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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reiterated her government's determination to build a technology-based nation, saying that technology education is a must for the new generations to sustain in the competitive world. The Premier came up with the comment while addressing the opening ceremony of the Sheikh Kamal IT Incubator and Training Centre constructed at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Hi-Tech Park in Rajshahi through a videoconference from Ganabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. From the same function, she also inaugurated cent percent electrification in seven districts and 23 upazilas as well as Feni 114-MW power plant. Sheikh Hasina said, the government will light up every house across the country within the Mujib Year by bringing all people under the electricity coverage. The Premier also inaugurated the month-long drama festival across the country through videoconference.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, joint measures were being taken with neighbouring countries to stop smuggling of drugs into the country as part of the ongoing anti-narcotics campaign. The Premier said this while replying to question during the question-answer session at the Jatiya Sangsad in Dhaka yesterday. Highlighting her government's measures to keep meritorious students away from militancy the Prime Minister said, initiatives have been taken to infuse religious value, morality and honesty in students alongside inspiring them to engage themselves in exercise of science and culture.

The 'Bangladesh Lighthouse Bill, 2020' was passed in Parliament yesterday making the existing the Lighthouse Act, 1927 a time-befitting one. The Companies (Amendment) Bill 2020 withdrawing a provision for having a seal for a company to get registered was placed in Parliament. Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi placed the Bill which will help Bangladesh improve ease doing business index. The bill was sent to the respective scrutiny committee for further examination. Textiles and Jute Minister Golam Dastgir Gazi while replying to a question in the House said, the government has taken a pilot project for producing one lakh pieces of jute-made 'sonali bag' in a day, with an aim to disseminate environment-friendly bags across the country.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader terming the wrongdoers and opportunists as weeds said, the weeds from the party would be wiped out in the Mujib Year, He said this while addressing triennial council of Kotalipara Upazila Awami League in Gopalganj yesterday. He urged the leaders of the party at grassroots not to make any room for opportunists and wrongdoers in party committees.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, the masterminds of 1/11 changeover and BNP-Jamaat alliance have now become united against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He said this while addressing a book launching ceremony at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday. He said, BNP's corruption, severe mismanagement, creating a shadow government through 'Hawa Bhavan' and the rise of militancy during their regime were behind the 1/11 changeover.

The Bangladesh Under-19 cricket team which created history by clinching the World Cup title for the first time in country's cricket history reached home yesterday afternoon. Bangladesh Cricket Board President Nazmul Hassan Papon and State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Russell received the young Tigers at the airport. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would accord them reception before February 21 at the Suhrawardy Udyan. BCB President said, under-19 members will have a special training for two years. During these two years everyone will get one lakh taka from the board.

Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal has said, the government is expecting a huge investment from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in various sectors including power and energy, especially potential investment and support from the Saudi Aramco. He said this to the reporters after holding a meeting with the visiting Saudi delegation led by Saudi Deputy Minister for Labour and Employment Mahir Abdulrahman Algassim at Economic Relations Division in Dhaka yesterday.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has urged the Polish government to encourage Polish investors and entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh in Hi-Tech Parks and Specialized Economic Zones. He made the call as visiting Polish Government's Deputy Foreign Minister Marcin Przydacz paid a courtesy call at his office in Dhaka yesterday. Polish Deputy Minister assured that Poland is keen to continue cooperation with Bangladesh, adding that the Polish government is considering to reopen its embassy in Dhaka. Meanwhile, the Foreign Minister while addressing the inaugural function of BIMSTEC Traditional Healthcare Expo-2020 at the International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka yesterday said, no Rohingya has returned to Bangladesh from Saudi Arabia or any other country.

Health Minister Zahid Malik while speaking at a function at DRU Auditorium in the capital yesterday said, the government will recruit 30,000 people this year for the health sector. He also said, nothing to be panicked about coronavirus as all preparation has been taken to tackle the menace.

Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Li Jiming has said, the Chinese government is fully confident, capable, sincere and has enough strength to win the battle against novel coronavirus, so no way to be misguided or be afraid. Chinese Embassy in Dhaka and Bangladesh China Chamber of Commerce and Industry jointly arranged the "Meet The Press" on Novel Coronavirus at Jatiya Press Club In Dhaka yesterday.

All preparations are nearing completion to hold the inaugural ceremony of the celebration of birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at National Parade Square in Dhaka. Chief Coordinator of Bangabandhu's Birth Centenary Celebration National Implementation Committee Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury said this while presiding over a coordination meeting at Bangladesh Air Force's conference room in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN and the President of the UNICEF's Executive Board Ambassador Rabab Fatima has said, early childhood development, empowerment and education of girl children are among the priorities of UNICEF for the current year. She said this while presiding over the first regular session of the UNICEF executive board in New York on Tuesday.

A High Court Division Bench after receiving a report of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority on the number of vehicles without fitness certificates yesterday ordered that vehicles without appropriate fitness certificates will not be allowed to ply on roads across the country.

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