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### News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has asked all concerned to make more films like "Chiranjib Mujib" to spread the ideals, life and works of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman among the new generation. He also underscored the need for highlighting the true history of Bangabandhu and Bangladesh through films so that the new generation could learn about the political discernment of Bangabandhu. The President made the remarks after enjoying the screening of the full-length film "Chiranjib Mujib" based on 'The Unfinished Memoirs' of the Father of the Nation at Bangabhaban last evening.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, the unanimous adoption of the resolution in the UN General Assembly-UNGA on graduation of Bangladesh to a developing nation from the LDC category on November 24 last, is a great achievement and 'rare honor' for the country as it is achieved at a moment when the nation is celebrating the "Mujib Borsho" and golden jubilee of the country's independence. While delivering her valedictory speech in the 15th session of the 11th Parliament yesterday, the PM highlighting various measures taken for the overall development of Bangladesh, said that a study of a Britain based organization, Centre for Economic and Business Research, said that Bangladesh would be the 23rd largest economy of the globe. She said that the size of Bangladesh economy is US\$411 billion, its poverty rate has reduced to 20.5 per cent from 40 per cent while the GDP increased to 8 per cent which is has reduced to 5.43 per cent due the COVID-19 pandemic. The growth is the highest in South Asia, she added. The per-capita income of the Bangladeshi people has increased to US\$2554, the Premier informed.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has invited investors of the world to come up with investment in Bangladesh, saying her country is ready to provide all policy support for creating investment-friendly environment. The Premier was addressing the opening ceremony of two-day International Investment Summit-2021, Bangladesh organized by Bangladesh Investment Development Authority-BIDA in a city hotel, joining virtually from Ganabhaban yesterday. As a result of confidence in Bangladesh, more than 60 per cent of foreign direct investment is coming through reinvestment, she mentioned. The PM highlighting the different policies adopted by her government for the growth of the export-oriented industry, added that the government has built 39 high-tech parks and is building 100 economic zones, "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Industrial City" in Mirsarai, Sonagazi, and Sitakunda Upazilas while Japanese Economic Zone in Araihaazar has already counted investment proposals of US\$ 1 billion. The government has enacted the "Bangladesh Public Private Partnership Act, 2015" and established the Public Private Partnership Authority, formulated the "Bangladesh Investment Development Authority Act, 2016" and established BIDA for providing One-Stop Service, she added. Pointing out that Bangladesh is now the "Role Model" of development in the world, the PM added, it has received the "SDG Progress Award". Due to the government's endeavor, the increased investment in FY 2000-2001 stands at US\$ 816 million. Where only US\$ 286 million was in the 1995-96 fiscal year, the PM mentioned.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a message on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, has reaffirmed Bangladesh's position for the establishment of a sovereign, independent and viable state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital. She said, Bangladesh's unflinching support to the Palestinian people was shaped by the powerful dictum of our Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Nevertheless, the country's Constitution enshrines Bangladesh's principled position to stand by the 'oppressed peoples throughout the world waging a just struggle against imperialism, colonialism or racialism, she said. She also urged the international community to work in unison to find a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the Palestinian crisis.

The Saudi Arabia government has shown interest to invest in the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar and Jashore-Khulna highway four-lane upgradation projects, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader revealed this after a meeting with a Saudi delegation, led by Transport and Logistic Service Minister of Saudi Arabia Engineer Saleh Nasser A Al-Jasser, met him at his Sangsad Bhaban office yesterday. He said, the Saudi Minister also showed interest to invest in other potential areas of Bangladesh. The Minister while talking to newsmen said, BNP believes in the politics of creating confusion among people. About the comment of BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir that Awami League snatched away the country's ownership from the people, he said, AL believes by heart that the people are the owner of the country and that ownership remains in the hand of people.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, BNP wants to send Begum Zia abroad in the name of her illness as she can do politics there illegally like Tarique Rahman. BNP's demand is political, not Khaleda Zia's health related, he said. The Minister was addressing the triennial conference of 10 units of ward-10 of Darus Salam thana of Awami League Dhaka city North unit in front of Mirpur Shaheed Buddhijibi Smritishowdha yesterday. After the program, the Minister replying to a query of newsmen over half pass of students at buses said, the



Prime Minister is sympathetic to the students and for this the Premier has halved the fare of the BRTC buses. "...I hope that the bus owners will take positive steps in this issue," he added.

