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### News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated three bridges-the 600.70 meter-long 'Sheikh Hasina Setu' over the Madhumati river under Mohammadpur upazila in Magura, 576.214-meter long 'Muktijouddha Golam Dastagir Gazi (Bir Pratik) Bridge' on the Shitalakshya River at Rugganj Upazila in Narayanganj and the 702.55-meter long bridge over Bhairab River in Avoydnagar upazila of Jashore district yesterday. The Premier joining the program virtually from Ganabhaban, termed the bridges as a gift of the "Mujib Borsho", the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The Premier also inaugurated the 'Bir Muktijoddha Rafiqul Islam Bakul Swadhinata Chattar' in Pabna. While inaugurating the bridges, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina assured the people that the government has paid special attention to keep them safe from coronavirus amid apprehensions of worsening the virus situation in winter. She said the government will procure a vaccine as soon as it is available and has already given advance money for booking a vaccine which is about to be invented.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, BNP again returned to their politics of carrying out arson attacks by setting fire to buses recently. The government would not allow any evil efforts to destroy the people's peace and comfort in the name of any programme, he spelled out while virtually inaugurating a connecting road construction project at BNS Sheikh Hasina in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque has said, the government is planning to bring 50000 more hectares of land under Boro cultivation in the upcoming season in order to enhance the paddy production as country's Aman production this year is not quite satisfactory due to various reasons including the flood. He said this while addressing a meeting on the progress of his ministry's project implementation yesterday.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, the way vehicles were torched on November 12 is quite similar to the incidents of 2014-2015. He said, BNP top leaders of the party tried to protect the criminals within it by denying the allegation. But based on video footage of the arson attacks, the law enforcers have already arrested some leaders and activists of Jubo Dal. And they admitted that the plot of carrying out arson attacks was hatched in Banani and also revealed the source of financing, the Minister said while talking to newsmen at his ministry yesterday.

A special plan and a national data bank will be set up to transform Dhaka into a modern and livable city, Local Government Minister Tajul Islam, also the convener of the Detailed Area Plan-DAP said this while addressing a discussion on DAP at his ministry yesterday.

Dhaka has invited Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman to visit Bangladesh to attend final celebration of birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in next March or to join the celebration of Bangladesh's 50 years independence. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen made the invitation yesterday while Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh EssaYussef Essa Al Dulaihan called on him at State Guest House Padma. During the meeting, the Ambassador apprised the Minister of the initiatives to facilitate smooth return of the stranded Bangladeshi citizens to Saudi Arabia.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun has instructed BCIC to expedite the construction of fertiliser factory in North Bengal. New fertiliser factories are being set up to increase the supply of fertiliser from domestic sources instead of importing millions of metric tons of urea fertiliser, he said. The Minister said this at a conference 2020 yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a condolence message expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of football legend and sports organiser Badal Roy, who breathed his last at a hospital in Dhaka yesterday at the age of 62 while undergoing treatment for various health complications including cancer.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid has said, the government will celebrate the achievement of cent per cent electricity accessibility during this year's National Victory Day on December 16. He made the disclosure at a meeting with a delegation Forum for Energy Reporters yesterday at the Power Division. According to official data, more than 98 per cent areas of the country have already been under grid system.

State Minister for Information Dr. Md. Murad Hasan has said, as the second wave of COVID-19 may hit the country during the upcoming winter season, everyone must follow the health guidelines as set by the government to prevent outbreak of the virus. The Minister said this as he distributed masks in city's Karwan Bazar area to raise awareness among people about Covid-19 yesterday as part of awareness programme, organized by 'Samprity Bangladesh'. Meanwhile, the number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 6,388 yesterday with the death of 38 more people and detection of 2,060 new cases. DGHS reported of 21 new dengue cases until yesterday, taking the total number to 84.

The Commonwealth Secretariat, in partnership with the government of Bangladesh, will host a high-level dialogue of Trade ministers and business leaders today to examine how they can work together to spur a digitally-inclusive and green recovery in the face of devastating economic impacts linked to COVID-19, said Bangladesh High Commission in London. Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi talking to media said, the Commonwealth of 54 nations as enormous opportunities is still underutilised.

Speakers at a webinar yesterday organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and chaired by Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen, said Bangladesh's pharmaceuticals export volume to ASEAN market can reach up to US\$1.2 billion from the present US\$60 million within the next four years if the technical and the non-tariff barriers are addressed. The webinar was attended by Bangladesh Ambassadors and High Commissioners posted to the South East Asian countries.

A brand new Dash 8-400 aircraft is going to be added to the fleet of Biman Bangladesh Airlines tomorrow. The aircraft is the first of three aircrafts purchased on GTG basis between the governments of Bangladesh and Canada. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has named the aircraft "Dhrubatar", said a press release of Biman. Sources at the Civil Aviation Ministry said, British Airways, one of the world's leading airlines, is going to resume operation from Dhaka after 11 years. The elections to 25 municipalities would be held on December 28 in the first phase. The Election Commission also said polls to 259 municipalities, out of 329, will be held in five phases.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police has terminated 10 policemen and suspended 18 more for failing dope tests. So far, 68 policemen-seven sub-inspectors, one sergeant, five assistant sub-inspectors, five nayeks and 50 constables have failed the test, DMP confirmed this.

A total of 703 insolvent students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology will get interest-free loans from the University Grants Commission to purchase smartphones to enable them continue their online academic activities amid the Covid-19 pandemic, SUST Registrar said.



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