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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate five power plants, having a total of 879 MW electricity generation capacity, on September 12, virtually joining from Ganabhaban. A Director (Public Relations) of Bangladesh Power Development Board-BPDB, told the National News Agency yesterday.

The Parliament has given greenlight to the Delimitation of Constituencies Bill 2021, seeking to formulate an act to replace a military regime-era ordinance in line with a court judgment and empowering the Election Commission to formulate rules. The Bangladesh Legal Practitioners and Bar Council (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was also passed in the Parliament yesterday allowing the government to form an ad-hoc committee for maximum one-year tenure to arrange Bar Council elections in an unusual situation. The Gandhi Ashram (Board of Trustees) Bill, 2021 was also passed in the House to replace the related Ordinance promulgated during the military regime and declared illegal by the judiciary. Besides, the Highways Bill 2021 was placed in the House, aiming to have a full-fledged law replacing the Highways Act 1925. Besides, the Development Board Laws (Repeal) Ordinance, 1986 (Repeal) Bill 2021 was placed before the House.

The government will distribute permanent digital certificates among the country's valiant freedom fighters while all the living freedom fighters will get smart cards. Liberation War Affairs Minister A K M Mozammel Huq said this adding that a process in this regard is underway. He was replying to a tabled question in the Parliament yesterday. Once prepared, the digital certificates will be distributed simultaneously among the freedom fighters across the country through Union Nirbahi Officers-UNOs, he added. He said, the certificates issued temporarily had been invalidated. Responding to another question, the Minister said, some 10,000 certificates of fake freedom fighters, issued by the BNP regime in 2010, have been annulled after scrutiny. He said, actually, the number of gazetted freedom fighters in the country is 183,560.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, not the government, BNP itself is making absurd comments against the absolute truth of the history on the issue of Ziaur Rahman's body. While addressing a press conference yesterday, responding to BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's comment, the Minister, said now BNP is suffering from deep frustration after being boycotted by the people in polls and movement, now they cannot perform usual politics. The Minister said, he didn't get any answer from Mirza Fakhrul, about his specific questions on Zia's body. He said, the BNP Secretary General repeatedly avoids the topic and gives inconsistent replies and makes his usual absurd comments. Returning to vaccination issues, the Minister said, BNP is making evil attempts by making different comments at different times about vaccination to confuse the people, adding that many of the BNP leaders have even received the second dose vaccine after the first dose.

BNP's call for mass movement is ridiculous as the leaders and workers of the party don't respond to the call of Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud made the remarks while talking to newsmen yesterday. Dr. Hasan, criticizing another comment of the BNP leader said, democracy has been established under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and multi-party and multi-dimensional democracy exists in the country. Multi-party including BNP is represented in the Parliament, he added. Earlier, the Minister addressed a seminar on Bangabandhu and golden jubilee of the independence and Press Council Award giving ceremony at Tathya Bhaban in the city's Circuit House Road. State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Md. Murad Hasan and Secretary of the ministry Md. Mokbul Hossain, among others, addressed the function.

Bangladesh and Hungary have discussed ways to increase trade between the two countries apart from exploring cooperation in the Health sector. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen had a bilateral meeting with his Hungarian counterpart Peter Szijjarto in Geneva recently and discussed the issues of mutual cooperation between the two countries. Both of them were in Geneva to participate in the Asia-Pacific Regional Review Meeting in preparation for the Fifth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in Qatar in January 2022. At the meeting, the issues of bilateral interest as well as multilateral ones were discussed. Szijjarto assured Dr. Momen that the Hungarian government would increase the number of scholarships to Bangladeshi students next year. The issue of operationalization of the Consulate of Hungary also came up at the meeting for discussions. Dr. Momen also co-chaired a session titled 'Structural transformation and resilient infrastructure for sustained economic growth, poverty alleviation and decent work for all' during the ongoing Asia-Pacific Regional Review Meeting of the LDCs together with the Undersecretary of Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Qatar at the UN Headquarters in Geneva.

Over 80 per cent teachers, students and employees of medical education received COVID-19 vaccines and the rests will be vaccinated very soon, Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque came up with the information while visiting Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Comprehensive Licensing Examination-2021 at a government school in the city yesterday. The Minister further said, in an effort to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, the government is planning to vaccinate students below 18 with Pfizer and Moderna jabs. An inter-ministerial meeting will be held today to decide whether the school students will be vaccinated against COVID-19, he added. However, he said, the government has decided to purchase 16.5 crore more COVID-19 vaccines from China and WHO facilities to expedite the countrywide vaccination campaign. These vaccines are expected to arrive in Bangladesh by January next year, he added. He said, Bangladesh will get 2 crore doses of Sinopharm vaccines from China each month, meaning six crore jabs of Sinopharm will arrive in the country within three month.

The Ministry of Education is planning to take classes one day a week after the reopening of schools and colleges on September 12, Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel said this after inaugurating One Stop Emergency Care at Chattogram Medical College Hospital yesterday.

The flight operation between Bangladesh and India under air bubble arrangement will resume today after four months of suspension due to COVID-19 pandemic, a notice issued by Bangladesh Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh-CAAB confirmed the matter yesterday. The air bubble agreement will be in effect until the resumption of scheduled international passenger flights between the two countries, it said.

The entry of air passengers travelling from Bangladesh to Turkey was resumed yesterday, according to the Turkish Embassy in Dhaka. Passengers travelling from Bangladesh will have to submit a negative RT-PCR test result taken within 72 hours before their arrival to Turkey, the Embassy said.

Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur has introduced three dedicated mobile phone numbers to make its services easily available for the expatriate community. All Bangladeshi expatriates living in Malaysia have been informed that the High Commission will take prompt action if any request or information is received through these calls. The phone numbers are-0104303110 (Passport related), 0104303020 (Passport related) and 01126206701 (Labour and Welfare related). Any expatriate Bangladeshi can call from Monday to Friday between 9:00am to 5:00pm to avail themselves of the services, the HC said.

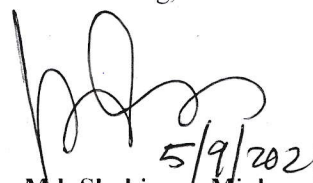
Awami League candidate Habibur Rahman Habib won the Sylhet-3 by-polls in unofficial results received yesterday, beating his nearest rival Jatiya Party's Atikur Rahman Atik by a huge margin. According to unofficial results Habib bagged 89,705 votes in the constituency consisting three upazilas of Dakkhin Surma, Fenchuganj and Balaganj. Atik got only 24,604 votes.

Chief of Bangladesh Army General S M Shafiuddin Ahmed reached India yesterday on a 3-day official visit. During the visit, the Army Chief is scheduled to meet India's National Defense Advisor, Chiefs of defense staff, army, navy, air force, Defense Secretary and other military and government officials.

RAB yesterday arrested four members of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh-JMB, the banned militant outfit, during a drive in Mymensingh. A pistol, a magazine, three bullets, eight bomb-like substances were recovered from them. An engine boat was also seized from them.

Trading Corporation of Bangladesh-TCB started open market sales of key essential items yesterday in order to keep prices within purchasing capacity of the commoners. Through OMS, mainly food items are sold at subsidized rates by the government, according to a press release of the TCB.

The country yesterday recorded 61 fatalities from COVID-19, the lowest corona deaths in the last 82 days, taking the total death toll to 26,493. With 1,743 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,12,026. The positivity rate stood at 9.82 per cent as 17,750 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 14,46,003, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. Besides, a total of 265 dengue patients got admitted in different hospitals across the country in the 24 hours till 8am last morning, DGHS informed.



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