



Most Urgent  
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## News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate congratulatory messages yesterday greeted US President Donald Trump on the occasion of 244th Anniversary of the Declaration of the United States of America. The President expressed gratitude to the US for its continued support to Bangladesh in dealing with the Rohingya issue. The Prime Minister expressed the hope that the bonds of friendship between the two countries would continue to deepen, broaden and strengthen in the days ahead.

Bangladesh yesterday recorded 29 more fatalities from the novel coronavirus in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 1,997. At the same time recovery count rose to 70,721 after another 2,673 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. Directorate General of Health Services disclosed this at its daily health bulletin. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 3,288 new cases taking the total number of cases to 1, 59,679. A total of 14,727 samples were tested at the authorised labs across the country during that time.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader in an online press briefing yesterday urged all concerned to keep stopped the movement of goods-laden heavy vehicles like trucks and covered-vans except emergency services on roads and highways from three days before Eid-ul-Azha. He said, vehicles without fitness certificates will not be allowed to transport sacrificial animals to markets ahead of Eid. He also called upon all concerned to keep open for 24 hours the CNG stations on roads and highways before and after 8 days of the forthcoming Eid. Obaidul Quader expressed his optimism that the owners of garment industries will pay salaries and allowances to the workers before the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha. He urged BGMEA and BKMEA to declare Eid holidays for workers in phases to check the spread of the deadly coronavirus.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud while speaking at a function to handover medical equipment to the Upazila Health Complex at Rangunia in Chattogram yesterday said, the leaders of BNP hold press briefings from isolation in their home to blame the government on different issues. He said, since the onset of the coronavirus epidemic, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been working hard to protect the people of the country from this virus and day by day the capability to fight against coronavirus in the country has also increased. There is no shortage of food in Bangladesh by the grace of the Almighty after more than three months of disaster. Dr. Hasan Mahmud also said, the coronavirus mortality rate in Bangladesh is now 1.25 percent which the lowest in the world. In India, it is more than three percent, in Pakistan it is more than two percent and 5 to 16 percent in Europe and America, he added.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister S M Rezaul Karim while speaking at an online relief distribution programme in Pirojpur yesterday said, none has died from starving amid any kind of disasters or coronavirus pandemic in the country as the present government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is working relentlessly for the betterment of the people. In the programme, a total of 250 bundles of corrugated iron sheets, Taka 7.5 lakh and 25 bicycles were distributed among the cyclone 'Bulbul'-hit people.

Textiles and Jute Minister Golam Dastagir Gazi in a press briefing arranged from his residence at Siddheshwari in Dhaka on Friday said, the workers of 25 closed state-run jute mills will receive their wages for the month of June through their personal bank accounts by next week. Fifty percent of all arrears under provident fund, gratuity and golden handshake facilities will directly go to workers' bank accounts while another 50 percent through savings certificates, he added.

Railways Minister Advocate Nurul Islam Sujon while addressing a function in Panchgarh yesterday said, the people of the country are not facing any food crisis amid the coronavirus pandemic as the government has taken various measures to mitigate the sufferings of countrymen. The Minister distributed bicycles among 300 female students of different educational institutions in Debiganj upazila of the district.

Bangladesh has called upon Commonwealth leaders to become collective and common voice of most vulnerable countries with special needs during the post-COVID global socio-economic recovery initiatives. Bangladesh High Commissioner Saida Muna Tasneem made the call at a virtual Commonwealth Leaders meeting. The Bangladesh Envoy highlighted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's six priorities of global action to combat Covid-19 those were placed at the World Economic Forum's Covid Response Dialogue. A press release of Bangladesh mission in London said this yesterday. The Commonwealth leaders appreciated Bangladesh Prime Minister's \$11.50 billion financial and social safety-net support packages for the most vulnerable segments of the society, the press release added.

Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the UN and UNICEF Executive Board President Rabab Fatima has said, safely reopening schools with scaling up digital solutions and connectivity as well as maintaining routine immunizations for children amid COVID-19 pandemic are currently among priorities of UNICEF. Rabab Fatima said this while addressing the closing segment of the four-day Annual Session of the UNICEF Board in New York on Thursday.

Bangladesh has moved seven notches up in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Index 2020 as it has ranked 109 among the 166 countries while India ranked 117th and Pakistan 134th in South Asia. Last year, Bangladesh ranked 116th out of 162 countries, as per the report released recently.

The flood situation may remain steady in five central districts --Rajbari, Manikganj, Dhaka, Faridpur and Shariatpur as water levels of all rivers in the Ganges-Padma basin stayed steady and rivers in the Brahmaputra basin showed a reducing trend and it is likely to continue in next 24 hours. So, flood situation in eight northern and northeastern districts --Kurigram, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Bogura, Sirajganj, Tangail and Jamalpur in that basin is likely to improve in the next 24 hours, said a bulletin of the Flood Forecasting and Warning Center yesterday.


Wari area of the capital has been put under lockdown for the next 21 days from yesterday to prevent the transmission of coronavirus. All preparations for the lockdown includes engaging 100 volunteers, setting up two booths for the COVID-19 test, have already been completed. Meanwhile, a 370-bed capacity centre has been prepared for treatment of COVID-19 patients at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in Dhaka.

No death from dengue has been reported so far as the government took time befitting measures to destroy aedes mosquito this year while the number of dengue-infected patients was over one lakh and over 150 people died of the mosquito-borne disease last year, Directorate General of Health Services's sources said yesterday.

The Election Commission has decided to hold by-polls to Bogura-1 and Jashore-6 constituency on July 14. The Jatiya Sangsad by-polls to the two constituencies were fixed for March 29, 2020, but postponed due to the outbreak of the corona in the country. The Bogura-1 and Jashore-6 constituencies fell vacant following the deaths of ruling party lawmakers Abdul Mannan and Ismat Ara Sadique respectively.

State-owned Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited has embarked on a plan to bring over 28 lakh consumers under prepaid metering system in phases to reduce wastages of the natural resource.

Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd has suspended four of its officials after they were found to be involved in bill inflating activities in a primary investigation. Besides, 13 metre readers and one metre supervisor were also terminated from their contract for their alleged involvement.

  
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