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### News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued a strong note of warning against child repression saying that prompt action would be taken against any kind of child oppression in the country. The Premier was virtually inaugurating the World Children's Day and Children's Rights Week-2020 yesterday through a video conference. Spelling out various measures taken by the government to ensure child rights following the footsteps of the country's founding President Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as he had formulated the 'Children Act' in the country in 1974 and included child rights in the country's constitution, the Premier added, the government has formulated the National Child Policy 2011, the National Child Labour Elimination Policy-2010 and Children Act-2013. As many as 1.33 crore students of primary schools are getting stipends through mobile phones of their mothers from the government, the Premier added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will chair a virtual event of global leaders on the climate change issue as the current President of Climate Vulnerable Forum tomorrow. UN Secretary General António Guterres, Global Center on Adaptation Chair Ban Ki-moon will be present at the event.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while talking to journalists after a review meeting on development projects at his ministry yesterday said the government cannot avoid liability for recent rape incidents and violence against women. He said, the government is taking actions in every rape incident as it is showing no mercy to offenders whoever they are.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, the government is determined to ensure exemplary punishment to the culprits who would be involved in women repression and rape irrespective of their identities. The Minister was talking to newsmen at his ministry yesterday. The Minister blamed BNP for raping women in Bangladesh under the party shelter saying an eight-year-old baby was raped after the 2001 elections. They repressed and raped hundreds of women after blocking a village for voting Awami League, so the party has no ethical right to talk on this issue, he said. Earlier, the Minister unwrapped the cover of a book titled 'Ami Hobo Agami Diner Sheikh Hasina'. Information Secretary Kamrun Nahar was present.

Meanwhile, RAB arrested the main accused Badal from Dhaka and Delwar, chief of Delwar Bahini, from Narayanganj yesterday in the case filed over the incident of attempting rape and indecent assault to a housewife in Noakhali's Begumganj. Meanwhile, A Noakhali court placed another two accused- Abdur Rahim and Rahmat Ullah on a three-day remand in the case yesterday.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Moment met new Kuwait Emir Sheikh Nawaf al Ahmad al Sabah in Kuwait City yesterday and conveyed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's congratulatory message to him for his assumption of new office. On behalf of the Premier Sheikh Hasina, the Minister also expressed condolence of Bangladesh Prime Minister, the government and people at the demise of Kuwait's last Emir Sheikh Sabah al Ahmad al Sabah. He handed over two letters of Bangladesh President Md. Abdul Hamid – one condoling the death of former Emir and the other greeting the new Emir. Later, the Foreign Minister held a meeting with his Kuwait counterpart Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and urged to resume flights between Bangladesh and Kuwait for facilitating return of expatriate Bangladeshis.

Please Turn Over

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid has urged State Minister for Energy of Qatar Saad Sherida Al- Kaabi to reconsider LNG price, supplied to Bangladesh, in the global context. He made the request when Qatar's State Minister for Energy called on him virtually yesterday.

In a bid to ensure more Bangladeshi workers can return to Saudi Arabia, Saudia, is likely to operate 50 to 60 flights this month from Dhaka carrying around 22,000 migrant workers. Saudia's Country Manager Tarik A Alowaidi said this while talking to media yesterday. Meanwhile, the airlines has begun reissuing return tickets prioritising the workers with shorter validity of visa. On the other hand, Biman Bangladesh Airlines continued reissuing tickets among the stranded workers who booked tickets before coronavirus pandemic. Meanwhile, Charge d' Affaires of the Saudi Embassy in Dhaka, Yahiya Al Karni, while talking to media said, the KSA government will take all the Bangladeshi workers, who got stranded in the country due to Covid-related restrictions, provided they have valid work permits. But the envoy made it clear that if the employer concerned does not agree to renew work permit, he/she will not be eligible for visa.


The newly appointed Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami has said, 'Bangladesh is the nearest neighbour and friend of India. I will work on how the partnership with Bangladesh can be enhanced,' he told reporters stepping into Bangladesh last afternoon by road through crossing the Brahmanbaria's Akhaura immigration check post. Later, he visited Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi 32 and paid rich tribute to memories of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing wreath at his portrait. Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla during a meeting with his Myanmar counterpart U Soe Han in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday conveyed support for ensuring safe, sustainable and speedy repatriation of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas staying in Bangladesh.

The country yesterday recorded 27 more fatalities from the COVID-19, in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 5,375. At the same time recovery count rose to 2,83,182 after another 1,587 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 1,442 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,70,132.

Bangladesh's Globe Biotech Ltd, yesterday at a press conference claimed that they have got very promising results from pre-clinical trials on rabbits and mice of the coronavirus vaccine styled 'BNCOVID' developed by them. They want to bring it to the market by January next if they are allowed to launch the first phase of human trials very soon.

Nine champion teams and eight runners up teams from Bangladesh will get opportunity to participate in the global space apps competition to be organized by US space research organization NASA this year. The names of the teams were declared by Association of Software and Information Services-BASIS on Sunday after they were selected through an online event named 3-day 'NASA Space Apps Challenge 2020.'

The US Embassy in Dhaka started accepting interview-waiver applications for B1/B2 tourism, business, and medical visas from Sunday with a number of nonimmigrant visa categories-C, C1/D, F, I, J, M, O, and Q.



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