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From: PIO, PID, Dhaka
Fax: 9540553/9540026
E-mail: piddhaka@gmail.com
Web: www.pressinform.gov.bd

News Brief

The Cabinet has endorsed in principle the draft of the National Online Media Policy 2017 (Amendment 2020) keeping the provision that the licensed television and radio channels would have to get registered for operating their online news portals. The newspapers would have to go through the same procedure if they make variations in their online versions from their print ones. The Cabinet with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually presiding finally approved a draft of the “Narcotics (Amendment) Act, 2020”. Besides, the Cabinet also gave nod in principle to the draft of the Medical College (Governing Bodies) (Repeal), Act 2020. The Cabinet granted a proposal to repeal the Cabinet’s decision taken on January 2, 2012 regarding approval in principle of the draft of “Sonadia Deep Seaport Authority ACT, 2012.” It also endorsed a proposal to celebrate August 5 every year as the birthday of Shaheed Captain Sheikh Kamal, the eldest son of the Father of the Nation.

The government of Bangladesh has announced one day National Mourning tomorrow, in honour of former Indian President Pranab Mukherjee who passed away yesterday. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate condolence messages have expressed deep shock and sorrow at Pranab Mukherjee’s death. The President in his message, recalled his 1971 role in mobilizing international supports for Bangladesh’s independence. The Premier in her message, described Mukherjee as Bangladesh’s “true friend”.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, BNP couldn’t deny Ziaur Rahman’s involvement in the August 15, 1975 carnage as the killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman said that Zia gave them complete support in this regard. The Premier was speaking at a virtual discussion organized by Bangladesh Chhatra League marking the National Mourning Day at the AL’s central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital yesterday. The PM said, Zia had destroyed the student community as he pushed many meritorious students to different tracks with giving them arms and money. Following the footprints of her husband, Khaleda Zia did the same thing in terms of using students for personal gain, she said.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while addressing a programme through a video conferencing yesterday said, BNP failed to win elections and wage movements as the people boycotted them, BNP gets defeated before their defeat in elections.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud addressing a discussion organized by NAP Bhashani marking the National Mourning Day at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday said, BNP should seek apology to the nation on the last day of the month of mourning-August- for its founder Ziaur Rahman’s involvement in the assassination of Bangabandhu. The Minister also urged BNP to shun the ill politics of patronising war criminals and communal forces.

The Ministry of Information has decided to form a ‘Social and New Media Wing’ aiming at ensuring balanced management of the expanding mass media and social media. Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud disclosed the decision at a monthly coordination meeting at the ministry yesterday. State Minister for Information Dr. Md. Murad Hassan and Secretary Kamrun Nahar were present at the meeting. The meeting also decided to conduct mobile courts against cable operators for operating illegal channels.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has expressed his hope of bringing back Rashed Chowdhury, one of the fugitive convicted killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman currently hiding in the USA with false information, to the country within the ‘Mujib Year’. The Minister was speaking at a discussion marking the National Mourning Day at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday. The government has already detected another Bangabandhu’s fugitive killer Noor Chowdhury, living in Canada, he further said.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs at a meeting at Sangsad Bhaban yesterday with its Chairman Abdul Matin Khasru in the chair recommended constituting a national commission to bring all those, who were involved in the killings of Father of the Nation and most of his family members on August 15, 1975, to justice.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque has said, South Korea will provide eight lakh COVID-19 testing kits and two labs to Bangladesh to fight the deadly virus. He was speaking at a press briefing after a meeting with South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Lee Jang Keun at his ministry yesterday. Regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, the Minister said, Bangladesh has approved final or phase-3 human trial of a prospective COVID-19 vaccine by China's private Sinovac Biotech Ltd. Bangladesh has been given assurances over the supply of the Oxford University's COVID-19 vaccine, he said. At the same time, letter has been sent to the Russian government regarding the import of vaccines, he said.

Bangladesh yesterday recorded 33 more fatalities from the novel coronavirus in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 4,281. At the same time recovery count rose to 2,04,887 after another 2,980 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 2,174 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,12,996.

The government has issued four-point directives for the overall functioning and movement of the public to contain the COVID-19. The four-point directives issued by the Cabinet Division yesterday said, the respective authorities will take necessary steps to ensure hygiene including wearing masks. Necessary action will be taken against the persons or organizations for violating the health rules. Meanwhile, the public transport is going back to the previous fares from today on condition of following hygiene rules.

UNICEF has opened a 200-bed isolation and treatment centre at Teknaf in Cox's Bazar to provide critical care for COVID-19 patients from both Bangladeshi communities and forcefully displaced Rohingyas.

A number of 95,062 overseas Bangladeshi workers, consisting of 88,406 male and 6,656 female, have lost their jobs and returned to Bangladesh from 26 different foreign nations during April 1-August 30 period due to COVID-19 pandemic, Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport informed.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun has said, Pragoti Industries Limited, a state-owned company, will manufacture Bangladesh's own brand motor vehicles with technical assistance from Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan. To this end, the Automobile Industry Development Policy 2020 will be finalized very soon, he said. The Minister made the remarks during a meeting with Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Ito Naoki at his ministry yesterday. Ito Naoki said, the far-sighted steps taken by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to tackle the coronavirus situation have created a positive investment climate in Bangladesh.

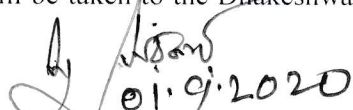
Bangladesh Railway will procure a total of 125 luggage vans-50 broad-gauge and 75 metre-gauge from China with a cost of Taka 358.39 crore, to develop railway's cargo transportation services easier, Railway Minister Md. Nurul Islam Sujon said while attending the agreement signing ceremony at the Rail Bhaban yesterday.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das has said, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is one of the most influential and courageous leaders of the 20th century. She made the remark yesterday while addressing a virtual Book Gifting Session on Bangabandhu as part of the 'Mujib Borsho' celebrations. The Indian High Commission in Dhaka gifted the books to 100 universities and colleges across the country.

International Atomic Energy Agency-IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi has highly praised Bangladesh's sustained progress in the development of nuclear science, technology and applications. He made the remark while Bangladesh Permanent Representative to UN Agencies and other International Organizations in Vienna Ambassador Muhammad Abdul Muhith presented his credentials to him on Friday in Vienna, Austria.

The overall flood situation in the Ganges basin has further improved as the water level is falling constantly in most of the rivers for the last couple of days due to dwindling of the onrush of water from the upstream hilly catchment areas. Flood water is receding continuously in different low-lying areas of Sirajgonj, Bogura, Natore, Naogaon, Rajshahi and Pabna districts in Rajshahi division. Of the 30 river points monitored in the Ganges basin yesterday, water levels receded at 29 points, while increased at one point.

The mortal remains of Sector Commander of Liberation War of Bangladesh retired Major General C R Dutta, who died in a US hospital arrived in the country yesterday. His body will be taken to the Dhakeshwari Temple for a public homage and state honour this morning.


Surath Kumar Sarker
Principal Information Officer
Phone- 9546091