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From: PIO, PID, Dhaka
Fax: 9540553/9540026
E-mail: piddhaka@gmail.com
Web: www.pressinform.gov.bd

News Brief

The Cabinet's decision on enforcing a 14-day mandatory quarantine for the UK returnees in the wake of transmission of a new variant of Covid-19 in the United Kingdom will be effective from January 1, 2021. As per the decision of the meeting, the UK returnees must stay in 14-day quarantine at hotels prescribed by the government at their own cost. The decision on effectiveness of the quarantine was taken at a virtual meeting with Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam in the chair yesterday.

The Cabinet approved in principle a draft of "Highway Law-2020" keeping provision of punishment for different offenses. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina chaired the regular cabinet meeting, joining virtually from her official residence Ganabhaban yesterday. Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam briefed the newsmen, the proposed law kept a provision that mentioned specific places for pedestrian movement, while any type of crop or good would not be allowed on the highway for sundry or other purposes. Besides, if anyone makes illegal infrastructures on the highway, he/she has to face a maximum two years jail or financial penalty, he added. The cabinet also approved the drafts of Mongla Port Authority Law -2020, Hajj and Umrah Management Law-2020 and Highway Landscaping Policy-2020 in principle.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque said, media personnel and professionals can play a strong role in women empowerment. The Minister also said, Bangladesh is recognised as a role model in the national and international arena for women empowerment. The minister said this while speaking as the chief guest at an open discussion titled 'Women's Empowerment and Liberation War and Role of Media Personnel in Building a Prosperous Bangladesh' at the National Press Club auditorium on the occasion of Bangladesh Journalists' Rights Forum (BJRF) General Meeting-2020 yesterday.

Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader called upon the international community to take more effective strategies for mounting enhanced pressure on Myanmar to take back its Rohingya nationals from Bangladesh. Quader said, since the outset of Rohingya crisis, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been continuing diplomatic efforts seeking cooperation from the international community for the peaceful solution of the problem. The economy and environment of Bangladesh have been affected badly for hosting around 12 lakh Rohingyas who took shelter at Ukiah and Teknaf, he added. He said this at a regular press conference at his official residence on parliament premises yesterday.

Agriculture Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque urged all to remain alert against bigots and religion traders. The Minister said, Bangabandhu's ideology can never be erased by vandalizing his sculptures. He made the call yesterday at a discussion organised by the Ministry of Agriculture at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) auditorium in the capital on the occasion of Victory Day.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud said, conspirators are still active to destroy the prevailing peace in Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) region along with destroying the peace of the country as well. The Minister said, who are not happy with the development and peace of the country, are also not happy with the development, progress and peace of the hill tracks region. He urged all to remain alert against the conspirators. The Minister stated this while

inaugurating 'Bangabandhu Tour the CHT Mountain Bike' competition at Sajek Valley in Baghaichhari upazila of Rangamati marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu.

Nineteen industrial units under six categories received 'President's Industrial Development Award-2018' for their outstanding contribution to the national economy. Among the winners, four are under a large industries category, four under medium, three small, three micro, three cottage and two hi-tech industries. Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun said, the Industries Ministry is providing necessary policy support to entrepreneurs for achieving the goal of knowledge-based industrialization while State Minister for Industries Kamal Ahmed Mojumder advised the awardees to expand the export market of domestic products by ensuring quality of products. Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun handed over the awards as the chief guest at a function at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

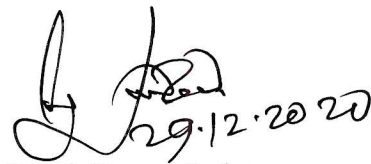
State Minister for Information and Communication Technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Digital Bangladesh is a reality now. He added, 110 million people in the country are now connected to the Internet and one million young people who are involved in the IT sector, including freelancing, software development, and outsourcing. The State Minister said this while addressing a function as the chief guest at the "Witsa Award Celebration 2020" celebration organized by Bangladesh Computer Society yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of Rawshan Rahman Eva, wife of Dr. Mashiur Rahman, Economic Affairs Adviser to the Premier. In a message of condolence, she prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

According to the UK's Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR). Bangladesh will become the 28th largest economy in the world by 2030 and 25th largest economy by 2035. As per the report of CEBR, the size of the economy will nearly treble to US\$855 billion in 2035 from the \$301 billion in 2020 in the US dollar constant prices. In current terms, Bangladesh will become more than a trillion-dollar economy before the period, showed the latest edition of the World Economic League Table of the think-tank.

Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Akhtaruzzaman inaugurated the lecture series in a virtual programme held at the University yesterday. The DU VC said, the lecture series will carry out fundamental research on Bangabandhu's life and works. He also hoped this lecture series will help further researchers at national and international level. The VC urged the teachers and researchers to work to implement Bangabandhu's dream. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Research Institute For Peace And Liberty and The Center for Advance Research in arts and social science (CARASS) jointly organised the lecture series

Bangladesh recorded 27 novel coronavirus deaths and 932 fresh cases in the last 24 hours. The recovery count rose to 4,53,318 after another 1,357 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. With this, the total death toll rose to 7,479 from the pandemic in the country.



Surath Kumar Sarker
Principal Information Officer
Phone- 9546091