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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, Awami League, established by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, always stands beside the country's people whenever it remains in power or in opposition. The Premier came up with the remarks while launching the second phase of cash support disbursement among 36.50 lac families hit hard by the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic in the country, joining virtually from Ganabhaban yesterday where the district administrations of Chattogram, Bhola and Joypurhat were connected. Each beneficiary family is receiving Taka 2,500 as Eid gift from the Prime Minister and a total amount of Taka 912.50 crore has been allocated for it. Regarding the Covid-19 vaccine, the Prime Minister reiterated that her government will procure vaccines at any cost to protect people from coronavirus.

As the second wave of Covid-19 began, the Prime Minister directed the officials concerned to take several humanitarian assistance measures. To this connection, over Taka 1,500 crore has already been allocated to stand beside the destitute and vulnerable people in this difficult time. As per the Prime Minister's directive, the Disaster Management and Relief Ministry instantly provided Taka 590 crore to field-level administrations to extend support to the needy people and the disbursement of the money is continuing, officials said. Besides, the Prime Minister also allocated Taka 10.50 crore against the Deputy Commissioners from her relief and welfare fund to provide emergency assistance to the poor and destitute. In addition, the Prime Minister at her own initiative has provided Taka 10 crore to the Journalist Welfare Trust as assistance for the journalists who are facing hardships due to the fallout of the pandemic. Earlier last year, when the first wave of Covid-19 hit the country, the Prime Minister provided cash support of Taka 2,500 each to 36.50 lac poor families and vulnerable groups across the country. Besides, the Prime Minister has already announced a total of 23 stimulus packages of Taka 124,053 crore alongside taking initiative of maintaining uninterrupted output in the factories and boosting agriculture production.

Moreover, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina privately donated Taka 10 crore from Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Trust for the Covid-19 affected and homeless people and urged the affluent section of the society to come up with assistance for the poor and destitute people, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim said to the national news agency yesterday.

The construction work of entire structure of the Padma Bridge has been completed with the installation of last girder on the viaduct at Mawa end in Munshiganj, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader informed this at a virtual view-exchange meeting with BRTC and BRTA's Sylhet Zone officials yesterday. The progress of construction works of the main bridge is 93.25 per cent so far. River training works progress is 83 per cent and the overall project progress reached 85.5 per cent, he said. Turning to coronavirus situation, he said, there is no need of worries over vaccines. As long as humanitarian leader like Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is holding the helm of the country, the nation will overcome the crisis of Covid-19 one day, he said.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud while replying to a query of newsmen over the election in West Bengal, terming the election as the country's 'internal matter', hoped that democracy will always win in the elections of India. "This is our expectation that the existing relations between the two countries and neighboring West Bengal will further be developed and become closure, and the unresolved issues will be solved through an amicable discussion between the governments of the two countries," he said.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque while addressing a function at Directorate General of Health Services-DGHS yesterday, reiterated his call to follow health rules strictly to combat third wave of coronavirus as the country is witnessing a sharp rise in Covid-19 infections from early March this year.

The country's inward remittance flow witnesses 39 per cent growth during the first 10 months of the current fiscal 2020- 21, with US \$20,672 million remittances. The country received US\$14,868 million remittances during July to April in 2019-20 financial year, the data added. Bangladesh received \$2,067 million remittances in April of the current fiscal 2020-21, which was \$1,093 million during the month of April in 2019-20 financial year, the data showed.

A total of 4,500 Union Parishads of the country will be brought under fiber optic high speed broadband connectivity by 2021, State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak stated that while speaking at the virtual inaugural ceremony of 'Union Level Broadband Connectivity Establishment', a project undertaken by the government to reach internet in the telecommunication deprived areas. At present high-speed fiber optical cable connectivity has already reached about 3,800 unions in the country, he said. As per the instructions of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ICT Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy, all the remaining unions, including the hills and islands, where fiber optical cable can't be taken directly, will be connected through Bangabandhu-1 satellite, he said. The State Minister also said that 'School of Future', a model school, would be set up in each parliamentary constituency to build skilled human resources, where everything including course curriculum will be online.

Bangladesh Bank in a circular allowed members of the e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB) to remit abroad US\$10,000 in a year each to meet their legitimate current expenses. As per the circular, remittance for such expenses would be guided by the guidelines issued by Bangladesh Investment Development Authority.

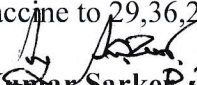
Seven officers of the rank of Superintendent of Police have been promoted to the post of Additional Deputy Inspector General of Police, a circular of Ministry of Home Affairs said.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh-CAAB in an official circular on Saturday gave nod to international passenger flights, categorizing 12 countries as extremely vulnerable in terms of Covid-19 infections. None other than Bangladeshi nationals will be allowed to travel to Dhaka from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Georgia, India, Iran, Mongolia, Oman, South Africa and Tunisia. Also, passengers originating from 26 countries will have to stay in 14-day institutional quarantine at the government-designated hotels at their own expenses. The countries are Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Chile, Croatia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iraq, Kuwait, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Paraguay, Peru, Qatar, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Uruguay, the circular said.

Special Envoy of the Climate Vulnerable Forum-CVF Abul Kalam Azad, former Principal Coordinator of Sustainable Development Goals and Principal Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, has been appointed as a Commissioner of "Global Commission on BiodiverCities by 2030" of the World Economic Forum-WEF. As Commissioner, CVF special envoy will be a part of the Global Commission on BiodiverCities by 2030, a high-level commission with 25 world-renowned experts and practitioners from the public and private sectors, academia and civil society, Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

Bangladesh Embassy in Bangkok has facilitated repatriation of a group of 78 stranded Bangladeshi, Thai and other foreign nationals from Thailand to Bangladesh by a special Biman Bangladesh airlines flight early Saturday.

The country recorded 69 fatalities from COVID-19 yesterday, taking the death toll to 11,579. With 1,359 fresh cases, the tally of infections surged to 7,61,943. At the same time recovery count rose to 6,87,328. A total of 1,30,547 people were administered the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine yesterday, taking the total number of vaccine receivers given the second dose of vaccine to 29,36,241.


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