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### News Brief

The Jatiya Sangsad is scheduled to pass the Finance Bill 2020 today with some possible changes, including the withdrawal of the proposed supplementary duty on telecom services. Besides, the JS will approve the Appropriations Bill 2020 on June 30 through which the Taka 5.68 lakh crore national budget for FY21 will be passed. Meanwhile, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry yesterday at its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan with its chairman Abdul Matin Khasru in the chair discussed 'Adalat Kartik Tathiya Projukti Bebohar Bill 2020' in detail. The committee proposed scrutinizing the bill precisely and finalizing report on it to present before the House.

Bangladesh yesterday recorded 43 more fatalities from the novel coronavirus in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 1,738. At the same time recovery count rose to 55,727 after another 1,409 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 3,809 new cases taking the total number of cases to 1, 37,787. A total of 15,157 samples were tested. Meanwhile, the government has fixed Tk. 200 for testing coronavirus at government hospitals and booths while Tk. 500 for test for collecting samples from home, Health Services Division sources disclosed this yesterday.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while addressing a virtual press briefing in Dhaka yesterday said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government does not believe in VIP culture and it always discourages such practices and there is no discrimination between ordinary and affluent patients in providing treatment amid the COVID-19 pandemic. He urged the hospital authorities to provide treatment to all patients equally. Referring to the ongoing floods in several districts in the country amid the coronavirus crisis, the Obaidul Quader urged the party leaders and workers to stand by the flood victims.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has informed that the number of films for government's grant will be increased this year for supporting the industry due to the pandemic. The government has decided to provide grants to 25 films including 16 full length and 9 short films this year while 14 films got grants last fiscal year, he added. Film artistes, directors, producers and distributors yesterday thanked Information Minister for giving grants to 25 films to support the industry during the Coronavirus pandemic. Bangladesh Chalachitra Shilpi Samiti President Misha Showdagar and General Secretary Jayed Khan thanked him on behalf of the artistes for taking time-befitting steps for the industry, said an official handout yesterday.

Textiles and Jute Minister Golam Dastagir Gazi in an online media briefing on review of the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation's (BJMC) activities said, with staggering losses incurred over the years in state-owned jutes mills of BJMC, the government has decided to go for a golden handshake, a voluntary retirement scheme, for around 25,000 jute workers to cope with losses and modernize

those mills. After the voluntary retirement, initiatives will be taken to run the mills in PPP or joint venture or G to G or lease model under the control of the government, he added.

Bangladesh has announced to contribute 50,000 US dollar to 'Global Citizen' fund for supporting development and deploy COVID-19 vaccines in an equitable manner as well as rebuild communities impacted by the pandemic in a fair and just way. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen came up with the announcement while virtually addressing the 'Global Goal: Unite for Our Future – the Summit' organised by European Commission and Global Citizen on Saturday.

Diplomatic missions of the USA, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia have expressed deep concern over the reports of Myanmar military's crackdown on ethnic minorities in Rakhaine and Chin States, said a joint statement of the four missions posted at the official website of US Embassy in Burma (Myanmar). Meanwhile, International Organization for Migration opened two new Severe Acute Respiratory Infection Isolation and Treatment Centers (SARI ITC) for the host community members and Rohingya population in both Teknaf and Ukhia upazilas in Cox's Bazar. Meanwhile, a 60-bed isolation and treatment centre has been set up in Teknaf to provide care to the suspected COVID-19 patients from the Rohingya refugee camps and the local community. Save the Children set up the center with support from UK Aid and UNOPS.

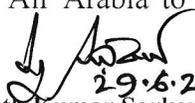
A total of 1,14,697 students of 157 technical educational institutions across the country will receive stipend through bKash for purchasing educational materials. Education Minister Dipu Moni inaugurated the program of stipend distribution under the Directorate of Technical Education on Saturday, said a press release.

With an aim to present digital activities of all 64 districts to citizens through Bangladesh National Portal, the government yesterday virtually started Digital Fair 2020. State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak will officially inaugurate the three-day fair today through Zoom online platform. Meanwhile Mr distributed bicycles among 102 village police members and sewing machines among destitute women and wheelchairs among the physically challenged people at Singra upazila in Natore yesterday.

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), in partnership with the Department of Agricultural Extension, is distributing paddy seed to 24,000 farmers in Cox's Bazar in response to the coronavirus pandemic and last month's super cyclone Amphan.

The flood situation continued to deteriorate in the northern Brahmaputra and eastern and northeastern Meghna basins due to further sharp rise in water levels of major rivers inundating vast low-lying areas of six northern districts in the Brahmaputra basin and three eastern and northeastern districts on the Meghna basin during the last 24 hours

After remaining shut for months due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) yesterday permitted Turkish Airlines and Air Arabia to operate their flights in Dhaka from July 1.

  
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