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News Brief

The government has taken an initiative to upgrade nearly 20 kilometers (Gabtoli to Nabinagar) of Dhaka-Aricha highway from four-lane to 10-lane. This was stated by Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while addressing the inaugural ceremony of four-lane second bridge at Salehpur on Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday through a video-conferencing. He also added that Gabtoli will also be upgraded from four-lane to eight-lane. The highway from Nabinagar to Paturia will be developed into four-lane on G2G basis, he said. The Minister called upon BNP to play a responsible role as an opposition party instead of doing ill politics and spending time in hatching conspiracies and spreading rumors and propaganda. BNP leaders are more interested in opposing the government than getting the release of Begum Zia, he added.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, making of biopic 'Bangabandhu,' a joint venture of Bangladesh and India, directed by Indian filmmaker Shaym Benegal, is progressing fast as lion portions of the film have already been completed. The Minister made the comments after inspecting the making of the film, based on life and works of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, at Mumbai Film City, India. Later, the Minister exchanged views with Indian citizens, who took part in the Liberation War of Bangladesh and other prominent citizens of film arena at a function organized by Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Mumbai. The Minister also visited National Museum of Indian Cinema.

President of the Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih will visit Dhaka to attend Mujib Borsho functions and Bangladesh's Independence Day, Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen said this at a joint press briefing after bilateral talks with his visiting Maldivian Counterpart Abdulla Shahid at state guesthouse Padma yesterday. Prior to that two MoUs were signed yesterday, one on the placement of human resources between the two countries to provide a solid framework for the recruitment of human resources from Bangladesh and another on the cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of the Maldives and the Foreign Service Academy of Bangladesh over the training development of Foreign Service officers of the two countries. The Male Foreign Minister during the talks reiterated the support of the Maldives to Bangladesh on the issue of Rohingya refugees.

Planning Minister M A Mannan said, the current Public Procurement Rules is under review and it would be more modified and polished since the government wants to be fair in its every task. He said, the high ups of the government is thinking to further strengthen the roles of the project directors as well as removing the barriers which they face in their work adding that there should not be so much "words of praise" and other unnecessary formalities. The Minister was addressing the inaugural session of a workshop at the NEC Auditorium in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area yesterday.

Terming Bangabandhu as the great leader of all the victories of the Bangalees, Fisheries and Livestock Minister S M Rezaul Karim said, the country's founding father had liberated the nation from the shackles of subjugation in a democratic way. He was attending a virtual seminar organized by the UK unit of Awami League yesterday.

All teachers of government primary schools will be inoculated within a week, as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already asked the Health Ministry to bring the teachers under the vaccination drive. State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Zakir Hossain said this to reporters after receiving the vaccine at Clinic Building in the Secretariat yesterday. He also urged teachers and staff of the ministry, who are above 40, to come and get vaccinated.

The British High Commissioner in Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson while paying a courtesy visit to Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry-DCCI President Rizwan Rahman yesterday said, the UK Universities are keen to invest in Bangladesh's higher education sector. During the discussion, the DCCI President said, the UK is the third-largest investor in Bangladesh and also the third largest export destination of Bangladesh. Besides, UK is the second largest export destination for locally developed software. The British High Commissioner in his speech said, Bangladesh has made commendable progress in the economy. A trade-talk between Bangladesh and UK would be held next week to discuss bilateral trade and investment issues, informed the High Commissioner.

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh ITO Naoki yesterday inaugurated a training course at Bangladesh-Korea Technical Training Centre for female migrant workers, who were forced to come back to Bangladesh when the pandemic broke out last year. The course was inaugurated under a project of UN Women undertaken last year, titled "Women and Girls at the Centre of COVID-19 Prevention", supported by the Government of Japan, with Bangladesh Nari Sramik Kendra as the implementing partner.

The High Court would have a hearing today on a writ seeking its directive to ban broadcast of Al Jazeera, a Qatar based news channel, in the country. Supreme Court lawyer Md. Enamul Kabir Emon filed the writ on Monday. In the petition, the petitioner also pleaded for High Court's order to remove the contents of a report titled "All the Prime Minister's Men" from all social media, including Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. The International Crimes Tribunal will announce the verdict tomorrow against nine accused including Khalilur Rahman of Mymensingh, in a case lodged over crimes against humanity during the War of Liberation, 1971.

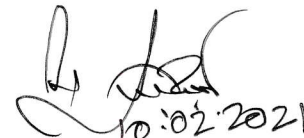
The government will receive a total of 1.31 lac shots of Covid-19 vaccines under the COVAX facility by the end of this month, Health Secretary Abdul Mannan said yesterday following his visit to Dhaka Medical College Hospital vaccination centre. He also informed that some six lac people have registered to get vaccinated so far. Meanwhile, with the death of 08 more people yesterday, the number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 8,229. At the same time recovery count rose to 4,84,573, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. With the detection of 387 new cases, the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 5,38,765. A total of 1,01,082 people were administered COVID-19 vaccines yesterday, giving rise to the number of vaccine receivers to 1,79,318 till yesterday.

The South Korean government will provide Taka 179.38 crore as grant assistance to Bangladesh for three projects to promote youth entrepreneurship education, improve the reliability and safety in national highway corridors of Bangladesh and to ensure safe cyberspace for digital Bangladesh. To this end, three separate agreements have recently been signed between the government of Bangladesh and the Korea International Cooperation Agency-KOICA.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh-CAAB and a joint venture of Changjiang Yichang Waterway Engineering Bureau and China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation yesterday signed a deal on the expansion of Cox's Bazar Airport's runway. After expansion of 1,700 feet with Taka 1,568.86 crore, the total length of the runway of this airport will be 11,700 feet, the longest in the country.

The World Bank and Bangladesh yesterday signed a US\$200 million financing agreement, to help 3.6 million people access hygienic sanitation facilities and about 600,000 people access clean water in rural areas.

Bangabandhu Inter-district U-16 Basketball Championship begins today at Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium in the city's Mirpur. A total of nine district teams, split into two groups, are taking part in the meet, which will be held marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



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