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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate a new intercity train – Jamalpur Express – on the Dhaka-Jamalpur-Dhaka route through a videoconferencing from Ganobhaban in Dhaka today. A pair of new train services, including Jamalpur Express on East Tarakandi-Jamalpur-Dhaka route, Dhalarchar Express on Dhalarchar-Pabna-Rajshahi route and Rajbari Express, will also be inaugurated to ensure hassle free smooth journey. Besides, the Premier will inaugurate Sheikh Russell Water Treatment Plant in Chattogram and Bangabandhu Water Treatment Plant in Khulna. The Prime Minister is also to inaugurate twelve-hourly daily Programme transmission of the Chittagong Centre of Bangladesh Television through video conference.

Palestine emerged as champion in the Bangagandhu Gold Cup International Football Tournament for the second consecutive term beating Burundi by 3-1 goals at the final match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina witnessed the entire second half of the final match and distributed trophies and prizes among the champion and runner up countries of the of the tournament. The Prime Minister speaking on the occasion said, her government has always laid high emphasis on sports as it instills into one the spirit to become worthy citizens. A total of six countries — Sri Lanka, Laos, Cambodia, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan and host Bangladesh – took part in the eleven day meet.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, BNP is finding excuses for staying away from the Dhaka city polls because of their apprehension to lose the elections. He said this while talking to the journalists after a certificate giving ceremony for women drivers of vehicles at the BRAC centre in Dhaka yesterday.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud termed the ruling of the International Court of Justice on the Rohingya issue as historic, saying that Myanmar must abide by the ruling of the UN top court. He came up with the observation while speaking at a cheque distribution programme among the distressed cancer patients and different equipment among ethnic groups under the Development Assistance for Special Area of the Prime Minister's Office at Rangunia in Chattogram yesterday. Meanwhile, State Secretary at Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said, they expect Myanmar to fully implement the provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun has urged the country's entrepreneurs to invest in the food and beverage sector in Bangladesh, holding up its huge potential. He made the call yesterday while visiting Thai Beverage, better known as ThaiBev, Thailand's largest and one of Southeast Asia's largest beverage companies in Bangkok. He also assured Thai entrepreneurs of providing all types of assistance on behalf of the government if they come forward to invest in agricultural and industrial sectors.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi has said, there is no possibility of crisis of edible oil, sugar and onion during the upcoming holy month of Ramadan across the country. He said this while talking to journalists in the city yesterday. About recent stopping of Indian onion exports, he said the government as well as the agriculture ministry and other agricultural departments and organisations have taken initiatives to increase production of onion.

Railways Minister Md Nurul Islam Sujan has said, steps will be taken to stop privatisation of railway to ensure good governance. He made the remarks during a meeting with the new committee of Bangladesh Railway Sramik League in Kamalapur in Dhaka yesterday. He also hinted that the ticketing system which is now being operated by a private

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organization Computer Network Systems Limited will be run by railway employees in future. Leaders of the organisation placed a 24-point demand including taking initiatives to cease privatisation of railway at the meeting.

As the voting to the two City Corporations in Dhaka is nearing, the election campaigning is scaling up. Awami League mayoral candidate for Dhaka North City Corporation polls Atiqul Islam will announce his election manifesto through a press conference today. BNP mayoral candidate in DNCC polls Tabith Awal while carrying out electioneering in Mirpur area yesterday once demanded the Election Commission refrain from using electronic voting machines in the upcoming Dhaka city polls. Awami League nominated Mayoral candidate for Dhaka South City Corporation Polls Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh while talking to journalists during his electoral campaign at capital's Babubazar area yesterday said, if he gets elected, City Corporation will remain open for 24 hours as an effort of offering best services for the City dwellers.

Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam while addressing a workshop on 'enriching and implementing the outcomes of a research' conducted by Rural Development Academy, Bagura at the CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka yesterday said, the election pledges of the government will get top priority to the development plans. Cabinet Secretary said necessary steps would be taken as per the result of the research after discussion with the ministries and departments concerned.

India has honoured former Foreign Secretary as well as Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Syed Muazzem Ali with the Padma Bhushan for Public Affairs (posthumous) and Professor Enamul Haque with the Padma Shri for his outstanding contribution to archaeology. The government of India announced the names of the Padma awardees 2020 on the eve of the 71st Republic Day of India. The awards will be formally handed over to the recipients and their relatives in April this year.

Bangladesh Embassy in Beijing has opened a 24-hour hotline to reach out expatriate Bangladeshis if they need any emergency support due to outbreak of coronavirus in China. The hotline number is +86 178-0111-6005 and it has been circulated to Bangladeshi expatriates, especially students and researchers residing across the China. The death toll from China's coronavirus outbreak jumped on Saturday to 41 from 26 and more than 1,300 people have been infected globally.

Online tax payment system for travelers has been introduced to ease traveling of in and out bound tourists. Now, the tourists could pay tax using the online services of Sonali Bank as the system was unveiled by National Board of Revenue, NRB Chairman Abu Hena Md. Rahmatul Muneem said this at a ceremony in the city yesterday. The NBR Chairman said, initially land and water-way travelers could get chance to avail the facility.

The International Customs Day to be observed in the country today as elsewhere in the world. National Board of Revenue has taken elaborate programmes to observe the day in a befitting manner. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages on the occasion.


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