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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid yesterday opened the centenary celebrations of Dhaka University at the University's Central Playground, recalling its magnificent role in Bangladesh's political history alongside academic arena in the past one century, and called for upholding its aura in global stage through enhanced education quality. While virtually addressing the function, he further said, Dhaka University's centenary celebrations appeared more significant as it coincided with Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Birth Centenary and Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Bangladesh's Independence. The President, who is also the Chancellor of the university said, the course of time expanded Dhaka University's academic activities and infrastructures while simultaneously it must enhance the education quality so its students could achieve the international standard in their respective fields. Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, among others, took part at the inauguration. Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman moderated the event.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the entrepreneurs to take preparation to face the challenges that Bangladesh is going to face immediately after it turns into a developing nation along with working to ensure economic solvency of the grassroots people for the country's overall development. The Premier said this while virtually opening a 16-day celebration event of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry-FBCCI marking the country's Golden Jubilee of Independence, joining from Ganabhaban yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the demonstrating students to go back to educational institutions relinquishing vandalism, saying vehicles vandalism is not the job of students as law enforcement agencies are chasing the offenders to expose them to punishment. The Prime Minister said this while virtually opening newly installed Mural of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the premise of Bangladesh Shishu Academy and laying foundation stone of Joyeeta Tower in city's Dhanmondi area, at a function held at Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday. Turning to student's death, the Premier said she even was unable to understand the mystery of two deaths by two garbage-laden trucks of South and North Dhaka city corporations. "What's the reason? It has to be dug out who's responsible for this . . . Another point that needs to be ascertained is that whether the persons who were driving the vehicles have the skill to drive," she said. The Prime Minister also briefly highlighted the initiatives for the development of children and women by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman immediately after the independence as well as her government during 1996-2001 and since 2009.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury while addressing the inaugural ceremony of Dhaka University's centenary celebration said, the Dhaka University has been enlightening the people of the country from generation to generation with the light of knowledge as the leading academic institution since its inception. The university has produced hundreds of academicians, researchers and politicians who are enlightened in their field and taking as well as performing responsibilities at different sectors in both national and international arena successfully, she said.

The killing of a student in a road accident in Rampura is not merely an accident because at least 15 buses were set on fire within 10 minutes after spreading of the accident news, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader made the remarks at a seminar on 5G, virtually organized by Awami League's Science and Technology Affairs Sub-Committee yesterday. "It is a question to the conscience of the nation whether it was a repetition of BNP-Jamaat's past violent activities . . . is it a merely an accident or it is a pre-planned incident," he said. Those who were involved in such accidents would be brought to book, he said. He further said, the Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Advisor Sajeeb Wazed Joy will inaugurate the 5G technology services in the country experimentally on December 12. The government's mobile telephone operator Teletalk will run the service, he added.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, a vested quarter is trying to stigmatize the movement of the students. While exchanging views with newsmen at his ministry yesterday, the Minister pointing to the tragic road accident on Monday night said, "Now it is a question that how the facebook page 'Nirapad Sarak Chai' reached the spot only after 12 minutes of the accident and aired live telecast and how Basher Killa, a facebook page of Jamaat, knew the incident only after 15 minutes? And how they torched 10 to 12 vehicles within 15 minutes?" He said, a case was filed and investigation is going on. Legal actions would be taken against the culprits who were involved in the incident. About the treatment of BNP Chief Begum Khaleda Zia, the Minister said, the Premier has shown her unprecedented generosity by extending Begum Khaleda Zia's release from jail. He said, Begum Zia is now undergoing treatment by his preferred doctors and hospital. Besides, the demand of sending Begum Zia abroad is political, not health related, he added.

Dr. Hasan paid tribute to National Professor Rafiqul Islam by placing wreath on his coffin at the premises of the Central Shahid Minar in the capital yesterday State Minister Dr. Md. Murad Hasan and Secretary of the ministry Md. Mokbul Hossain were present there. Floral wreaths were also placed by representatives, on behalf of President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Later National Professor Rafiqul Islam was laid to his eternal rest at the Azimpur graveyard.

Law Minister Anisul Huq has said, Digital archiving, e-Filing management would expedite ensuring access to justice for the people. It would also play a supportive role in lessening the procrastination of cases and keep it at a tolerable level, he said while inaugurating Digital Archiving and e-Filing management systems at the Supreme Court yesterday with State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak in the chair. Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain attended the function as the Chief Guest.

