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News Brief

Three Bangladeshis of a family have been detected with coronavirus and they have been admitted to a hospital in the capital. IEDCR at a press briefing in Dhaka yesterday confirmed the detection of coronavirus infected patients in the country. IEDCR said, among the three, two are male and one female aged between 20 and 35, and two of them have returned from Italy recently. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a function in Dhaka yesterday urged the people of the country not to be worried regarding coronavirus as Bangladesh has enough capability to face this disease. She said to follow the directives of the health ministry regarding the precautionary measures to face coronavirus. IEDCR, however, said, the situation is not like that the virus will spread across the country and schools and colleges have to be shut. Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury Nowfel talking to the media yesterday said, his ministry yet to decide whether educational institutions will be closed down following the detection of coronavirus in the country. Steps will be taken as per instructions of the Health Ministry, he added. World Health Organization in a statement yesterday said, China and other countries are showing that spread of the virus can be slowed and its impact reduced through the use of universally applicable actions.

The festivity of the planned grand opening of the yearlong Mujib Year on March 17 was scaled down in view of the detection of coronavirus infected patients in the country. The decision was taken at a meeting of the 'Mujib Year' Celebration Committee with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at Ganabhaban yesterday. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen talking to media in Dhaka yesterday said, Dhaka would convey foreign dignitaries, who are scheduled to join the opening of the Mujib Year celebrations, about the revised plan for its inauguration in view of the coronavirus detection in the country. Chief Coordinator of National Implementation Committee on Birth Centenary Celebration of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury informed this to the media after the meeting.

High Commissioner of Brunei to Bangladesh Haji Haris bin Othman called on President Md. Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The High Commissioner apprised the President that Sultan of Brunei Darussalam Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah will be visiting Bangladesh on April 12-13 next. It will be the first ever visit to Bangladesh of any Brunei's Sultan.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, the country's womenfolk have been showing their efficiency in every sector capitalising the opportunities of her government extended to them. The Premier said this while addressing the inaugural function of the International Women's Day at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka yesterday. At the function, the Premier handed over "Joyeeta Sammanana" to five women for their outstanding contributions to their respective fields. She later witnessed a cultural function arranged on the occasion.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury addressing a seminar titled 'Bangabandhu for Women's Development' at Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday said, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had worked for women's rights and their economic empowerment. She urged all men and women to come together for reducing gender inequality to show more respect towards women.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday visited the under construction 'Bangabandhu Tunnel' in the port city yesterday. During the visit he said, 51

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percent work of the first ever tunnel beneath the river Karnaphuli has been completed and the rest works will be completed within 2022. Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud was also present during the visit.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud while speaking at a meeting in Chattogram yesterday called upon AL leaders and workers to follow the party decision on nomination of its candidates in the upcoming Chattogram City Corporation polls. He said, BNP, one of the opposition sides in the election, is getting many benefits due to this electoral code of conduct and AL falls victim of discrimination. He said the existing electoral code of conduct does not ensure level playing field for all parties and this discrimination needs to be removed.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq speaking at a workshop organised by Bangladesh Investment Development Authority in Dhaka yesterday said, land registration process across the country would be automated soon and work to prepare development project proposal in this regard has been finalized.

Jatka Conservation Week will be observed across the country on April 4-10 with a view to creating mass awareness about preserving immature Hilsha which is significant to boost the production of the national fish. The decision was taken in a meeting presided by Minister S M Rezaul Karim at his ministry yesterday. Meanwhile, Vietnam Ambassador in Dhaka Pham Viet Chien paid a courtesy call on the Fisheries and Livestock Minister at his Ministry in Dhaka yesterday. The envoy said, Bangladesh and Vietnam can work in exchanging information and experience on fisheries and livestock sector through signing a MoU.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi speaking at a function in Dhaka yesterday said, Bangladesh has achieved 8.15 percent GDP growth in the fiscal 2018-2019 which has been considered by Asian Development Bank to be the fastest-growing economy in the Asia-Pacific Region. He also said, Bangladesh has achieved high economic growth due to strides by finding new markets for its exports, attracting large number of foreign investors and investing in a variety of mega modernization projects.

Environment, Forests and Climate Change Minister Md. Shahab Uddin yesterday inaugurated a "Digital Kiosk Machine" at his ministry for displaying its different activities, photos and videos throughout the Mujib Year.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah talking to the reporters at his ministry yesterday said, there is nothing to worry about fees deposited for hajj registration as the intending pilgrims will get back the money if they want. Earlier on February 24, the Cabinet approved the draft Hajj Package-2020, fixing the minimum cost for an intending pilgrim at Tk 3.15 lakh.

Press Information Department in a handout yesterday urged the people to inform PID Newsroom if they find any misguiding or wrong information on coronavirus disseminating through social media or any other means. The PID handout also advised any suspected coronavirus infected patient to contact the Health Directorate control room over the hotline.


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