Law Minister Anisul Huq while replying to a BNP lawmaker's call in the Parliament for sending Begum Khaleda Zia abroad under section 406 of the CrPC, declaring her residence as sub-jail said, Begum Khaleda Zia is not in government custody as she has been freed on condition after suspension of her jail sentence. The Minister moved the Bangladesh Supreme Court Judges (Remuneration and Privileges) bill, 2021 in the JS and it got passed.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has called for investment at various wings of blue economy putting special emphasis on mariculture as 88 per cent of the country's fishing zone is still untapped. The Minister was speaking at the business session titled 'Blue Economy: Discover the Future' of the International Investment Summit 2021 Bangladesh as the Session Chair in the capital yesterday. The present government has taken the Blue Economy issue with great importance, he said adding that nine maritime economic functions have been identified including fishery, maritime trade and shipping, energy and marine tourism while the government has adopted a 'Blue Economy Development Work Plan'.

Japan would always stand by Bangladesh and continue its cooperation for the further development of the country in future, the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, HONDA Taro sent the message on the occasion of International Investment Summit Bangladesh 2021. ITO Naoki, Ambassador of Japan in Dhaka, read out the special message from HONDA Taro during the opening session yesterday. Pointing to COVID-19 pandemic, Taro said, under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the outbreak is now under control. Not only that, even in the midst of the Corona pandemic, Bangladesh has achieved a remarkable economic recovery among countries in South Asia, he added. The Japanese Vice-Minister terming Bangladesh's economic and social development over the past 10 years as a "miracle" said, "I'm convinced that the government's policy of always listening to the voices of the people, with the pledge to become a developed country by 2041, will surely contribute to the country's prosperity."

Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Advisor Salman Fazlur Rahman, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Transport and Logistics Saleh Nasser Al-Jasser, among others, spoke at the opening session of the Summit. Video messages of Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles Shri Piyush Goyal, Chinese Vice Minister for Commerce Ren Hongbin, World Economic Forum Managing Director Jeremy Jurgens, Regional Vice President for Asia and Pacific of International Finance Corporation Alfonso Garcia Mora and President Consumer Durables of Koc Holding AS Turkey and Chairman of Singer Bangladesh Dr. Fatih Kemal Ebiclioglu were played. BIDA Executive Chairman Md Sirazul Islam delivered the welcome address.

Buses plying on the city roads without route permits will be seized from December 1, Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh came up with the strong warning while talking to journalists after holding a meeting of the Bus Route Rationalization Committee at the Nagar Bhaban yesterday. He also pledged for implementing bus route rationalization activities overcoming the non-cooperation of bus owners and other obstacles. Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Md. Atiqul Islam joined the meeting.

Bangladesh has adopted six strategies to foster the economy towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution-4IR. According to the papers presented at Bangladesh Investment Summit yesterday, the strategies cover areas including artificial intelligence, robotics, the internet of things, blockchain, micro processor and cyber security. The information was shared at a seminar titled '4IR: New avenues for innovative investment' at the summit. State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak attended the seminar.

The Meghalaya state unit of India's National Congress held a discussion in the state's capital Shillong on Saturday to mark the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh Liberation War 1971, as part of month-long programs announced by the Indian National Congress last month to commemorate the event in all state capitals of India. The month-long program started on November 16 and will be culminated in a national program in New Delhi on December 16, the Victory Day of Bangladesh. Representatives from Bangladesh government will be invited to attend the program, Congress sources said. In Shillong, Congress leader and Convener of Bangladesh Liberation War Commemoration Committee of the AICC Captain Praveen Davar took part in the discussion.

The National Technical Advisory Committee-NTAC at a meeting yesterday placed four-point recommendations to prevent the highly contagious new African COVID-19 variant named 'Omicron'. The committee recommended to issue travel ban with those countries, where a new variant Omicron was detected and to ensure 14 days institutional quarantine of Passengers, who have recent travel history in those countries infected by the new variant. It said to strengthen the screening at all gateways including air, land and waterways alongside improving the healthcare system and limiting public gatherings and to conduct COVID-19 test at free of cost for encouraging the people to receive testing facilities to halt outbreak of the new variant.

The country yesterday recorded 03 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the total death toll to 27,978. With 205 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,75,784. The positivity rate stood at 1.03 per cent as 19,811 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,40,317, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday.

  
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