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**News Brief**

President Md. Abdul Hamid has asked the students to launch a countrywide motivational campaign in the form of silent-social revolution against abusive use of narcotics. The Head of the State made the call while addressing the first convocation of Cumilla University yesterday. As many as 2,888 students, including 3,561 graduates, were conferred with degrees. Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal delivered his speech as the convocation speaker on the occasion.

The Cabinet has approved in principle a draft of 'Shishu Dibajatna Kendra Ain 2020' to bring them under a legal framework, particularly ensuring the security of working mothers children enrolled in such facilities. The approval came from the regular Cabinet meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at the Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday. The cabinet also gave nod to another two draft acts, 'Lakshmipur Science and Technology University Act, 2020' and 'Bogura Science and Technology Act, 2020'.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has ordered the bringing back of Bangladeshis stuck in China in view of the outbreak of coronavirus infected disease there. The Premier at the cabinet meeting yesterday also directed all the government officials to remain vigilant in preventing the spreading of coronavirus in Bangladesh. The Prime Minister asked all concerned to ensure that everyone coming from China or Hong Kong is properly screened. The Directorate General of Health Services has already instructed the civil surgeons and the medical college hospital directors to open a five-bed isolation unit at all district general hospitals and medical college hospitals for providing treatment to the suspected coronavirus patients.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader at a press conference at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday called upon the Election Commission to find out the culprits behind the conflict during the election campaign in Gopibagh area on Sunday.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has called upon the developed countries to share their advanced technologies with other nations to ensure sustainable development of the world. He made the urge while speaking at the closing ceremony of the "International Conference on Earth and Environmental Sciences and Technology for Sustainable Development 2020" organized by Dhaka University in the capital yesterday. Meanwhile, the Information Minister while speaking at a press conference at his ministry yesterday said, raising complaints to foreigners about any election is one type of violation of election code and conduct.

Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni yesterday informed the Jatiya Sangsad that the government has taken a plan to set up a public university in each district across the country aiming to give priority to the education. She also said, a medical university will also be set up in each division. Presently, the country has 49 public universities and 105 private universities—where 46 public and 94 private universities are in operation, she added. Social Welfare Minister Nuruzzaman Ahmed while responding to a question in the House yesterday said, the government has taken initiative to set up a school for the children with intellectual disability in each upazila across the country. He said, the government has set up 62 schools for the children with Neuro disability in different districts for free education for the disable children, said the Minister, adding that nearly 8,000 disable children are getting privilege of education from these schools every year. Housing and Public Works Minister SM Rezaul

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Karim while replying to a question in the House yesterday said, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha has taken a project for 'urban redevelopment', aiming to resolve the existing civic problems of Old Dhaka.


Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni while addressing the 18th graduation ceremony of Military Institute of Science and Technology at Mirpur Cantonment in the city yesterday urged newly graduated students to ensure maximum utilisation of their merit and competence for the development of the country with utmost patriotism, honesty and sincerity. A total of 481 students completed their graduation this year. Of them, 418 were civil and 63 military students.

Environment, Forests and Climate Change Minister Md. Shahab Uddin while speaking at a meeting with the National River Conservation Commission at the secretariat in Dhaka yesterday said, factories must install effluent treatment plants to check pollution. Legal action will be taken against polluting factories that are operating without ETPs, he added.

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda while visiting a training camp on the use of electronic voting machines in the capital yesterday said, the polling process in Dhaka city elections cannot be doubted because of a few isolated incidents and the environment is better than any time before. Election Commission Secretariat sources said, voters can know their polling centre, serial number and voter number by sending their national identification number through SMS to 105 from any mobile phone operator. Meanwhile, BNP-nominated mayoral candidate for Dhaka North City Corporation Tabith Awal yesterday unveiled his election manifesto giving priority to solve mosquito problem and ensuring safety and security of the citizens. The High Court yesterday rejected a writ petition seeking cancellation of candidacy Tabith Awal.

Land mutation between important industries, limited companies, export-oriented industries and companies in Dhaka, Chattogram, Narayanganj and Gazipur districts to be done within seven working days. Land Ministry issued a circular in this regard yesterday.

Bangladesh and Japan signed an agreement in the ERD yesterday on granting aid of about US\$ 4.5 million to help the Bangladesh government to improve access to safe drinking water.

  
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