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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the members of Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party-VDP to motivate the mass people to receive Covid-19 vaccine to help the government's ongoing efforts in fight against the deadly pandemic. The Premier made the call while addressing the 41st national rally of Bangladesh Ansar and VDP at the Bangladesh Ansar-VDP Academy in Shafipur virtually from Ganabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. Initiative has been taken to give a house to each VDP member considering their exemplary contribution towards performing duty despite having financial insolvency, the Prime Minister added. She also received salute from a spectacular parade of the Ansar and VDP members. In the ceremony, On behalf of the Prime Minister, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan handed over eight types of special medal to 140 Ansar and VDP members for their bravery and praiseworthy services.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, she has released Taka 1000 crore to construct 50,000 more houses for the homeless and landless people. Addressing at the oath-taking ceremony of the newly-elected Mayor of Chattogram City Corporation-CCC Rezaul Karim Chowdhury and 55 ward councilors, including 14 councilors in reserved seats, virtually from Ganabhaban, the Premier urged the public representatives to find out the homeless and landless people in their localities as the government is committed to give homes to every homeless and landless people within the Mujib Borsho which has been extended till December 16 this year.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, driving license issuance will begin at the last week of current month. While speaking at a views-exchange meeting with officials of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority-BRTA through videoconferencing from his residence in Dhaka yesterday he also said, there will be no compromise with the quality of the card and the main aim of his ministry now to reduce road accidents and proper steps must be taken quickly to this end.

Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal addressing a function virtually marking the distribution of best taxpayer honour and tax cards in Dhaka yesterday said, there is a need to improve the overall tax management including the incorporation of digital tax payment system to increase revenue collection.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen laid emphasis on increasing the foreign direct investment-FDI into the Economic Zones placing Bangladesh on a higher development trajectory to achieve the dream of 'Sonar Bangla'. Addressing a webinar in Dhaka yesterday titled 'Increasing FDI into the Economic Zones of Bangladesh: Role of Ministry of Foreign Affairs' he also said, the economy of Bangladesh is moving in the right direction under the right leadership.

Bangladesh and the Maldives have agreed to establish a direct shipping line, under a Shipping Agreement, to expand further trade between the two south Asian nations. The decision was taken during bilateral talks between Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen and his Maldivian counterpart Abdulla Shahid on Tuesday in the capital, according to the Joint Communiqué, regarding the meeting released by the foreign ministry yesterday. Dr. A K Abdul Momen expressed Dhaka's interest to enter into a Preferential Trade Agreement-PTA with the Maldives within the purview of WTO provisions, with a view to harnessing the trade potentials. The Maldivian foreign minister clarified that the Maldives would continue to welcome skilled workforce from Bangladesh as before.

Planning Minister M A Mannan while addressing a consultation workshop for ADP sector-reclassification at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center-BICC in the city yesterday urged all concerned, including the officials related to development operations of various ministries, to accomplish their tasks in due time with sincerity to yield maximum benefits for the country's people.

Danish companies are interested to provide technical support in Bangladesh's power and energy sector. Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh Winnie Estrup said this while paying a courtesy call on State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid in Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday. Nasrul Hamid said Bangladesh is giving special importance to expansion of clean energy.

No more on-spot registration for vaccination will be allowed from now. Health Minister Zahed Maleque informed this while speaking at an event in Dhaka yesterday. He also said, the decision was taken to better management of vaccination. Meanwhile, a total of 2,04,540 people were administered COVID-19 vaccines on the fifth day of the countrywide vaccination campaign, giving rise to the number of vaccine receiver to 5,42,309 till yesterday. With the death of 9 more people yesterday, the number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 8,248. At the same time recovery count rose to 4,85,971, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. With the detection of 418 new cases, the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 5,39,571.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources while speaking at a workshop on Cross Border Power Trading virtually in Dhaka yesterday said, regional cooperation will play a vital role to ensure a balanced distribution of power. Process for importing 500 MW power from Nepal is at final stage and negotiations are underway with Bhutan, he informed.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Shipping yesterday recommended bringing country's all vessels under online survey for their registration at the quickest possible time to ascertain the real number of vessels and to procure proper revenue, said a ministry press release yesterday.

Three individuals and three organizations have been selected for the National Environment Medal 2020 for their outstanding and exemplary contribution to the development of the country's environment. The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Committee on Medal held yesterday to finalize the nomination for the National Environment Medal 2020.

Chief Election Commissioner K M Nurul Huda at a function in Dhaka yesterday informed the commission is planning to start union parishad elections in a large scale across the country in mid May.

Bangladesh Army Chief General Aziz Ahmed held meetings with UN undersecretary general for peace operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix and undersecretary general for operational support Atul Khare in New York on Tuesday. During the meetings, General Aziz Ahmed iterated Bangladesh's steadfast commitment and continued support to the UN peace operations, said an ISPR press release in Dhaka yesterday.


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