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### News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina underscored the need for modernizing the national education framework further to cope with the technology-driven competitive world. The Premier came up with the views while witnessing a power-point presentation on the draft outline of the "National Education Framework" at Ganbhaban yesterday. The Prime Minister said technology is advancing and Bangladesh must move ahead keeping pace with the advancement of the world and technology, and the country's education framework needs to be a time-befitting one. Mentioning that the education framework is being modernized following the policy of the government, Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh must not lag behind as the world is advancing in terms of knowledge, science and technology.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while addressing a press conference on contemporary issues at his residence in the Capital yesterday said, in disguise of patriotism, BNP does not hesitate to sell the independence of the country to assume power. He said, the BNP leaders often talk against India, but the country's people had seen how they bowed down before India in the past. He said the long-pending enclave exchange was completed and the border disputes were resolved for the courageous and diplomatic skills of Sheikh Hasina. The BNP could not resolve any disputes during its era, but built a wall of mistrust between the two neighbours, he said. Greeting Sheikh Rehana, younger daughter of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, on her 67th birthday, the Minister said Sheikh Rehana has inspired her elder sister Sheikh Hasina staying behind the scene.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque asked the agriculture officials and scientists to exploit possibility of agricultural production on vast tract of coastal land in country's Southern region. The Minister made this comment while exchanging views with agricultural department officials of Khulna and Jashore region at Jashore yesterday. State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Swapan Bhattacharjee also spoke on the occasion.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud while talking to the newsmen at Secretariat the Secretariat yesterday informed that his ministry has made the draft of policy on OTT platform. The Minister hoped that his ministry could issue a notification of the policy soon. Referring to a recent meeting with his Indian counterpart in New Delhi, Dr. Hasan said they (India) have issued a notification on February last in this regard. The all OTT platforms of India should have follow the rules and actions would be taken in case of deviation of the policy, he added. He said that his ministry has already been started many works including giving registrations to IP TV and online news portals to bring discipline.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md. Shahab Uddin said, Bangladesh is playing a significant role in the international arena on climate change as the President of the Climate Vulnerability Forum and Vulnerable-20. He said this while Italian Ambassador Enrico Nunziata called on him at the Secretariat yesterday. The minister also sought Italy's cooperation in the areas related to climate change. Inviting the Environment Minister to the 'Youth 4 Climate' event to be held in Italy, the Italian envoy said Italy and Bangladesh would work together in related activities to tackle the effects of climate change.

Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni today said new revised national education curriculum will begin in 2023 to bring a qualitative change in traditional education system to make it an enjoyable one. She disclosed this while speaking at the press conference after presenting the outline of 'draft national curriculum' yesterday. In the revised curriculum, Dr. Dipu Moni said, there will be no subject-based group divisions like science, business studies and humanities from Class IX to X while primary education completion examination in Class V and junior school certificate examination in Class VIII will be withdrawn. She said the new curriculum will put emphasis on lessening students' pressure on textbooks and decreasing students' dependency on memorization.

Foreign Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen has reiterated Bangladesh's call to remove it from the UK's red-listed countries with travel restrictions terming their decision "unfair and discriminatory". He made the remark while talking the journalists at his office in Dhaka yesterday. Referring to the sufferings of more than 7,000 British-Bangladeshis currently stranded in Bangladesh, Dr. Momen said the UK government is doing a disservice to its own citizens. The UK government argued that the vaccination rate is low in Bangladesh but they are allowing people from other countries having lower vaccination rates, he added. He also said Bangladesh has lined up for 24 crore vaccine doses, and over 2.22 crore people have already been vaccinated.

Bangladesh has been one of the top five resilient economies in the world during the coronavirus pandemic. Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal made the remarks quoting surveys by several international organisations while virtually addressing the "Commonwealth Trade and Investment Summit 2021" with the theme "Commonwealth trade: The lever for future prosperity" yesterday. He called for finding out a strong path for recovery in both trade and investment among the Commonwealth countries amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Recalling the farsightedness and firm leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Minister said that Bangabandhu, during his participation at the 20th Summit of the Commonwealth in 1975, had called for ensuring optimum utilization of resources and framing a new economic system for the manpower of the developing economies.

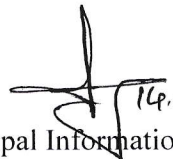
State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak emphasized on technical skills to make the youth society suitable for the future with technical skills. He made the remarks while virtually addressing the inaugural function of an event titled 'Seeds for the Future 2021' yesterday. He said, the government has already digitalized about 1232 services under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and at the directives of her ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy. The government is working to digitize more 800 services by this year (2021), he added.

Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry has taken a decision to keep Compressed Natural Gas filling stations across the country closed for six hours from 5:00pm to 11:00pm daily aimed at keeping smooth supply of gas to power plants, said the official sources of the Ministry.

South Korean company M/s. JD Creation Limited yesterday signed an agreement with Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority to establish a Camping items, Garments, Tent and Garments Accessories manufacturing industry in Mongla EPZ with an investment of US\$ 4.15 million, said a press release.

The country yesterday recorded 41 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the death toll to 26,972. With 1,953 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,32,366. The positivity rate stood at 7.69 percent as 25,388 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 14,82,933, DGHS disclosed this information.

Besides, a total of 321 dengue patients got admitted in different hospitals across the country in the 24 hours till 8 am last morning, DGHS informed.

  
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