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News Brief

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, BNP is again out to launch arson attacks to kill people to take revenge of its defeat in the polls as the people boycotted them both in movement and election. Several years ago they killed innocent people hurling petrol bombs, he said while addressing the council of Bagmara Upazila, Rajshahi unit of AL yesterday through videoconferencing. The Minister said, the law enforcement agencies got the video-footage of setting fire to buses and the culprits are the same and old faces. Police is working to unearth the mystery of a phone conversation over the incident, he added. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal talking to media issued a note of warning that stern action would be taken against those involved in arson attacks on buses in the city. Meanwhile, 14 cases were filed and 32 accused were arrested so far in connection with the arson attacks. Of them, 28 arrestees were taken to remand.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque has said, work is underway to increase maize production to 10 million metric tons per year in the next five years as there is a huge demand for maize in the country and abroad. He said this while speaking at a virtual meeting organized by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center and Bangladesh Wheat and Maize Research Institute on Friday. The Minister further said, as a result of change in food habits, the demand for wheat in Bangladesh is increasing but the production is very low. According to official sources, the production of maize in the country was 7.5 lac metric tons in 2009, which has increased to 54 lac metric tons in 2020. On the other hand, the demand for maize is 65-70 lac tons per annum. The country has produced 12 lac 50 thousand metric tons of wheat in 2020.

Bangladesh has signed an agreement to collect doses of Oxford University's Covid-19 vaccine, developed by AstraZeneca. The vaccine, will be brought to the country as soon as getting the approval to market it. Everyone will get the vaccine shots in phases, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said after inaugurating a RT-PCR lab in Manikganj's Colonel Malek Medical College Hospital yesterday. He said, 15 to 20 people are dying from Covid-19 every day in Bangladesh, where the number is 700-800 in the developed countries.

The number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 6,173 yesterday with the death of 14 more people. At the same time recovery count rose to 3,47,849. With the detection of 1,531 new cases the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 4,30,496. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam has tested positive for Covid-19 and he is now in home isolation.

The government is going to bring remarkable changes in traditional education system in order to make the education enjoyable and time-befitting. Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni said this while inaugurating Sheikh Russel Gymnasium at Jashore University of Science and Technology yesterday. She urged the educationalists to find out the faults in the existing education system.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has expressed the hope that the US President-elect Joe Biden will lend his voice to resolving the Rohingya crisis and provide support for the quick repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar. The Minister came up with the remarks after visiting Rajshahi University yesterday. Recently Myanmar also held elections, he said adding that "Now it's time for Aung San Suu Kyi's government to erase their bad reputation globally by taking back

the Rohingya people to their homeland.” Dr. Momen while exchanging views with local journalists at the Circuit House in Natore yesterday said, Bangladesh’s better economic growth compared to other countries amid pandemic has proved that the country is getting the fruit of pursuing economic diplomacy keeping friendship to all.

Posts and Telecommunication Minister Mustafa Jabbar has said, 11 mobile factories are able to meet 60 per cent of the country’s demand for mobile sets, adding that 5G sets are now being produced in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is exporting IoT devices as well, the Minister said at an MOU signing ceremony between BRAC Bank and Bangladesh Association of Call Center and Outsourcing in the capital yesterday.

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen has said, he is likely to visit New Delhi in the second week of December for consultation over the agendas of bilateral talks between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi during their forthcoming virtual meeting. Meanwhile, Indian police handed over 30 Bangladeshi teenagers to Bangladesh after three years of imprisonment in India on Friday evening.

A UN convoy has rescued 104 Bangladeshi expatriates in Ethiopia with the help of Bangladesh's foreign ministry and the Bangladesh embassy in Addis Ababa. They were stranded in Ethiopia's conflict-torn northern Tigray region. Kuwait will begin implementing from January 1 its decision to stop allowing renewal of work and residency permits for expatriates who reach the age of 60. The country came up with the decision in a bid to redress a demographic imbalance, Gulf News reported yesterday.

The 6.15km-long Padma Bridge is expected to be visible completely by December as preparation is underway to install the four remaining spans soon, Project Director Md. Shafiqul Islam said adding the 37th span of the Padma Bridge was installed on Thursday and now a total of 5,550 meters of the main structure is visible. The 38th span will be installed on November 16 and the 39th on November 23. On December 2, the 40th span and the remaining one will be installed on December 10.

The fourth edition of Joy Bangla Youth Award-JBYA, organized by Young Bangla, one of the largest youth platforms of the country, is set for November 17. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy will join the event as Chief Guest and award the youths. Meanwhile, one of the JBYA 2018 winners, Sadat Rahman, received an International Children’s Peace Prize 2020 for setting up a social organization and mobile app ‘Cyber Teens’ to stop cyber bullying and violence against children. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai presented him the award at a ceremony in the Netherlands.

USAID and Saudi Arabia's King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre-KSRelief will provide US\$1 million each to a programme managed by the World Food Programme to rehabilitate cyclone shelters and reduce the risk of disasters in Cox’s Bazar.

The Bangabandhu T20 Cup to mark the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will begin on November 24. The Bangladesh Cricket Board released the itinerary of the five-team T20 tournament yesterday.

A 201-member full-fledged committee of Awami Jubo League was announced at the AL President’s Dhanmondi political office last afternoon.


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