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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, the government is working to provide all types of health services including mental health services to the people. In a message on the occasion of World Mental Health Day which was celebrated yesterday, the Prime Minister said, the government established the National Institute of Mental Health and Hospital in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka in 2001, which was a milestone in the advancement of mental health services.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, BNP is making their evil attempts to divert the anti-rape movement to a different direction to oust the government. He was virtually addressing a meeting of Gazipur district unit of AL yesterday. The Minister said, accused in every incident have been arrested and brought to justice, adding that the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has tougher stance against any sort of criminal activities including rape or violence on women. He sounded a note of warning that if anybody carries out ill-efforts to create an unstable situation, the government will deal it with iron hand.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque while addressing an international webinar organized by Cotton Development Board-CDB on the occasion of World Cotton Day 2020 on Thursday said, Cotton Development Board has started setting up physical infrastructure, equipment, laboratories and recruiting skilled manpower, so that the production of cotton can be accelerated and the target can be achieved by inventing new varieties suitable for the climate of Bangladesh. The Agriculture Minister in a message yesterday congratulated the United Nations World Food Programme-WFP for winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, the programmes of Bangladesh Betar's Chattogram Kendra would be broadcast all over the country with the help of Bangabandhu Satellite. The Minister said this while inaugurating a day-long training organized by Bangladesh Betar in the port city yesterday. The Minister also distributed cheques to the destitute and the temples of the Hindu Religious Welfare Trust. Sharply criticizing the statement of Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on the recent rape incidents, the Minister said, when BNP was in state power, they did all the misdeeds under the party platform. The Information Minister also inaugurated the 'Mujib Hundred Years Celebration Football Tournament', organized by Chittagong Jilla Krira Sangstha on the occasion of Bangabandhu's birth centenary at MA Aziz stadium yesterday.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal on Friday said, the World Bank's latest data regarding Bangladesh's GDP growth in 'South Asia Economic Focus 2020' is inconsistent with the current economic recovery of Bangladesh. The Minister said, it is known to all that the characteristics of the projection of the World Bank is very much 'conservative method' and far away from reality.

Dhaka has sought Non-Aligned Movement-NAM countries' collaboration and political commitment for equitable and timely access to Covid-19 medicines and vaccines at affordable prices on the 65th anniversary of the Bandung Principles. The call was made by Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen in his statement virtually delivered at the Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Coordinating Bureau yesterday. Dr. Momen said, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman recognised the importance of the NAM and led Bangladesh to join the movement as early as 1973. Since then, Bangladesh remains an ardent supporter of NAM.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar opened the “Online shopping utshab” organised by 14 e-CAB members in the capital on Friday. The Minister on the occasion said, COVID-19 has brought massive changes in people’s lifestyle which now becomes an integral part of their daily life.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Saida Muna Tasneem has urged Bangladeshi expatriates, especially the young generation, living in the country to register their births through the high commission to enjoy six essential services as dual citizens. The High Commissioner was addressing a special webinar marking the Mujib Borsho National Birth Registration Day organized by Bangladesh High Commission in London on Friday. Local government Division Senior Secretary Helal Uddin Ahmed addressing the webinar said, birth registration process has been going on online since 2010 following the direction of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as per the goal of creating Digital Bangladesh by 2021.

US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen E Biegun will be coming to Dhaka on a three-day visit next week to advance the common vision of a free, open and secure Indo-Pacific region and cooperation on Covid-19 recovery efforts. Deputy Secretary Biegun will meet senior government officials during the visit on October 14-16.

Japanese Ambassador Ito Naoki has said, Tokyo will continue to support Bangladesh’s development as it directly leads to the overall stability of the Bay of Bengal and Indo-Pacific region. He said this in a statement yesterday marking his one-year stay in Bangladesh as the Japanese envoy.

The Indian High Commission in Bangladesh has announced resumption of online visa services for Bangladesh citizens. For now, nine categories of visas will be allowed. These include medical, business, employment, journalist, diplomatic, official, UN Official and UN Diplomatic. Other categories of visas will also resume soon, Indian High Commission said on Twitter yesterday.

Singapore Airlines has announced resumption flight on the Dhaka-Singapore route from October 20. In the first phase, flights will be operated twice a week. According to the airline authorities, travelers do not need a Coronavirus Negative Certificate from Bangladesh to go to Singapore. However, after reaching Singapore, Coronavirus will be tested. Every passenger has to go directly from the airport to the hotel quarantine for 14 days.

PJSC ZiO Podolsk, a part of the machine building division of Rosatom Atomenergomash, has manufactured and shipped a set of turbine island equipment for country’s Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, according to a message received yesterday. The equipment will be set at the power unit No. 2 of the plant.

The 32nd span of the Padma Bridge linking 4th and 5th piers is likely to be installed today at the Mawa end as it could not be installed yesterday due to heavy current of the river.

The country yesterday recorded 23 more fatalities from the COVID-19, in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 5,500. At the same time recovery count rose to 2,91,365 after another 1,453 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 1,203 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,77,073.



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