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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid urged the member countries of the European Union to take Bangladesh's economic growth and geopolitical situation into consideration in formulating their policies. The President came up with the call as EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Rensje Teerink paid a farewell call on him at Bangabhaban yesterday. The Head of the State said the EU is one of the development partners of Bangladesh and its cooperation in various fields. On forcibly displaced Rohingya from Rakhine state of Myanmar, the President hoped that the EU would continue to put pressure on Myanmar to end the repatriation issue.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina renewed her call to the people to be more economical in using electricity to repay the best of government's huge subsidy to power generation. The Premier made this call while inaugurating five power plants through a videoconferencing from Ganabhaban yesterday. The Premier said her government has diversified the power generation system and engaged the private sector in power generation alongside the government. The Prime Minister also highlighted her government's long-term plans such as Perspective Plan, Vision-2041, and Delta Plan-2100 to turn Bangladesh into a developed country and hoped that generation to generation will take the country forward with this pace of uplift following the plans. The five power plants are 400-MW Combined Cycle Power Plant Bibiyana-3 in Habiganj, up-gradation of 150-MW Power Plant to 225-MW Combined Cycle Power Plant in Sylhet, 100-MW Power Plant Unit-2 at Zulda in Chattogram, 104-MW Power Plant at Meghnaghat in Narayanganj and 100-MW Power Plant at Madhumoti in Bagerhat. Sheikh Hasina also unveiled the cover of a publication titled "100" on the occasion of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has provided Taka 15 crore for the healthcare services of the country's common people, cancelling the allocation of vehicle procurement for her office giving utmost importance to public health in the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Prime Minister's office sources informed yesterday.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader asked the officials concerned to accelerate the ongoing works of roads and bridges to cover up the sluggishness in works during the coronavirus crisis. He gave the directives while addressing the inaugural ceremony of nine bridges in Dhaka zone followed by view exchange joining it virtually yesterday. He expressed his optimism that Padma Bridge, metro-rail, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel beneath Karnaphuli river in Chattogram and Bus Rapid Transit in Dhaka will be inaugurated in the next year.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque while addressing a farmers' rally in Dumuria upazila in Khulna yesterday said, there is huge potential for agricultural production in the saline lands of the coastal and southern parts of the country. He said, work is underway to rapidly expand these varieties and production technologies among all farmers in the vast coastal areas. A roadmap is being prepared for this purpose, he said, adding that if the farmers cultivate these crops, a new agricultural revolution will take place in the saline-prone areas of the southern sides of the country.

Law Minister Anisul Huq while talking to the media yesterday said, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia must return to jail for submitting a fresh application seeking permission to go abroad for treatment. Anisul Huq also said his ministry has already given an opinion for extending further by six months the suspension of Khaleda's jail sentences following an application submitted by her family to the government.

Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni after visiting Azimpur Government Girls School and College on the first day of school reopening yesterday said, stern action will be taken against the authorities if any institution found violating health guidelines and instructions provided by the government. Later, the Minister visited the Kala Bagan Lake Circus School to inspect the overall preparation of the institution. However, she expressed her dissatisfaction after finding some unused places dirty and untidy. Meanwhile, State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Md. Zakir Hossain visited Motijheel Ideal Government Primary School at 11am to inspect the overall preparations of the school for starting educational activities.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen sought Russian support in early repatriation of forcefully displaced persecuted Rohingya from Bangladesh to their land of origin in Rakhine state of Myanmar. He made the urge while newly appointed Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh Alexander Vikentyevich Mantyskiy called on him at his ministry yesterday. Welcoming the new envoy, Dr Momen expected that the Russian foreign minister would visit Bangladesh to attend the inauguration of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in 2023. As the Russian Ambassador proposed to celebrate 50-year diplomatic ties between Bangladesh and Russia together, Dr Momen said that the two countries could chalk out the joint programme marking the milestone.

Planning Minister MA Mannan while addressing a function marking the inauguration of Technical Training Center at Sunamganj yesterday said, the government has a plan to set up technical training centers at all upazilas in the country in phases. He also urged all irrespective of class and creed to work for development so that the country could stand in the global arena with its head high. Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmed also spoke at the function.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun said, Bangladesh will be able to reach up to 40% contribution to GDP after formulating a new industrial policy. He said this while addressing a virtual discussion on "Private Sector Expectation in the Proposed National Industrial Policy-2021" arranged by Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry yesterday. He noted that coordinated efforts are needed to implement the one-stop service of BIDA.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque said, recruitment of 409 anesthesiologists in six-grade is a milestone progress considering the COVID-19 situation in the country. While addressing a function on the occasion of the newly recruited junior consultants (Anesthesiology) in the city yesterday, he urged the newly recruited anesthesiologists to serve the common people in remote areas with utmost dedication and sincerity.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi expressed his optimism that European Union will continue to provide trade facilities in Bangladesh, even after the country's graduation to Least Developed Country in 2026. He made the remarks while exchanging views with the EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Rensje Teerink in Dhaka yesterday. Teerink said, Bangladesh is an important trading partner of European Union. In the field of trade, the EU attaches great importance to Bangladesh. The trade facilities of the European Union given to Bangladesh will continue, she added.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister S M Rezaul Karim while speaking at the native fish-fry release-ceremony at Mithamoin Haor in Kishoreganj yesterday said, a comprehensive plan has been taken for the development of fisheries in the haor area. He said, public awareness should be raised so that no one dumps plastic or other wastes in the haor as fisheries are severely damaged due to plastics or other wastes.

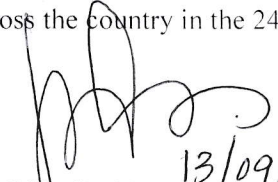
State Minister for Power Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid has advised the authorities concerned to make a customer friendly electric vehicle free recharging policy as EVs will dominate the future transport sector. While speaking at a virtual meeting on Guidelines for Electric Vehicle Recharging in the city yesterday, he also said the location of recharging stations, the types of the vehicles and other issues should be bought under considerations while framing a policy guideline for recharging electric vehicles.

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Murad Hassan said, conspirators will never get a place in the ruling Awami League. While speaking at a meeting at Sarishabari upazila in Jamalpur yesterday, he also added, all those believed in the spirit of Liberation War must work together to build a hunger-free Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Investment Development Authority with support from International Finance Corporation will host the Bangladesh International Investment Summit 2021 on 28-29 November. A press conference was held marking the official announcement of the event alongside the logo and website unveiling ceremony at BIDA Multipurpose Hall in Dhaka yesterday. Salman F Rahman, the Private Industry and Investment Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister, was present as the chief guest of the summit declaration.

The country yesterday recorded 51 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the death toll to 26,931. With 1,871 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,30,413. The positivity rate stood at 7.46 per cent as 25,074 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 14,78,421, DGHS disclosed this information.

Besides, a total of 319 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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