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### News Brief

No new coronavirus case was found in Bangladesh after confirming the initial three. IEDCR at a press briefing in Dhaka yesterday also said, the affected three persons are doing well. A couple who returned from Saudi Arabia yesterday was sent to a hospital with respiratory problems after their arrival at Hazrat Shahajalal International Airport. In Manikganj, a total of 59 people who came from abroad have been kept in isolation at their respective houses. In Narayanganj, some 15-20 people, who came in contact with one of the three infected patients, have been quarantined at their respective homes. Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader speaking at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday urged everyone to remain alert instead of spreading panic over the disease reiterating that the government has taken all-out preparations to prevent coronavirus outbreak. All hospitals in the capital have taken preparations in view of the outbreak of coronavirus while hospitals at the district and upazila levels are also ready to this end. Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud talking to the media at his ministry yesterday alleged that some newspapers are spreading panic over coronavirus although no emergency situation has emerged in the country.

The ECNEC has approved Matarbari Port Development Project to be implemented by December 2026 with Taka 17,777.16 crore in a bid to enhance the cargo handling capacity of the country. The ECNEC meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday approved a total of nine projects involving Taka 24,113.27 crore that included Lebukhali-Rampur-Mirzaganj link road, modernization of the firing range of Special Security Force, fisheries development at the CHT region, protecting Pakerdaha and Jamthol from the erosion of River Jamuna and construction of the headquarter of NSI.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address the nation on March 17, marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Bangabandhu's youngest daughter Sheikh Rehana will also give her speech on the occasion.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud talking to the media at his ministry yesterday said, BNP is doing politics over coronavirus instead of standing by the people. He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has rescheduled programmes taken to celebrate the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in public interest after the detection of coronavirus in the country. The Information Minister welcoming the verdict of a High Court division bench declaring 'Joy Bangla' as the national slogan of the country said, from now on, BNP will not be ashamed to chant 'Joy Bangla'.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque held an emergency meeting with 30 envoys of different countries including the United States, China, South Korea, Japan, Italy, Iran and India on coronavirus in Dhaka yesterday. Zahid Maleque described the overall situation of coronavirus in the country. He mentioned that Bangladesh is working together to fight the virus by maintaining trade and commerce relations with different countries. Ambassadors attending the function spoke on the latest information about the corona situation in their respective countries.

The Directorate General of Health Services has provided five thermal scanners for the country's three international airports and a land port. Of them, two were given for Hazrat Shahajalal International Airport while one each for Shah Amanat International Airport in Chattogram, Sylhet Osmani International Airport and Benapole land port in Jashore district. On Monday last, archway of a thermal scanner at Dhaka Airport broke down following heavy

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pressure of passengers. However, it returned to operation after repair on Tuesday. Meanwhile, the IEDCR repeatedly emphasized raising awareness about the lethal virus, saying without awareness and practicing good habits, there is mainly no other way to contain this deadly virus as yet self-quarantine is the most viable way to tackle coronavirus. IEDCR also added eight new numbers with previous fours to its hotline service to help people get information about coronavirus.

Directorate General of Drug Administration has fixed the price of hand sanitizer of seven medicine manufacturer companies in the country as some fraudulent businessmen are charging extra money taking the advantage of coronavirus outbreak, a PID handout said this yesterday. Another PID handout said, the Education Ministry has urged guardians and students not to be confused over rumour of shutting down of the educational institutions due to coronavirus. The ministry is yet to take any decision about closure of the educational institutions for coronavirus scare, the handout added.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sent letters to the heads of state and government, who were invited to join Mujib Year celebration, informing the rearrangement plan of Mujib Year celebration. He gave the information while talking to newsmen after heading a meeting on celebration of birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Mother Language Institute in Dhaka yesterday. In her letter the Premier said, Bangladesh would like to hold the mega event of the yearlong celebrating of Mujib Year later on, so the foreign dignitaries can take their decision about their scheduled visit, the Foreign Minister added. He also said, the Prime Minister has postponed her scheduled the two-day official visit to Japan beginning on March 30 in the backdrop of spreading coronavirus. Meanwhile, the Foreign Minister at a meeting with Vietnamese Ambassador to Bangladesh Pham Viet Chien urged the country to create a civilian observer group under the ASEAN framework to monitor the repatriation process of forcibly displaced Rohingyas to their homeland Myanmar.

Bangladesh High Commission in London has taken an initiative to translate the historic 7th March Speech delivered by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman into three languages-Welsh, Scottish and Irish, Bangladesh High Commissioner in London Saida Muna Tasneem disclosed this while addressing a ceremony marking the historic 7th March Speech of Bangabandhu at High Commission premises.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam addressing a seminar marking International Women's Day in Dhaka yesterday said, the gender inequality has substantially come down in Bangladesh. Citing a recent UN-ILO joint report, the State Minister said, Bangladesh has the lowest pay gap in the world in terms of gender equality as the global average gap between men and women is 21 percent while it is 2.1 percent in the country.

The Chairman of BTRC will now enjoy the rank and status of a High Court judge. Besides, its Vice-Chairman and Commissioners have been given the status of Secretary and Additional Secretary of the government respectively. The Public Administration Ministry issued a gazette notification in this regard yesterday.

  
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