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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled a five-point “action plan” to effectively fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR), saying that failure to tackle this hazard may cause even more lethal pandemics in future. The Premier said this while delivering her recorded statement broadcast at a High-level Interactive Dialogue on AMR in New York, the USA yesterday. As co-chairs of the Global Leaders Group on AMR, Sheikh Hasina in her first proposal, called for adopting integrated multi-sectoral and collective action plan on AMR by the international community at both regional and global levels with special focus on low and middle-income countries. ‘Good manufacturing, laboratory practices and surveillance framework are needed to tackle the AMR,’ she said in her second proposal. The Premier, in her third proposal, put emphasis on equitable access to affordable and effective antibiotics, as required, through transfer of technology and sharing of ownership. In her fourth and fifth proposals, she opined for sustainable financing for AMR containment activities and global public awareness to battle AMR through political commitment and partnership among the member states. The dialogue, convened by President of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly Volkan Bozkir, is a follow-up to a call of the assembly in its resolution titled “Political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage.”

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the distribution of financial support to some 35 lakh poor families who were affected from the COVID-19 pandemic on May 2. The government will provide a total of Taka 880 crore as financial support to some 35 lakh families through EFT where each family would get Taka 2,500, said a Finance Ministry Press release yesterday.

The government has a plan to give subsidy to the farmers for jute seed production as an integrated project is underway for achieving self sufficiency in jute seed production. Agriculture Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque said this while addressing a virtual meeting yesterday. He urged the scientists and extension workers to take a short and long term initiatives for quick implementation of a road map of achieving self-sufficiency in jute seed production. To offset the rising demand of jute seed, the Agriculture Ministry is implementing a five-year long project with a target to produce 4,500 tonnes jute seed during this time.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while addressing a views-exchange meeting with officials of BRTC and BRTA, Chattogram Zone virtually yesterday asked the authorities concerned to begin work as soon as possible to upgrade the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar road into a four-lane one. He also gave directives to put emphasis on roads of Chattogram Hill Tracts. About BNP, he said it is now clear like broad daylight that BNP is making their evil attempts to create imaginary, fabricated stories through their comments and statements over the mayhem carried out in Dhaka, Hathazari, Chattogram and Brahmanbaria to save the terrorists.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud urged BNP and Nagarik Oikya to stand beside the commoners along with the government shunning the politics of hatred. The Minister made the call while addressing a function of distribution of Eid gifts among the underprivileged children organized by Awami League Dhaka South City unit on the premises of Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka yesterday. Meanwhile, the Krishok League is now harvesting paddy of local farmers amid scorching heat at Rangunia in Chattogram as Dr. Hasan Mahmud instructed them to stand beside marginal farmers.

The government is formulating the ‘Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan’ under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also the chair of Climate Vulnerable Forum. Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md. Shahab Uddin while addressing the “GCA, CVF and V20 Briefing and Reporting Session with the Ministers” through videoconferencing in Dhaka yesterday also said, this flagship project will be a significant step towards a green, nature-based and resilient recovery, and addressing post COVID-19 impacts. Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal, Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen and State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain, among others, spoke at the meeting.

Bangladesh has already completed all the preparations to enter the 5G era by 2021 and by using it Bangladesh will enter into a new era of agriculture, industry and information. Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar made the comment while virtually speaking at a function in Dhaka yesterday. Stating that 98% of mobile networks have been brought under 4G network, he said the installation of optical fiber network connection in every union of the country is in the final stage.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid while addressing an online review meeting on implementation progress of the development projects under the Power Division yesterday said, there is no alternative way of hundred percent achievement of Annual Development Programme without implementing projects before the stipulated time amid coronavirus pandemic. Nasrul Hamid said, the ADP implementation progress of the Power Division is still good as the financial progress is 54.70 percent with an expenditure of Taka 13,503 crore till March 2021 against the overall ADP allocation of over Taka 24,768 crore.

State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Monnujan Sufian while speaking at a tripartite advisory committee meeting in Dhaka yesterday called for payment of salaries, festival allowances to workers in all sectors, including garments by May 10.

The advancement of 'Digital Bangladesh' vision and the use of technology have made the people's life easier and smoother, saving time and cost in getting services. State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Md. Murad Hassan while addressing a virtual workshop titled "Role of Local Journalists in Implementing Digital Bangladesh" yesterday urged the journalists to project the success stories of 'Digital Bangladesh' before the countrymen on how the advancement of the vision has made the public life easier and smoother. Principal Information Officer Surath Kumar Sarker and Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Managing Director Abul Kalam Azad were also spoke the function.

Bangladesh has offered to dispatch emergency medicines and medical equipment supplies for the people of India who are immensely fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic. The supplies include about 10,000 vials of injectable anti-viral, oral anti-viral, 30,000 PPE kits, and several thousand of zinc, calcium, vitamin C and other necessary tablets, a Foreign Ministry press release said in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh and Indonesia yesterday held their first ever Foreign Office Consultations and agreed to expand the volume of bilateral trade and investment between the two Asian nations. Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen and Director General for the Asia Pacific and Africa of Indonesian Foreign Ministry Abdul Kadir Jailani led respective delegations at the virtual Consultations, a Foreign Ministry press release said yesterday. During the consultation, the two sides comprehensively reviewed the present status of bilateral relation between the two countries and agreed to complete the signing of pending MoUs and Agreements on a fast-track basis.

The United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday adopted unanimously a historic resolution, introduced by Bangladesh, on drowning prevention and proclaimed 25 July as World Drowning Prevention Day. The Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN, Ambassador Rabab Fatima introduced the first ever one-off UNGA resolution on "Global Drowning Prevention" which acknowledges the 'silent epidemic' for the first time in UN's 75-year history. The resolution recognizes that drowning affects every nation of the world and provides a framework for action for an effective response to the unacceptably high number of drowning deaths. Co-led by Ireland, the resolution was co-sponsored by a total 81 member states.

Chief of Army Staff General Aziz Ahmed will leave Dhaka for Zambia on an official visit today at the invitation of Zambian Army Chief Lieutenant General William Sikazwe. General Aziz Ahmed will lead a 6-member delegation of Bangladesh Army during this visit, says an Inter Service Public Relation media release yesterday.

The Ministry of Commerce is going to observe a special service week from April 30 (today) to May 6 on the occasion of Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr. The Prime Minister's Office has directed all ministries to observe special service week to ensure uninterrupted services to the people, including price control of necessary commodities, during Ramadan and ahead of Eid.

Ministry of Religious Affairs in a press release yesterday requested the pre-registered and registered persons interested in performing Hajj in 2021 under public and private management to beware of an unscrupulous group that is accepting money to include them. Besides, it has been requested not to make any financial transaction regarding Hajj of 2021 till further instructions.

The country recorded 88 fatalities from COVID-19 yesterday, taking the death toll to 11,393. With 2,341 fresh cases, the tally of infections surged to 7,56,955. At the same time recovery count rose to 6,77,101, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. A total of 1,07,539 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 28,05,694. As many as 72,47,862 people got registered till 2.30 pm yesterday to take COVID-19 vaccines, DGHS said. Meanwhile, the government yesterday approved the emergency use of Sinopharm, a Chinese Covid-19 vaccine. The approval was given at a meeting of the Directorate General of Drug Administration.


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