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News Brief (Revised)

Sheikh Hasina Medical University, Khulna Bill-2021 was placed in the Jatiya Sangsad-JS yesterday to establish a university for developing and enhancing higher education, research and quality of services in medical education in Khulna region. Besides, Civil Courts Amendment Bill, 2021 was also placed in the JS aiming to raise the financial jurisdiction of the Judges of the lower court for disposal of civil cases. Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni also raised 'Intermediate and Secondary Education (Amendment) Bill 2021', 'Bangladesh Technical Education Board (Amendment) Bill 2021' and 'Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board (Amendment) Bill 2021' before the Parliament to avoid legal complications in declaring 2020's HSC and equivalent results and issuing certificates without examination in the Covid-19 situation.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, the BNP leaders remain in 'winter sleep' and sometimes they wake up suddenly to spread falsehood and rumors against the government. He was virtually addressing a discussion, arranged by AL Liberation War Affairs Sub-Committee at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue central office yesterday. Dubbing BNP as an anti-liberation force, he said, the party resorted to fraudulence and tactfulness again and again after being boycotted by the people. The Minister called upon the pro-liberation forces to build united resistance against the anti-state evil forces.

Rohingyas will willingly go to Bhasan Char in future because of its facilities and the security measures there, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said this while inaugurating the newly built Bhasan Char Police Station in Hatiya upazila, Noakhali yesterday.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, it will be easier to promote creative thinking of new generation by preserving own culture and freeing them from the grip of satellite culture. He urged the country's artistes to take plan in this regard. The Minister was addressing the 87th birth anniversary of eminent artiste Mamtajuddin Ahmed at Shilpakala Academy on Monday.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen During a telephonic conversation, urged his Bahrain counterpart Dr. Abdul Latif Bin Rashi to take back Bangladeshi expatriates those have been stuck here due to COVID-19 pandemic. The two ministers also agreed to hold the second Foreign Office Consultation between the two countries in Dhaka soon.

Bangladesh is 'cautiously optimistic' to start much-demanded Rohingya repatriation from the second quarter of this year as Naypyidaw showed its flexibility to take back their nationals and to hold a joint working group meeting next month to prepare the ground for repatriation, Secretary to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Masud Bin Momen, who led the Bangladesh delegation in a trilateral meeting with Myanmar and China yesterday said this after the meeting. At the virtual meeting, Bangladesh has proposed village-based repatriation of the Rohingyas, but Myanmar said they would like to start off with the 42,000 who have already been verified out of a list of some 830,000 Rohingyas living in camps in Cox's Bazar, he said. Chinese vice Minister Luo Zhaohui and Myanmar Deputy Minister of International Cooperation Hau Do Suan led the delegations of their respective countries at the meeting.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun while replying to a question in the Parliament yesterday said, the government did not take any decision on shutting down state-owned sugar mills. The government is implementing two development projects "BMR of Carew & Co (Bd) Ltd (1st revised)" and "Establishment of Effluent Treatment Plants in 14 Sugar Mills" to modernize the sugar mills, he also said.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque after a meeting at the Directorate General of Health Services-DGHS in Dhaka yesterday said, the government has a plan to vaccinate 200,000 people per day after receiving the first shipment of vaccines. The twenty lac doses of Covishield vaccine, gifted by India, may

reach the country today or on Thursday, he said. The vaccines will be stored in the storages of Central Medicine Store Depot, Expanded Programme on Immunization-EPI and in the cold storage of Tejgaon Health Complex in Dhaka, Prof. A B M Khurshid Alam, Director General of the DGHS, said at the same briefing. Prof Khurshid said, they will start vaccination in all districts after receiving the first consignment of three crore shots of Covishield, scheduled for January 25 or 26.

Meanwhile, the number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 7,942 with the death of 20 more people yesterday. At the same time recovery count rose to 4,73,855, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. With the detection of 702 new cases, the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 5,29,031.

Bangladesh is getting ready to launch its second satellite "Bangabandhu Satellite-2" by 2023. Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited-BSCCL signed an agreement with PricewaterhouseCoopers-PwC at its head office yesterday. Post and Telecommunication Minister Mustafa Jabbar virtually taking part in the ceremony said, the satellite-2 won't be launched only for commercial purpose. It will cover in the country's remote areas including char and coastal sites as well, he said.

Four bus terminals will be constructed around the capital to reduce bus pressure, Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said yesterday while briefing reporters after a meeting with Bus Route Rationalization Committee at Nagar Bhaban in South City yesterday. Birulia and Hemayetpur in North City Corporation and Keraniganj and Baghai in Dhaka South City Corporation, have been selected for construction Inter-district bus terminals. Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh also said, the proposed pilot route under Bus Route Rationalisation Program will be extended up to Kanchpur which was primarily supposed to start from Ghatachar to Motijheel. Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam at the briefing, expressed the optimism to formulate the draft policy on the overall issue of rationalization of bus routes in the next 90 days.

Every household of the country will be lit up by the "Mujib Borsha", birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as all off-grid and char areas are set to be brought under the electricity coverage during the period, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid said to media. He said, currently 99 per cent people of the country are getting electricity facility.

State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury while addressing a meeting at Barisal Circuit House, organized by Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority-BIWTA yesterday said, the sustainable management will be ensured to increase the navigability of 31 waterways in Barishal division. He further said, there are 60,000 illegal occupants of different rivers across the country. Of them, 20,000 have already been evicted, he added.

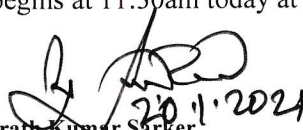
The US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl Miller has underscored the continued commitment of his country to work in partnership with Bangladesh in eliminating "Trafficking-in-Persons" as he visited children's home Shishuder Jonno Amra to provide donations to the children along with Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen in the capital on Monday.

The fifth phase elections to 31 municipalities will be held on February 28, the Election Commission announced yesterday.

Shaheed Asad Day is being observed in the country today. On January 20, 1969, Asad, the hero of the 1969 mass upsurge movement was gunned down by the Pakistani police at a protest against the atrocities on the people of East Pakistan at a rally held near Dhaka Medical College and Hospital. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages paying tributes to the memory of Shaheed Asad on the occasion.

A Dhaka court yesterday set February 1 to hold a hearing on charge framing in Niko graft case against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and others.

The three-match ODI series between Bangladesh and West Indies begins at 11:30am today at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium Mirpur.


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