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### News Brief

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque at a press conference along with Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen at the State Guest House Padma in Dhaka yesterday said, the government imposed a temporary ban on travel from the European countries except the UK and other coronavirus-hit countries and suspended flights from those countries. In further restriction, Bangladesh government suspended visa-on-arrival facilities and closed all its land ports. All the restrictions will come into effect from midnight today to March 31. The Health Minister has announced that the people coming to Bangladesh from infected countries will be kept in compulsory quarantine, anyone violating this directive would have to face punishment. Meanwhile, two fresh Bangladesh nationals coming from Italy and Germany have been detected with novel coronavirus positive last night after IEDCR declared previously detected three persons were tested negative.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will take part in a video conference with the leaders of other SAARC nations including Indian Premier Narendra Modi this afternoon to chalk out a strong strategy to fight Coronavirus. The video conference is going to be held at the backdrop of a tweet in this regard by the Indian Prime Minister. According to latest media reports 5,619 people have so far died and 150,649 others have been infected by the coronavirus outbreak that had spread over 149 countries and territories.

IEDCR confirmed that primarily no symptom of coronavirus was found in any of the 142 fresh Italy returnees who reached Dhaka yesterday. A decision regarding their self or institutional quarantine after would be taken the detailed screening, the national disease controlling agency added. IEDCR also said, twenty-three Bangladeshi students who were evacuated by India from China reached Dhaka yesterday after passing a quarantine period in New Delhi and were allowed to live with their families as they were tested negative for the Coronavirus.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, no situation has emerged till now to close down educational institutions of the country due to the coronavirus outbreak, if any situation arises in this regard the government will take all necessary steps. About BNP he said, a political virus like corona has entered into the party, the BNP leaders should remove that coronavirus from their homes first by avoiding politics of blaming the government. He came up with the remarks in a press conference at Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka yesterday. The AL General Secretary distributed leaflets on coronavirus to create awareness among people.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque inaugurated the upcoming National Measles-Rubella Campaign 2020 on Dhaka Shishu Hospital premises in Dhaka yesterday. Speaking at the event he said, Bangladesh already conducted several measles-rubella campaigns in the past. But in recent years the number of measles-rubella outbreak has increased. To mitigate this situation, we have planned to conduct another Measles-Rubella Campaign from March 18, 2020 to April 11, 2020.

The World Consumer Rights Day is being observed in the country today as elsewhere in the globe with the theme 'Mujib Borsher Ongikar-Surokkhito Vokta Odhikar'. Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection has chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day. On the eve of the day, President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages greeted all consumers wishing all successes of the day's programmes.

Chief Election Commissioner K M Nurul Huda while speaking at a views exchange meeting on the Chattogram City Corporation elections scheduled for March 29 in the port city yesterday said, EVMs were used in Dhaka's two city corporations elections and most of the voters expressed satisfaction over it and election results can be published speedily with EVMs.

The government has formed a special committee to keep the prices of daily essentials stable during the holy month of Ramadan. A total of 28 teams will monitor the wholesale and retail markets across the country. Commerce Secretary Dr. Md. Jafar Uddin said this at a press briefing in Dhaka yesterday.

National Board of Revenue has set a target to register 1.5 lakh new VAT payers to raise the tally to 3 lakh in Mujib Year. To this end, NBR already directed its 12 VAT Commissionerates to take necessary measures in this regard.

The Bangladesh High Commission in London has postponed the Bangladesh Independence and National Day Reception 2020 scheduled for March 30 in view of the rapid escalation coronavirus there.

Bangladesh High Commission in Abuja, Nigeria participated in the 41st Kaduna International Trade Fair there from February 28 to March 8 and received the "Best Foreign Participant Award."

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