



Most Urgent
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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought more support from the development partners to keep up the country's development spree. The Premier made the call while addressing the inaugural session of the Bangladesh Development Forum at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday. The Prime Minister said, her government has implemented the sixth five-year plan and is now executing the seventh five-year plan, while the work on framing the 8th five-year plan has already started. The government also framed the 10-year perspective plan and started the work on formulating 20-year perspective plan to develop the country further and improve the living standard of the people by freeing them from poverty, she added. Seeking more cooperation from the developed countries and development partners in combating the climate change, Sheikh Hasina said, we get many commitments from developed countries in this regard. But nobody fulfills the pledges. The Economic Relations Division has organised the two-day flagship event to highlight the formulation of the ensuing eighth Five Year Plan before the development partners with the slogan "Effective Partnership for Sustainable Development".

A bill titled the "Marine Fisheries Bill, 2020" having a provision to award maximum three years of imprisonment or Tk five crore fine or both for fishing in Bangladesh's marine boundary illegally by any foreign national was placed in Parliament yesterday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaking at her question answer session in the House yesterday said, the present government is always aware of taking legal actions against any activities that can undermine the religious sentiment in the country. The Prime Minister while replying to a question urged all concerned to pursue the anti-narcotics awareness campaigns to keep the youths away from the menace.

World Bank Vice President for South Asia Hartwig Schafer termed Bangladesh a model for poverty reduction globally, reiterating its commitment to help the country sustain its high economic growth. Hartwig Schafer said this while a World Bank delegation led by him paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Jatiya Sangsad office in Dhaka yesterday. Hartwig Schafer has highly praised Bangladesh's tremendous socioeconomic development, saying that they will continue to support for the country's development strides.

Saraswati Puja, one of the main religious festivals of the Hindu community, is being celebrated across the country today with befitting manner. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages have greeted members of the Hindu community on the occasion of the Saraswati Puja.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury while presiding over a meeting with the National Implementation Committee for Celebration of the Birth Centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday said, "Mujib Year" would be celebrated in a befitting manner with full of enthusiasm.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while speaking at a press conference at his ministry yesterday said, the construction work of Padma Bridge will not be affected due to coronavirus as precautionary measures have been taken about Chinese nationals working under the mega bridge. About the DSCC and DNCC elections, he said the overall environment of the elections is good till now and law enforcement forces are now under the jurisdiction of the Election Commission and the law enforcers will work as per orders of the EC.

Please Turn Over

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has accused BNP of hatching conspiracy to make Dhaka city polls questionable. He said this while speaking at a procession at Bangladesh Film Development Corporation in Dhaka yesterday as part of its programme on celebrating the Mujib Year.

Foreign Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen has said, the Bangladeshis, now quarantined in China, will be under observation when they will return home after the 14-day ban of the Chinese authorities due to coronavirus outbreak. He said this while speaking to the reporters after attending a meeting at the State Guest House Padma in Dhaka yesterday. He also said, we want to see Dhaka-Sylhet multilane and modern highway operational by 2023.

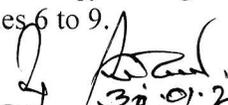
Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni has said, academic activities will begin this year in four new marine academies –Barisal, Sylhet, Rangpur and Pabna. She said this while speaking at the graduation parade ceremony of the 54th batch of Bangladesh Marine Academy in Chittagong yesterday. A total of 104 cadets of Nautical Science and Marine Engineering departments were awarded the degree through the ceremony.

The Election Commission has almost completed preparations for the Dhaka city corporation polls slated for February 1. Candidates are busy carrying out last-minute campaigning as it's scheduled to end tonight. Meanwhile, Awami League mayoral candidate for Dhaka South City Corporation elections Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh while exchanging views with journalists at Jatiya Press Club yesterday made a pledge of taking any criticism positively by working concertedly with the mass media. Taposh pledged of making an environment-friendly smart Dhaka city with the utilization of information and communication technology. BNP mayoral candidate for DSCC elections Ishraq Hossain yesterday made a pledge to adopt a 50-year long coordinated development plan for all modes of communication in the city.

State Minister for Information and Communication Technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak has said, more than 10 crore people across the country will enjoy the benefits of 100 government digitized services by 2020 marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He said this while speaking at the closing ceremony of the "Digital Service Design Lab" at the Housing and Public Works Department in Dhaka yesterday.

The Ministry of Food has formed seven monitoring committees to keep rice prices stable in the market and prevent hike in prices through manipulation. The committees will monitor wholesale markets in the capital and submit reports to the ministry.

The United Nations and humanitarian community in a press statement after a recent meeting of the National Task Force on the Rohingya situation with Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen in the chair welcomed Bangladesh's decision to expand access to education for Rohingya children and adolescents living in the Cox's Bazar camps. In line with the government's decision, the Education Sector for the humanitarian response in Cox's Bazar now plans to pilot the introduction of the Myanmar curriculum in the Rohingya refugee camps starting in April, initially targeting 10,000 Rohingya students in grades 6 to 9.


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