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News Brief

Outgoing Chairman of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission-BPSC Dr. Mohammed Sadique called on President Md. Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban yesterday. Terming the BPSC as a prestigious organization, the President hoped that the positive changes done at BPSC during his tenure would also help activities of the organisation in future. Meanwhile, former senior Secretary Md. Sohrab Hossain has been made the new Chairman of the BPSC.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has slammed opposition parties for giving only lip service instead of standing by the people amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic saying, only Awami League leaders and activists have come forward to help people, risking their lives. The Premier came up with the remarks while addressing a meeting of the party's presidium at Ganabhaban yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has extended her heartiest congratulations to Yoshihide Suga on his election as the prime minister of Japan, saying that she is looking forward to working in a closer tie with the new Japanese premier

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader at a virtual briefing after the presidium meeting said, the Prime Minister instructed the relevant party tiers to form eight divisional monitoring committees to strengthen AL's organizational activities across the country. The aspirants, who want to contest in the elections of 61 union parishads, three district councils and nine upazila parishads declared by the Election Commission, have to collect and submit party nomination papers from the party President's Dhanmondi political office by September 20, he said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has confirmed that he would visit Dhaka, as soon as COVID-19 pandemic is over, either to attend on finale event of "Mujib Borsho" on March 17 or D-8 Summit as Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen called on him in Ankara yesterday. During the meeting, President Erdogan assured Dhaka that Ankara would be beside Bangladesh in all fronts to resolve the ongoing Rohingya crisis.

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase at a virtual meeting yesterday chaired by Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal approved 6 proposals, including one for generating power from waste by the private sector at Jalkuri area under Narayanganj district with a cost of Taka 1,665.48 crore. And another for procuring some 1,02,720 SPC Pole from the Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory Limited in two lots with a cost of around Taka 164.88 crore. The meeting of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs also yesterday approved a proposal from the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation to import 49.80 lakh metric tons of fuel oil for 2021.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi at a press briefing at his ministry yesterday said, there is no need to panic over onion price as there is adequate stock mentioning that the monthly demand of onion is around 2 lakh tons and the current stock of onion in the country is around 6 lakh tons. He also informed that, the country has a demand of 1 million tons of onion till next season. He said, the government is trying to bring onion from Turkey, Egypt and Holland in the next 30 days. Meanwhile, TCB has taken a joint initiative to sell onions through online shops targeting middle-class consumers at government fixed price. Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal told reporters that his ministry will consider a proposal for the withdrawal of duty on onion import.

Bangladesh Post Office yesterday released memorial postage stamp and its first day cover of Taka 10 denomination on the occasion of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's induction as Industries, Commerce, Labour, Anti-corruption and Rural Assistance Affairs Minister of the then coalition government in September 16, 1956. Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar unveiled the stamp and cover.

State Minister for Power Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid on a virtual function on Tuesday organized by the United States Chamber of Commerce said, a number of US companies including Chevron, Accelerate Energy, Exxon Mobil Corporation, Halliburton and General Electric Company are already working here, he said, but more US companies have a scope to invest in Bangladesh as different sectors are expanding in the country.

State Minister of Primary and Mass Education Md. Zakir Hossain criticising journalists for a report on government officials' proposed foreign tour under a mid-day meal program for primary students said, midday meals for school children is a popular program in Kerala, so a plan was made to learn about their management system.

A four-day border conference between Bangladeshi and Indian border guards formally begins today at the BGB headquarters in Dhaka. A six-member BSF delegation led by its DG Rakesh Asthana arrived in the city yesterday to join the conference.

Bangladesh yesterday recorded 21 more fatalities from the novel coronavirus, in a daily count, the lowest since August 1, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 4,823. At the same time recovery count rose to 2,47,969 after another 2,375 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 1,615 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,42,671. Meanwhile, State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury has been diagnosed with Covid-19. He is now in isolation at his home.


The government has taken an initiative to send workers to six new countries- Cambodia, Poland, China, Romania, Croatia and Seychelles, as a part of efforts to export manpower to alternative labour markets. Media quoting Foreign Ministry sources informed this.

Bangladesh Railway resumed operations of passenger trains at full capacity maintaining all health safety guidelines yesterday. BR will now sell half of the total tickets of intercity trains at stations while the rest through online and the mobile app.

A virtual bench of the High Court yesterday resumed hearing on the death reference of the case filed for attempting to kill Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by planting a 76kg bomb at Kotalipara in Gopalganj in 2000. The Speedy Trial Tribunal-2 in Dhaka on August 20, 2017, awarded death sentence to 10 leaders and activists of Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami-Huji.

The Hindu community across the country today celebrates the Mahalaya, the auspicious occasion of heralding the advent of goddess Durga.

Banga Plastic International Limited, a sister concern of Pran-RFL group is going to establish a PPE and Toys manufacturing industry with an investment of US\$18.08 million in Adamjee Export Processing Zone. A total of 1900 workers will get employment opportunity in this factory. An agreement to this effect was signed at BEPZA Complex in Dhaka yesterday.


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