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News Brief

Bangladesh yesterday recorded 41 more fatalities from the novel coronavirus in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 1,888. At the same time recovery count rose to 62,102 after another 2,484 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 3,775 new cases taking the total number of cases to 1,49,258. A total of 17,875 samples were tested at the authorised labs across the country during that time.

Norway's Ambassador in Dhaka Sidsel Bleken yesterday paid a farewell call on Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury at the latter's residence. During the meeting, the Speaker said Bangladesh shares a very strong bilateral relation with Norway. The Norwegian Envoy praised on different measures taken by Bangladesh government in fighting the coronavirus pandemic and economic development and trade expansion of the two countries.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while addressing a virtual press briefing on contemporary affairs from his official residence in Dhaka yesterday said, the government will not allow setting up roadside cattle markets ahead of Eid-ul-Azha as it may increase the risk of coronavirus transmission. Referring to the ongoing flood emerging in different districts, Obaidul Quader said relief materials have been sent to the flood-affected people in some districts of the country's northern region and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is consistently monitoring the flood situation.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud while speaking at a press briefing at his ministry yesterday said, no country in the globe was prepared to combat the deadly Coronavirus and the health sector of every country is not beyond criticism. He said, many developed countries like the USA and the European countries could not handle the coronavirus pandemic though they have developed health services and good economic condition as well. But the Bangladesh government is combating the prevailing situation properly despite limitations. He termed the criticism over the health sector in parliament as the nicety of democracy. Criticising comments of Jatiya Oikya Front and BNP on the jute mills issue, the Information Minister said, the government did not take any decision to shut down jute mills rather the government took initiatives for bringing about reforms in the mills.

Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni at a virtual meeting on the development of technical education yesterday informed, the government has decided to lift the restriction on age limit for diploma course admission at polytechnic institutes to increase the enrollment rate of technical education and to give institutional recognition to the skilled workers returning from abroad.

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder while speaking at a meeting through video conference yesterday said, government would strengthen vigilance to keep rice market stable. He said, this year bumper crop of paddy has been harvested in Boro season, so there is no reason for the rice market to be unstable this season. If necessary, measures will be taken to import rice officially, he added. The Food Minister directed the rice mill owners to supply rice to government warehouses as per the agreement made with the government.

Flood situation may worsen in central districts of Manikganj and Rajbari, south-central Faridpur and northeastern district of Tangail as water levels of all rivers in Ganges-Padma basin and some in lower Brahmaputra basin were on a rising trend till yesterday and it may continue in the next 48 hours in Padma Basin, said a bulletin of the Flood Forecasting and Warning Center yesterday. The bulletin said, water levels of Jamuna in Brahmaputra basin may cross its Danger Mark at Aricha point near the confluence of major two rivers — Padma and Jamuna — in the next

12 hours. Water levels of all major rivers in upper Brahmaputra-Jamuna basin were marked steady and it may continue in the next 24 hours, it added.

State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury while exchanging views with journalists after inaugurating a 60-bed specialised corona unit at Chattogram Port Hospital in the port city yesterday said, the government has a plan to buy helicopter alongside rescue ships for Chattogram Port. He also said, perpetrators of Buriganga launch capsizes would not be spared as the government is determined to ensure exemplary punishment against them. Meanwhile, a 100-bed hospital, jointly initiated by Chattogram Metropolitan Police and Bidyanondo Foundation, formally started its operations yesterday to provide free treatment to corona-infected poor people.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam yesterday donated two high-flow nasal cannula machines from his personal fund to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) for the treatment of coronavirus patients. Two more such kind of apparatus would be provided to the DMCH from the personal fund of the State Minister soon, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday. Meanwhile, Director of DMCH Brig Gen A K M Nasir Uddin at a press conference in the hospital yesterday said, reports on food bills run by different media outlets for doctors, nurses and other employees of the hospital, who were engaged in the treatment of COVID-19 patients, are false, baseless and fabricated. ILO in partnership with BGMEA and BKMEA has launched a comprehensive safety and training package named 'Learning Hub' with \$750,000 of financial support from Sweden and Denmark to help the RMG industry better monitor workers during COVID-19 pandemic.

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh at the inaugural function of online mosquito eradication programme at Nagar Bhaban yesterday informed, DSCC has initiated a round-the-year mosquito control activity, based on online application by Dhaka residents. To avail the service, one has to apply online and the service recipient has to pay a certain amount. This service will be completed within 3 working days after the application.


Bangladesh has sought fresh foreign direct investment from the United Kingdom in its green financing businesses, clean technologies, renewable energy and IT-enabled services. Bangladesh High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Saida Muna Tasneem made the urge while addressing a virtual meeting on Monday co-hosted by Bangladesh Investment Development Authority and British Business Group.

The fourth anniversary of the Holey Artisan Bakery gruesome murder was observed yesterday where the militant group had killed 22 people including 18 foreigners, two Bangladeshis and two police men during the attack. On the occasion, diplomats from Italy, Japan and the United States came to show respect to the Holey Artisan victims by placing wreaths on the restaurant premises. Director General of RAB Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun and Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mohammad Shafiqul Islam also paid tributes to the victims of militant attack.

A special flight of US-Bangla Airlines brought back 152 Bangladeshi nationals stranded in the United Arab Emirates yesterday. Meanwhile, Biman Bangladesh Flight operations on Dubai and Abu Dhabi routes will resume on July 6 after three months of suspension due to coronavirus pandemic.

The National Board of Revenue has extended the deadline for submission of income tax returns till September 30 for the individual taxpayers and also for the companies without any fine and interest considering the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud in a condolence message expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of Transcom Group founder Chairman also owner of Media World Latifur Rahman, who breathed his last at the age of 75 in his village home Cumilla yesterday. Later, he was laid to eternal rest at the Banani Graveyard.


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