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## News Brief

Bangladesh yesterday recorded 55 more fatalities from the novel coronavirus in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 2,151. At the same time recovery count rose to 78,102 after another 1,953 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. Directorate General of Health Services- DGHS came up with the disclosure at its daily health bulletin. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 3,027 new cases taking the total number of cases to 1, 68,645. A total of 13,173 samples were tested at the authorised laboratories across the country during the time, DGHS added.

Agriculture Minister Dr.Md. Abdur Razzaque while inaugurating tree plantation programme through virtual media from his official residence yesterday said, the government has taken a programme of planting saplings across the country to face the adverse impact of climate change. As part of the programme, the Minister said, the Agriculture ministry will plant a total of nearly 50,000 saplings in the first phase with planting 100 saplings in every upazila. In the second phase, 100 saplings will be planted in every union across the country.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud mentioning that many journalists have been infected with coronavirus and some of them died said, the government has decided to provide financial support of Taka 3 lakh to every victim's family from the Bangladesh Journalist Welfare Trust. Six families have already received the support, the Minister further said. The Minister was addressing a views-exchange meeting with the executive committee members of Jatiya Press Club at his ministry yesterday. Besides, the Minister said, journalists who have recently become jobless, would come under the purview of special assistance with each getting Taka 10,000 as per the directive of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has said, Kuwaiti authorities detained Bangladeshi lawmaker Mohammad Shahid Islam Papul to face money laundering and human trafficking charges as a 'local resident' of the Middle Eastern country not as a Bangladesh MP as he was on a visit there without using the diplomatic or official passport. Steps will be taken as per laws of the country, if the Kuwait government informs the Bangladesh government officially about the allegations against him, the Minister told journalists adding that Bangladesh would not spare anybody if found involved such criminal charges as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina shows zero tolerance against money laundering and human trafficking.

Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Md. Shahab Uddin while speaking at a cheque distribution ceremony for non-MPO teachers in Baralekha upazila said, the government has stood beside people of all classes and professions of the country during coronavirus pandemic. He said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has set a unique example by providing financial assistance to people of different classes and professions which is being praised all over the world.

Railways Minister Md. Nurul Islam Sujon while speaking at a press briefing held at Railway Bhaban on Monday said, Bangladesh Railway has decided to transport sacrificial animals from one part of the country to another through freight trains ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

Prime Minister's Energy Advisor Dr. Tawfiq-E-Elahi Chowdhury while inaugurating a webinar titled 'Big Data and Power Management' yesterday advised Power Division officials to compile Big Data in coordination with the Bureau of Statistics, if necessary as it would be helpful to design proper planning and appropriate policy for power sector.

State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury while addressing a press briefing at his ministry yesterday on the probe committee report on the launch capsized in Buriganga river said, the government is very sincere to ensure justice for the families of the people who died in the incident. The probe committee report of the case will be published on August 17, he informed.

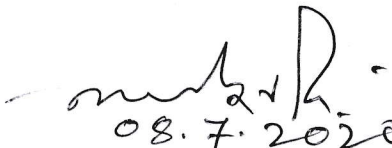
German Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Fahrenholtz describing Bangladesh as a robust economy having dynamism and resilience has stressed that its economy will surely bounce back soon. He said, German investment and trading companies are looking for new places for their investments and business and Bangladesh will be one such important destination. The Ambassador made the remarks at a views-exchange meeting on Zoom organized by Bangladesh German Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Monday.

The government has decided to resume national carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines commercial flights to the United Arab Emirates from tomorrow, Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Mohibul Haque confirmed. Meanwhile, a total of 162 Bangladeshis, who were stranded in Singapore due to the shutdown over coronavirus outbreak, have returned home on a special flight yesterday.

The flood situation may remain steady in three northwestern districts of Natore, Naogaon and Sirajganj and four central districts of Rajbari, Faridpur, Munshiganj and Shariatpur as water levels of rivers in Brahmaputra and Padma basins marked fall till 9am yesterday, according to a bulletin of the Flood Forecasting and Warning Center. It said, water levels of all major rivers in all three basins –Ganges-Padma, Meghna or Surma-Kushiyara and Brahmaputra-Jamuna were in reducing trend and it might continue till 9 am today.

The government has planned to import rice, if needed, by reducing import duty to keep its market stable and prevent price manipulation, a Food Ministry handout said yesterday. There has been a bumper production of crops this year and farmers are getting fair prices, it added.

The Dhaka North City Corporation yesterday filed 22 cases and fined Tk 1,26,310 for having found Aedes mosquito larvae at 85 houses and establishments on the fourth day of its combing operation aimed at protecting the city dwellers from dengue.

  
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