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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to open five power plants, having a total of 779 MW electricity generation capacity, virtually joining from Ganabhaban today. The power plants are Bibiyana-III 400 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant in Habiganj, Zulda, Chattogram 100 MW Power Plant Unit-2, Meghnaghat 104 MW Power Plant in Narayanganj, Modhumoti 100 MW Power Plant in Bagerhat and upgradation of Sylhet 150 MW Power Plant to 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant in Sylhet. Meanwhile, the country's electricity generation capacity reached to 25,235 MW (including captive power) which was 4,942 MW in 2009, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid said to the National News Agency. Around 99.5 per cent of the population has been brought under electricity facilities, he said adding, the per capita electricity generation reached to 560 kWh, which was only 220 kWh in 2009. And the system loss brought down to 8.49 per cent from 14.33 per cent.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, there is no constitutional way of changeover of state power without holding elections. While addressing a press briefing yesterday, the Minister also urged BNP to concentrate on elections after getting rid of their shame of failures for the last 13 years. About comments of BNP leaders that people would jump into streets when BNP's movement begins, the Minister said, BNP leaders are daydreaming. They did not wage any movement in the last one era, so the people now think that BNP's call for movement is nothing but lofty talks, he said.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud responding to BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhurul Islam Alamgir's contention that people will jump into movement after his whistle said, it is ridiculous to listen. BNP workers do not have confidence on Mirza Fakhurul as he is not trusted by their party activists, he said adding, when the BNP activists go to a program, they remain engaged in fighting among themselves and that program becomes postponed. The Minister, while exchanging views with officials and employees of Bangladesh Betar, Chattogram after inspecting its office yesterday, also mentioned that Chattogram radio station has played a very important role in the history of the country's liberation war struggle. Dr. Hasan added, the transmitter, used by the then General Secretary of Chattogram AL M A Hannan to read the declaration of independence on behalf of Bangabandhu at Kalurghat, will be shifted from old circuit house to the Kalurghat Wireless Transmission Center where it was earlier. A small museum will be set up there, he said.

All the schools and colleges are reopening today after one and a half years of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. On the first day of reopening, Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni will visit Azimpur Govt. Girls School and College in Dhaka this morning to see the overall activities. Later, she will also visit 'Lake Circus Girls High School' in Kalabagan. As per the decision, taken at an inter-ministerial meeting on September 5, the examinees of this year's four public examinations, including the SSC, HSC, would attend classes every day at first after the reopening. Students of other classes would have in-person classes once every week. The number of the class days would be increased depending on the pandemic situation. However, the government will also keep the option of online classes functional as it wants to adopt a new 'hybrid education learning system' combining in-person classes and online education.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni yesterday told journalists at Jamalpur Circuit House that the educational institutions would be closed again if the COVID-19 infections increase in the country.

The country's third Bangabandhu Safari Park will be built at Lathitila forest under Juri Upazila of Moulvibazar district, Environment, Forests and Climate Change Minister Md. Shahab Uddin came up with the information at a one-time financial grant-distribution program among tea-workers at the Juri Upazila Parishad auditorium yesterday. In the program, organized by the Department of Social Services, the Minister distributed a total of Taka 1 crore 72 lac 35 thousand among 3447 tea workers. The Minister also distributed Taka 25,000

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The Minister also distributed Taka 25,000 among 10 culturists and Taka 50,000 to one incurable patient. In another program, the Minister inaugurated the newly constructed building of Uttar Bhabanipur Government Primary School and the newly constructed building at Shilghat Tea-Garden Government Primary School.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar laid emphasis on educating the people about digital technologies along with engaging them extensively with modern equipment, saying, lack of awareness is a big challenge for digitization. The Minister was virtually addressing the inaugural function of a four-day program yesterday, marking the 22nd founding years of the BCS Computer City. Along with the government, the Minister called upon the trade bodies to come forward to educate the people about the digital means.

Bangladesh has reached a unique height in the world by overcoming all obstacles under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Md. Murad Hassan stated this at the tri-annual conference of the Municipal Awami League at the Fouzdari mor of zila sadar area in Jamalpur yesterday.

The government is working for the development of technology-dependent agriculture, State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak said this while distributing onion and jute seeds and fertilizers among small marginal farmers of the Singra upazila in Natore under the Agriculture Incentive Program yesterday. Highlighting the government's endeavor for the development of the country's agriculture, he said, the government is providing agricultural machinery at 50 to 70 per cent subsidized price under the agricultural mechanization program. Uninterrupted power supply and subsidy for irrigation are also being provided, he said, adding that high quality seeds are being handed over to the farmers. Regular fertilizers, seeds and other inputs are being provided to the farmers free of cost in the incentive program including reduction of fertilizer prices, he continued.

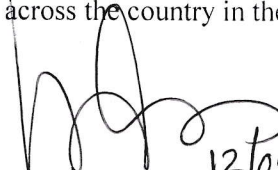
Awami League in a meeting of the AL's Parliamentary Board and Local Government Representative Nomination Board with party President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, yesterday nominated Dr. Pran Gopal Datta, former vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-BSMMU, for the Cumilla-7 by-polls.

The Serbian companies are highly interested in hiring skilled and semi-skilled workers from Bangladesh through legal channels. The interest was expressed when Bangladesh Ambassador to Serbia Md. Shameem Ahsan met Serbian Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs Minister Dr. Darija Kisic at her office in Belgrade recently.

The Egyptian flag carrier Egyptair is set to commence direct flight operation on Cairo-Dhaka-Cairo route from November 1 for giving a boost to bilateral trade as well as flourish tourism sector of both the countries.

The country yesterday recorded 48 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the total death toll to 26,880. With 1,327 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,28,542. The positivity rate stood at 7.03 per cent as 18,869 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 14,75,235, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday.

Besides, a total of 301 dengue patients got admitted in different hospitals across the country in the 24 hours till 8am last morning, DGHS informed.


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