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### News Brief

Bangladesh is optimistic regarding the formation of US 100 billion global climate fund for every year as world leaders showed strong 'political commitment' at "Leaders' Summit on Climate" amid the US's rejoining in the Paris Agreement. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen said this at a press briefing to reveal outcomes of the summit, attended by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with some 40 Heads of State or Government virtually on Thursday. Dr. Momen said, political commitment is always important to keep the global temperature rise at 1.5 degree Celsius. Momen termed the Leaders' Summit on Climate, hosted by US President Joe Biden as a 'breakthrough' as global leaders showed their commitment to protect the planet from the adverse impact of climate change. The summit is being seen as a key milestone on the road to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) to be held in November this year in Glasgow, he said.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque while addressing a Boro harvest festival in Hobiganj yesterday said, there would be no food crisis in the country if farmers can successfully harvest Boro crop this year. The Minister said, amid the corona virus pandemic the present government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is working firmly to eliminate food scarcity in the country. The government will take up various programme for raising food production in the Haor areas, he said, adding that 'only a crop is now being produced on the huge tract of land in the Haor areas.' Later, the Minister inaugurated the Boro harvest in the Haor areas of Baniachong upazila and distributed combined harvesters and reapers among the farmers.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, BNP is the 'visible patron' of anti-liberation and extreme communal evil forces. The Minister said this while virtually addressing an Iftar items distribution ceremony for distressed and jobless people arranged by Dhaka City South unit of Awami League yesterday. He said his party has set an example of humanity by staying beside the distressed and working class people during the coronavirus crisis side by side with the government. At the directives of Bangabandhu's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, public representatives and AL leaders and workers stood by the people with coronavirus protective equipment, cash and food aid, he said. About BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir's remarks that 'the government is turning the country into a hell', Obaidul Quader said, not the government, BNP carries out arson attacks visibly as well as secretly in the name of movement which is tantamount to barbaric acts.

Bangladesh Swadhinata Parishad yesterday distributed essential commodities and masks among city dwellers in the city's Sayedabad area. Welcoming the initiative of Swadhinata Parishad, Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud in a message said those, who have come forward for the welfare of the people responding to the call of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, will be remembered for their contribution in tackling the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Shops and shopping malls will remain open from 10 am to 5 pm from April 25 maintaining proper health rules amid the lockdown in the wake of the ongoing pandemic. The cabinet division yesterday issued a directive in this regard to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Meanwhile, the restrictions on movement are likely to be relaxed to some extent from April 28, two weeks before Eid-ul-Fitr, the biggest religious festival of Muslims. The decision will be taken on April 28, State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain said this yesterday.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University in Gazipur has emerged as one of the best public and private universities in the country. This information has been given in the 2021 edition of the Simago Institution Ranking of Spain with 4,127 universities from different countries of the world. State Minister for Youth and Sports Mohammad Zahid Ahsan Russell lauded the authorities of BSMAU saying 'I sincerely congratulate the vice chancellor, all the teachers, students, officials and employees of BSMRAU for ensuring the first place among all the public and private universities in the country by international standard.'

Bangladesh Ambassador to Uzbekistan Md. Jahangir Alam presented his credentials to the President of Uzbekistan Savkat Mirziyoyev yesterday. During the meeting, the Ambassador requested the President to establish the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Dhaka and reopen the Dhaka-Tashkent-Dhaka direct flight to enhance direct communication with the two friendly countries in the fields of tourism, education, sports and culture. In this regard, the President of Uzbekistan instructed Uzbekistan Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov, to take appropriate measures to open a consulate of Uzbekistan in Dhaka initially and to make the first FOC meeting between the two countries fruitful. The President of Uzbekistan conveyed his personal greetings to the President and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and sought the assistance of the Ambassador of Bangladesh in developing bilateral relations with Bangladesh in various fields.

A total of 167 incarcerated children have been granted bail by juvenile courts across the country in the last eight working days through virtual hearings amid the countrywide strict lockdown to curb the spread of coronavirus, a Supreme Court spokesperson confirmed the information to media yesterday.

The country yesterday recorded 88 COVID-19 deaths, taking the death toll to 10,869. With 3,629 fresh cases, the tally of infections surged to 7,39,703. At the same time recovery count rose to 6,47,674, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. The number of vaccine receivers given the first dose of vaccine rose to 57,78,686, while a total of 19,67,975 people received the second dose of the vaccine. As many as 71,82,202 people got registered until yesterday to take COVID-19 vaccines, DGHS sources said.

Brac will start antigen-based Covid-19 rapid testing for suspected patients from today to provide results in a shorter time amid a new surge in Covid-19 cases across the country. The service, set to be run under the supervision of the Directorate General of Health Services, will be available at 16 testing booths, 15 in Dhaka and one in Chattagram set up by Brac.

  
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