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase-CCGP in a virtual meeting yesterday with Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal in the chair approved a total of 13 proposals, including a proposal under which the public works of package no PESSCM-1/W1 under the project for installation of sewerage system of Chattogram metropolis will be done by South Korean company TAEYOUNG Engineering & Construction Company Ltd with around Taka 2,877.94 crore. Along with other proposals, the meeting approved two proposals from the Ministry of Shipping under which BIWTA would procure two 28" cutter suction dredgers, vessels and ancillary equipments from Karnaphuli Ship Builders Limited, Chattogram with each set costing around Taka 189.35 crore. The day's meeting also approved two separate proposals from the Ministry of Industries under which Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation would procure 25,000 tons of rock phosphate from Jordan with around Taka 58.88 crore while the BCIC would procure 30,000 tons of bulk granular urea fertilizer from Saudi Arabia with around Taka 244.67 crore.

Earlier, the CCEA meeting chaired by the Finance Minister approved a proposal for procuring 11 aerial platform ladders, rescue items, primary treatment accessories, personal safety gears, vests, raincoats, hard hats, gum boots, life jackets under Direct Procurement Method under the third phase of the project for collecting emergency equipments for conducting search and rescue drives during earthquakes and in other disasters. After the CCGP and the CCEA meetings, the Finance Minister at a briefing said, the government is always prepared to face any kind of disastrous situation even if the new COVID-19 variant Omicron hits the country.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has discouraged Bangladeshi expatriates those are residing in South Africa and its neighboring countries to travel here at this moment if it's no emergency. Dr. Momen was talking at a media briefing at his ministry yesterday on the World Peace Conference to be held in Dhaka from December 4-5. He added, a message has already been sent from Dhaka to Bangladesh Missions in South Africa and its neighboring countries to discourage travels by the Bangladeshis at this moment due to outbreak of the new Omicron variant of coronavirus in that zone. If anyone needs to come home due to an emergency from those countries, he or she will have to undergo a 14-day mandatory institutional quarantine, Dr. Momen said. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam and Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen were also present there.

Japan will provide all sorts of cooperation to Bangladesh in setting up new fertilizer factory and automobile factory, Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Ito Naoki this while meeting with Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun at the latter's ministry yesterday. The Minister drew the attention of the ambassador to make specific proposals by identifying areas for bilateral cooperation in the industrial sector. Besides, Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh Winnie Estrup Petersen paid a courtesy call on the Industries Minister and discussed bilateral issues.

Prime Minister's ICT Advisor Sajeeb Wazed Joy in a message shared on his verified Facebook page on the first day of the month of victory, urged all to join hands in building "Sonar Bangla (Golden Bengal)" envisioned by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. As the month of victory rolls on, Joy said, it reminds the nation of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the greatest Bengali ever on the planet, and the three million martyrs of the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. "We also pay tribute to the four national leaders whose dynamic leadership and uncompromising stance drove out even the last soldier of the heinous Pakistani Army and thus paved the path for hoisting the red and green flag of Bangladesh." Joy said. He said, December imbues their hearts with pride. "From the deepest core of my heart, I commemorate all the freedom fighters - the best souls of our nation - whose boundless sacrifice blessed us with free and sovereign Bangladesh." Joy said this 50th year of victory marks another landmark and they have transitioned from the lower-income status to the middle-income one.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram K Doraiswami has reiterated his country's position regarding the killings along the Bangladesh-India border stating that it is a tragedy but it needs to be defined correctly. Both sides need to have much stronger efforts to address the complex issue looking at why people are carrying out illegal activities, including human trafficking, and find ways for closer cooperation, he said. Doraiswami was addressing a dialogue titled "50 Years of Bangladesh-India Partnership: Towards a Journey in the Next 50 Years" yesterday organized by the Centre for Policy Dialogue in collaboration with the Research and Information System for Developing Countries, India.

India has decided not to resume commercial international passenger services from December 15 in the wake of emerging global threat of the new COVID-19 variant 'Omicron', a circular issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation-DGCA of India confirmed yesterday.

After a 7-month delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Higher Secondary Certificate-HSC and its equivalent examinations for the academic session 2020-21 begin today, maintaining health protocols. Some 13,99,690 students are expected to take the HSC and equivalent examinations this year.

Expatriate Bangladeshis sent around US\$ 1,553.70 million remittances during the month of November in the fiscal 2021-22, the Bangladesh Bank data said.

The country yesterday recorded 02 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the total death toll to 27,983. With 282 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,76,566. The positivity rate stood at 1.50 per cent as 18,851 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,41,348, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday.


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