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News Brief

'Corona unit' will be set up at eight divisions across the country aiming to facilitate monitoring system regarding the coronavirus outbreak. Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque speaking at a discussion in Dhaka yesterday also said, aiming to manage the increased quarantined patients due to COVID-19, he also directed the authorities concerned to keep some places, including Bishwa Ijtema Maidan, Tongi, ready.

Meanwhile, a coronavirus infected person died at a hospital in Dhaka yesterday. IEDCR at a press conference yesterday confirming the death said, the person who got infected after coming in contact with a foreign returnee was admitted to a hospital on Tuesday and also suffering from a number of health problem. Including the deceased person, a total of 14 people have so far been detected with the virus. Of them, first detected three persons were recovered and discharged from hospital.

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain has said, all the judges will soon decide whether to close all the courts across the country to contain spread of coronavirus. The Chief Justice said this while talking to newsmen after planting saplings at Supreme Court arena marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, if necessary, steps will be taken to shut down the inter-district bus services aiming to contain the spread of deadly coronavirus. The Minister while addressing a press briefing at his ministry yesterday said, to halt the pandemic, the government has decided that nobody would be allowed holding meetings or rallies in the country.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan addressing a function in Dhaka yesterday urged overseas returnees to follow the quarantine rules for the sake of the country. Stern action will be taken if anyone breaches those, he warned.

Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal talking to media in Dhaka yesterday asserted that the government has financial capability to fight against the deadly virus COVID-19. The Ministry of Health would receive all necessary support and funding so that it can tackle coronavirus, he added.

Local Government Minister Md. Tajul Islam talking to reporters in his ministry yesterday said, public representatives of the local government are working to check the spread of coronavirus. The Minister yesterday held a meeting on preparing a work plan to involve public representatives in combating coronavirus.

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Mazumder has said, there will be no food crisis for coronavirus as the government reserve is sufficient. He said this while speaking at a views exchange meeting with reporters on market monitoring in Dhaka yesterday. He also warned that stern actions would be taken if anyone tries to destabilise market and take advantage of this situation creating artificial crisis. Meanwhile, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi while speaking at a press conference at his ministry yesterday urged all not to buy essential commodities beyond the regular needs as there are adequate stocks to meet the demand in the country.

The Chinese government has decided to donate emergency anti-epidemic medical supplies, including coronavirus test kits for 10,000 people, 15,000 surgical N95 respirators, 10,000 medical protective clothing and 1,000 infrared thermometers. The Chinese embassy in

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Dhaka informed Foreign Ministry this on Tuesday. Meanwhile, the Asian Development Bank in response to the coronavirus pandemic has announced a \$6.5 billion initial package to address the immediate needs of its developing member countries including Bangladesh.

Four doctors of Dhaka Medical College Hospital were sent to home quarantine after they handled a patient who was later confirmed as a coronavirus patient. Another report says, thirty judges of subordinate courts, including 13 district judges, who returned from Australia on March 15 after ending two weeks long course there have been sent to home quarantine for 14 days.

A number of expatriates were fined yesterday for breaching home quarantine rules in various districts including Kushtia, Tangail, Cumilla, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Madaripur and Chattogram.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud hinting to the BNP leaders said, those, who failed to recognize Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, would themselves be mired in debris of the history. He said this while addressing a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland in a message on the birth centenary of Bangabandhu has said, Father of the Bengali Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman strongly believed in the Commonwealth values that inspired him to make the forum the first international organization that Bangladesh joined in 1972 immediately after its Liberation War. Patricia also paid special tribute to Bangabandhu's unflinching conviction in democracy, secularism and progressive values, as well as his indomitable spirit to be always on the side of the oppressed people.

The United States Postal Service has published a special pictorial postmark with Bangabandhu's photograph announcing March 17 as "International Bangabandhu Day" to glorify the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The commemorative postmark was published from Jackson Heights Post Office in New York on March 17.

The Election Commission has added a new feature to the electronic voting machines to stop vote rigging and manipulation in elections. The new feature will be included in the EVMs to hold the upcoming Dhaka-10 parliamentary by-election slated for March 21 and Chattogram City Corporation polls scheduled for March 29.


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