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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina referring to the fresh surge of the coronavirus with different variants reiterated her call to the countrymen to wear facemasks alongside maintaining the health guidelines and asked the authorities concerned to take prompt measures to check the fresh surge. While virtually taking part in a discussion from Ganabhaban, organized by Bangladesh Awami League at its central office at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday, marking the Golden Jubilee of the country's independence, the Premier mentioned that her government will do whatever necessary to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic. As part of taking prior preparation to face the onslaught of the Covid-19, the Premier called upon all to bring each inch of land and water bodies under cultivation so that no food problem surfaces in the country and if necessary Bangladesh can export food grains to other countries. She added that the development works would be continued despite the pandemic. The Prime Minister reiterated her vow to build a developed and prosperous country free from hunger and poverty as envisioned by the Father of the Nation.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury virtually addressing the 'Women of Inspiration-2021 Prize' distribution ceremony at a city hotel yesterday, underscored the need for undertaking gender equality based programs to ensure inclusive and sustainable development of the country.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while addressing the discussion at the Bangabandhu Avenue, called upon the people to be united under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resist the evil communal forces. Referring to the mayhem staged in Dhaka, Chattogram and Brahmanbaria by the anti-India communal forces, the Minister said, they are envious of success of the golden jubilee celebration of independence and BNP is the patron of these evil forces. After the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, BNP founder Ziaur Rahman brought religious character instead of non-sectarian secularism in the state, sharing the power of the state with identified war criminals, he said, adding that even later, Begum Khaleda Zia, honored the anti-liberation forces by appointing them as ministers of her cabinet.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal in this connection issuing a stern note of action said that none will be spared for committing violence and anarchy in the country. While talking to journalists at his ministry yesterday, he said, Hefajat-e-Islam took innocent and minor madrasa students to the roads as shields and damaged properties and created anarchic situation. Replying to a query, the Minister said various militant groups including BNP might have involved in such instigation for unleashing terrorism and violence.

Terming the use of innocent children and adolescent boys as the political shields 'very condemnable and unacceptable', Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud urged the madrasa teachers and students not to be used in yielding political interest of any person or group. Addressing a press briefing at his ministry yesterday, Dr. Hasan said, it is really saddened that BNP indirectly has lent support to the attacks and hartal on the Independence Day while Jamaat supported them directly. The Minister pointing to the sudden death of Hefazat Islam late Emir Moulana Ahmed Shafi said, religion and the state as well are not safe in the hands of those who commit crimes like killing of their own Emir. Replying to another query over a statement of 20 persons, the Minister said, "I saw the statement. But, I feel ashamed to call them intellectual as they should give statement against those who created anarchy on the day of golden jubilee of Independence."

The government is very aware about upholding the freedom of speech and press freedom and would not stop any small section of the society from giving their speeches, but would take strong action if they try to hinder the law and order. Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq said this while talking to newsmen after inaugurating BEPZA Helpline for the laborers working in EPZ's organized by Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority at the capital's Green Road area yesterday.

The government is planning to introduce area-based utility billing system in metropolitan areas for enabling people from low-income group to pay less than the higher-income and increasing revenue collection. To this end, the government will divide into zones all city corporations, including Dhaka and Chattogram, Local Government Minister Md. Tajul Islam said to media.

Bangladesh High Commission, London commenced a nine-month celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Bangladesh's Independence and hosted a high-profile discussion and diplomatic reception on Friday last. In the event, British Foreign and Development Office Minister for South Asia and Commonwealth Lord Tariq Ahmed, Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, ministers, leader of the opposition, members of House of Lords, eminent parliamentarians from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales paid their profound homage to Bangladesh's Founding Father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the martyrs of 1971 War of Liberation. They highly praised Premier Sheikh Hasina for the unprecedented growth and prosperity the country achieved under her visionary leadership. High Commissioner for Bangladesh to the UK and Ireland Saida Muna Tasneem chaired the event.

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Kuwait yesterday organized a virtual discussion to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Independence and the National Day of Bangladesh. Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal addressing the event as Chief Guest highlighted the development of Bangladesh made under the charismatic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, while Ambassador Ali Sulaiman Al Sayeed, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs, the State of Kuwait was present as the guest of Honor. Former Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr. Atiur Rahman was the key-note speaker at the discussion. Major General Md. Ashikuzzaman, Ambassador of Bangladesh in Kuwait moderated the discussion session.

'Emporia', a software specially developed for the use of persons with disabilities, created with the inspiration of renowned autism expert Saima Wazed Putul, under the ICT Department's project, was virtually inaugurated by State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak yesterday. Addressing the program, he said, People with disabilities and special needs have come to Dhaka from different parts of the country to give interviews at the job fair organized by the ICT department. 'Emporia' will play a vital role in reducing their time, cost and ease out their interview process, he said.

The closure of all types of government and private primary schools and kindergartens has been extended till May 22 to protect students from coronavirus infection, a statement of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education said yesterday.

A Dhaka court yesterday set April 11 for holding hearing on charge framing in two cases lodged against BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia for celebrating fake birthday on National Mourning Day and stigmatizing the War of Liberation by rehabilitating anti-liberation forces, allowing a time plea of the defence.

Increasing trend of COVID-19 cases continues in Bangladesh as the country recorded 35 deaths and 3,908 fresh cases overnight. With this the number of deaths rose to 8,904 and the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 5,95,714. At the same time recovery count rose to 5,35,941, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. A total of 58,424 people were administered COVID-19 vaccines across the country yesterday, giving rise to the total number of vaccine receivers to 52,63,248. As many as 66,83,893 people got registered till 2.30pm yesterday to receive the vaccine, DGHS said.

The holy Shab-e-Barat will be observed across the country tonight with due religious fervor and devotion. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages greeted all Muslims of Bangladesh and elsewhere across the world on the occasion urging the Muslim devotees to observe the holy Shab-e-Barat maintaining the health guidelines as the infection rate of COVID-19 is in rising trend. Dhaka Metropolitan Police imposed a ban on carrying of all types of explosives, crackers as well as explosion of firecrackers in the capital from 6:00pm today to 6:00am tomorrow on the occasion.

Bangladesh would face host Nepal in the final match of Tri-Nation Cup at Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu today at 5.30 pm (NST).


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