlighted different success stories of the government and said, over Taka 40,000 crore remittance came to Bangladesh over the last six months.

Bangladesh has invited Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said to visit Bangladesh on the occasion of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and golden jubilee of the country's independence to be celebrated in March this year, as Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen had a telephone conversation with his Oman counterpart Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al-Busaidi yesterday. Dr. Momen also sought the Omani investment in the country's economic zones and infrastructural development. The Omani Foreign Minister assured Bangladesh of his country's continued support for the Rohingya repatriation.

The government has decided not to export hilsa for the next five years considering the demand of the country, Fisheries and Livestock Minister S M Rezaul Karim said this while briefing reporters at his ministry yesterday. He also informed that the production of hilsa in 2010 was 2.99 lac metric tons which is 5.33 lac metric tons now, due to initiatives taken by the present government. Besides, the overall fish production was 30.72 lac metric tons 12 years ago, which is now 44.7 lac metric tons, the Minister said.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar yesterday unveiled a commemorative stamp worth Taka 10, an opening envelope worth Taka 10, a data card worth Taka five and a special seal on the occasion of the Agartala conspiracy case.

State Minister for Information Dr. Md. Murad Hasan said, the incumbent government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken initiative to build information complexes along with the Cineplex across the country. The State Minister was speaking at a program at Bangladesh Film Archive Projection Hall yesterday.

Globe Biotech on December 28, got permission from the Directorate General of Drug Administration for manufacturing its vaccine 'Bangavax' for clinical trial dose.


The number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 7,687 with the death of 17 more people yesterday. At the same time recovery count rose to 4,63,480, Directorate General of Health Services-DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. With the detection of 978 new cases, the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 5,18,898.

Bangladesh can develop as a large industrial production hub in this region, Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Vikram Kumar Doraiswami said this while addressing a reception accorded to him by Indian Importers Chamber of Commerce & Industry at a city Hotel yesterday. He said, many Indian big businesses are keen to invest in Bangladesh and produce various products, including electronics goods and safe drinking water.

Bangladesh and Jordan have discussed ways to strengthen trade relations between the two countries. Bangladesh Ambassador to Jordan Nahida Sobhan met Jordanian Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Maha Ali at her ministry in Jordan on Tuesday. During the bilateral talks on different issues, the Bangladesh Ambassador informed Maha Ali that currently, Bangladesh is the 8th largest global exporter of leather products and leather.

Dhaka and Delhi at the two-day virtual technical committee meeting that ended yesterday agreed to share water-flowing data of six common rivers- Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dharla and Dudhkumar, as both countries are working on water sharing deal.

A Dhaka Court yesterday fixed February 10 for submitting a probe report against former ward councillor of Dhaka South City Corporation Irfan Selim and his bodyguard Zahidul Molla on charge of assaulting Navy officer on October 25. On the other hand, nine men, sentenced to death in a case lodged over 2009 BDR carnage, filed appeal against the High Court judgement that upheld their sentence. Meanwhile, Nur Hossain, who was sentenced to death in seven murder cases in Narayanganj, has been sentenced to life imprisonment by a Narayanganj court in an arms case.


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