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### News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid will travel to his ancestral home at Mithamoin in Kishoreganj with his younger brother veteran freedom fighter Md. Abdul Hye's dead body, who died from COVID-19 at a Dhaka hospital on July 16. A helicopter carrying the President and the body of Hye will leave the capital at 12pm today. He will join the Namaj-e- Janaja to be held at 2pm.

Bangladesh yesterday recorded 34 more fatalities from the novel coronavirus in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 2,581. At the same time recovery count rose to 1,10,098 after another 1,373 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. Directorate General of Health Services disclosed this at its daily health bulletin. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 2,709 new cases taking the total number of cases to 2,02,066. A total of 10,923 samples were tested at the authorised labs across the country during that time.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while addressing an online press conference yesterday called upon the authorities concerned to bring back the patients' confidence in hospitals ensuring proper medicare environment during the ongoing coronavirus crisis. He said, though the government decided to keep on vehicular operation during the festival, everyone must remain alert to keep themselves safe from being infected by the deadly virus maintaining health guidelines strictly during the Eid journey. Ruling out BNP's allegation to patronizing irregularities Obaidul Quader said, corruption had got an institutional shape with making the soil safe haven of corrupts during the BNP regime. It is natural that those who staged 'Joj Miah' drama during the trial in August 21 grenade attack case will find drama in everything, he said.

As the flood situation continues improving, sporadic incidents of riverbank erosion have been reported from fewer places during the last 24 hours in the Brahmaputra basin. Bangladesh Water Development Board sources said, water levels of major rivers continued to fall during the period though still flowing above the danger marks at 10 monitoring points in five northern districts. Meanwhile, the district administrations have intensified relief activities in flood affected seven northern districts of Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Bogura and Sirajganj in the basin.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Abdur Razzak while virtually speaking at a function organized by Dhanbari Upazila Administration of Tangail yesterday said, the overall preparation is being taken to deal with the damage caused to agriculture in the ongoing flood situation. He said, various steps have been taken to produce more crops in the upcoming Aman and Rabi seasons so that there would be no shortage of food in the country. The Minister also said, the government is intensifying its efforts to develop high quality of potato variety for exporting to different countries. If high-yielding potato variety is developed, we can produce over one crore tonnes of potato in the country, the Minister added. Our annual demand of potato is 60 to 70 lakh tones... we can export the remaining potatoes to foreign markets, he added.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud stating that Bangladesh was born in exchange of bloods of all communities, including Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Christians, has urged all to maintain communal harmony. The Minister made the call while speaking at a views exchange meeting with leaders of all religions at the Rangunia Upazila in Chattogram yesterday. He said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is a non-communal person and under her leadership we have learned how to nurture secularism and how to live together as Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Christians.

Please Turn Over



Railways Minister Md. Nurul Islam Sujon while visiting renovation works in different railway stations near to Dhaka yesterday informed, the number of trains would not be increased during the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha. The Minister also said, currently 17 pairs of passenger trains are running following necessary health guidelines. The same passenger trains will run during the Eid-ul-Azha this year, he added.

Forty-eight power plants with a combined generation capacity of 16,875 megawatts were under construction, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid informed the media yesterday. Another process is underway to sign contracts for 12 power plants with a generation capacity of 2,785 MW, while tender process for six power plants having generation capacity of 650 MW is advancing, he added.

Mongla sea port has achieved a record profit of TK 115 crore 15 lakh 30 thousand in the just concluded 2019-20 fiscal year despite COVID-19 pandemic situation. According to Mogla Port Authority, the import-export trade did not have much impact on the seaport as a total of 903 vessels have berthed at the port which handled one crore 10 lakh tons of goods during the period.

State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury while speaking at the inaugural ceremony of a tree-plantation campaign of AL marking the Mujib Year in Dinajpur yesterday said, Awami League wants a patriotic opposition party which would work for the country's welfare and not work against the state. Alerting against anti-state activities he said, if anyone wants to obstruct any development activities, he or she will be dealt with strong hands.


State Minister for Water Resources Zaheed Farooque finally won the battle against COVID-19. He returned to his Baridhara residence in Dhaka yesterday after his test report came negative in the evening of July 17. Zaheed Farooque was tested corona positive and was admitted to the Combined Military in capital on July 1.

The government has appointed Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) Rear Admiral Mohammad Shaheen Iqbal as the Chief of Bangladesh Navy for three years. The Ministry of Defence issued a gazette notification in this regard yesterday. It also said, the appointment will come into effect on July 25 when Mohammad Shaheen Iqbal will be promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral.

The government decided to implement its earlier decision that all passengers need to show COVID-19 negative certificates tested by the government listed authorised testing centres at the airports before leaving the country from July 23, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh in a circular said yesterday. All intending passengers need to show their passports and air tickets at the testing facilities while giving samples for the corona test.

Regent Group Chairman Mohammad Shahed Karim was found to have kept mark of his evil skills in education and several other sectors apart from health as he is now being quizzed in remand primarily on charges of issuing fake Covid-19 test reports in exchange of money, Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch sources said yesterday. Meanwhile, an extended remand for JKG Health Care Chairman Dr Sabrina Arif Chowdhury on a similar scam is to expire today.

Fahim Saleh's executive assistant Tyrese Devon Haspil has been arrested and charged with the murder of the tech entrepreneur in a Manhattan apartment on Tuesday, said New York City police. Fahim Saleh, tech entrepreneur and co-founder of Bangladesh ride-sharing app Pathao, was found dead at his apartment in New York on July 14.

  
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