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### News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while virtually inaugurating “the First International E-Conference on Critical Care-2020” organised by Bangladesh Society of Anesthesiologists expressed firm optimism to contain further spread of the COVID-19 in Bangladesh in the upcoming winter. Asking the physicians to continue to serve the humanity during the pandemic, the Premier said, to face the COVID-19 emergency, the government has appointed 2,000 doctors and 5,000 nurses on an urgent basis. Highlighting the government’s various steps taken for improving the country’s healthcare service the PM further said, about 18 thousand community clinics and Union Health Centres, set up by the government, have been providing primary healthcare services to the rural people.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, there is no need of creating ‘interim issue’ in the name of interim parliamentary elections as the polls will be held in due time and the people will decide who will run the government. The Minister was addressing a discussion arranged by Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited through videoconferencing marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He said, BNP leaders are making same allegations year after year that there is no democracy in the country but they themselves did not believe in democracy. That is why the talk of democratic practice does not suit BNP, he added. He said, during BNP’s tenure, the country became champion in corruption for five times consecutively putting the people in the sea of shame and frustration.

The 57th birthday of Shaheed Sheikh Russel, youngest son of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, is being observed today. Sheikh Russel was assassinated by the killers on August 15 in 1975 along with most of his family members, when he was a student of class four. Different socio-cultural organisations, including the associate bodies of the ruling Awami League, have taken various programmes to observe the birthday of Sheikh Russel. On the eve of Russel’s birthday, his tutor Geetali Chakrabarty currently living in Sydney, Australia, reminiscing her memory with the little boy in a telephonic interview with media said, “Russel was very passionate to help people. He had great love in his heart for general people.” Sheikh Russel International Online Air Rifle Championship 2020 marking Sheikh Russel’s birthday began in Dhaka yesterday.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has been admitted to a hospital in the capital on Friday as he tested positive for Covid-19. However, the Minister is reportedly doing well. Meanwhile, the country yesterday recorded 22 more fatalities from the COVID-19, in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 5,646. At the same time recovery count rose to 3,02,298. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 1,209 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,87,295. A K M Mosharraf Hossain, former State Minister for Power and Energy during the BNP-led four-party alliance, died of coronavirus at a city hospital last night. He was 83.

Three Covid-19 vaccines developed by the lone Bangladeshi vaccine company -Globe Biotech Ltd have been enlisted in the draft landscape WHO. Bangladesh could get 30 million doses of Oxford Corona vaccine by February, said Health Secretary Mohammad Abdul Mannan at a function in Kishoreganj yesterday.

Bangladesh and the United States have jointly announced the establishment of a new Bangladesh Consulate in Miami, Florida, Bangladesh’s third in the United States, Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen and US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen E Biegun made the announcement on Thursday. Mr Biegun addressing a roundtable discussion with journalists before leaving Dhaka on Friday wrapping up his three-day visit sought an equal role from all neighbours of Myanmar with

"broad and unified voice" so that the Rohingya can get the confidence back to return to their homeland without any fear of further deportation.

Bangladesh has moved 13 notches up in the 2020 Global Hunger Index ranking 75th out of 107 qualifying countries, placing herself ahead of India and Pakistan as these two neighbouring countries have been ranked 94th and 88th places respectively.

AL backed candidate M Kazi Monirul Islam and M Anwar Hossain were unofficially elected yesterday in the by polls to Dhaka-5 and Naogaon-6 constituencies respectively defeating their nearest BNP backed rivals.

Eid-e-Miladunnabi, the day of birth and demise of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH), will be observed in the country on October 30 as the moon of Rabiul Awal was not sighted in Bangladesh sky yesterday. According to the national moon sighting committee, the holy month of Rabiul Awal will start tomorrow.

The Kumari Puja festivities will not be held at puja marquees in Dhaka considering the coronavirus situation. However, it may take place in other parts of the country, the Hindu community leaders said yesterday. Besides, directives have been given to organizers of Durga Puja to shut down temples by 9pm to avoid transmission of coronavirus.

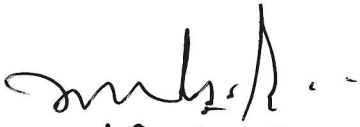
Internet service providers and cable operators have postponed the decision to shut down their services across the country for three-hours every day, scheduled to start from today, as Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh-ISPAB and the Cable Operators Association of Bangladesh-COAB held an emergency meeting with Post and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar yesterday to resolve the issue. Meanwhile, the Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor has invited them for discussion today to resolve the issue.

State Minister for Information Dr. Md. Murad Hassan yesterday distributed vegetables produced under the programme 'One inch of land will not remain uncultivated' on the vast uncultivated land near the Sarishabari Matiur Rahman railway station. The State Minister urged all to utilize every inch of land for cultivation to take agriculture forward.

Vice-chancellors of public universities after attending a virtual meeting have decided in principle that admission tests for enrolling first year students will be held across the country. However, the date and method of exams will be announced later.

Bangladesh is going to resume its air connectivity with India from October 28 under "air bubble" arrangement, after nearly eight months of flight suspension for containment of COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, the newly appointed Indian High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami in tweeter expressed his happiness over the decision. Biman Bangladesh Airlines will fly on Sylhet-Cox's Bazar-Sylhet route from November 12, the first of its kind, Biman sources said. Initially, Biman will operate three weekly flights on this route.

Police staged rallies in 6,912 beat policing areas across the country yesterday to campaign against rape, torture and other forms of violence against women. Meanwhile, the law-enforcing agencies seized illegal current nets worth Taka 91.3 million in the first three days through mobile courts under its Mother Hilsa Conservation Campaign-2020.

  
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