

PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH DHAKA

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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has urged the world leaders to work for ending discriminations based on race, faith, color, religion and ethnicity and ensuring equal opportunities for all. He made the call while inaugurating the two-day 'World Peace Conference-2021', that kicked off yesterday as part of the ongoing celebration of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's Independence. Referring to the birth of Bangladesh before 50 years, the President said, Bangladesh emerged as an independent state by dint of supreme sacrifice of about three million people under the leadership of founding Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in this December in 1971. Soon after the independence, Bangabandhu, a fervent advocate of peace, introduced a constitution that guarantees basic human rights of all its citizens, ensures promotion of international peace, security, and solidarity, he said mentioning Bangladesh's foreign policy "Friendship to all, malice towards none. The Head of the State further said, as recognition of Bangabandhu's contribution to establishing peace, the World Peace Council awarded Julio-Curie Peace Prize to Bangabandhu in 1973 for being a symbol of world peace. At the UNGA in 1974, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman outlined his vision for building peaceful, just and inclusive societies around the world and highlighted how global inequities and injustices are the real threats to international peace, he added. Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury chaired the inaugural session while six guest speakers including Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, virtually and in person spoke at the inaugural session. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen also spoke there.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to virtually open the 8-day long National SME Fair 2021 that begins in the city today at Bangabandhu International Convention Centre. The SME foundation is organizing the annual event to help small and medium entrepreneurs promote market that was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. On the occasion, President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages.

A political party is instigating students to take to the street. Legal actions will be taken against the instigators by scrutinizing video footages, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader warned this while addressing a BRTA program on road safety and mass-awareness raising at Manik Miah Avenue yesterday. He questioned why movement is being staged at midnight even after the students' demand for road safety and half fare in buses have been accepted and why any incident is quickly being spread live on facebook page of Basher Kella. The Minister urged the students, waging movement, to go back to their respective campuses and concentrate on their studies as they have already faced a huge loss in their academic life due to coronavirus pandemic. Pointing to BNP leaders, the Minister said their leader was the mastermind of the brutal assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15 in 1975. Bangladesh was run with the Pakistani communal ideology until Awami League assumed office in 1996, he said. He said Khaleda, who is a convict, has been given the permission to stay home on humanitarian ground and she is getting the highest treatment. The government has no objection if any specialist physician is brought here from abroad for her treatment, he said.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, BNP should express gratitude as the government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has shown generosity over Khaleda Zia's issue saying that Khaleda's staying out of imprisonment with domestic help without acquittal was unprecedented in the sub-continent. He was responding to a query over a comment of the BNP Secretary General prior to participating in the function of Bangladesh-Russia 50 year's diplomatic relations held on Chittagong Club premises yesterday. "If the same situation happened in the case of Sheikh Hasina, could Khaleda have shown such types of gestures?" Dr. Hasan questioned. BNP's demand to send Khaleda Zia abroad is politically purposeful, he said. He observed when the politics of a party is limited with the health of its leader, that party can never be a party for the countrymen. Russian Ambassador Alexander Mantytskiy, Assistant Indian High Commissioner Anindya Banerjee and Honorary Consul Generals of the Russian Confederation, among others, addressed the function.

Implementation of the resolution "Culture of Peace" placed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the UN proposing to create a mindset of tolerance and respect towards others could bring sustainable peace across nations, Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen made the remarks at the inaugural session of the 'World Peace Conference' yesterday. Following Bangabandhu's path, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resolved most of critical issues of Bangladesh with its neighbors like land boundary demarcation, maritime boundary and water sharing through peaceful means, he said. The PM allowed nearly 1,76,000 of the country's men and women to work as UN peacekeepers in many missions abroad, he said, adding Bangladesh is a brand-name in the UN peacekeeping. Urging all to join the campaign for spreading the messages of peace across the globe, Dr. Momen said, "We have to rise to the occasion and walk together in partnership and collaboration to end venom of hatred, ignorance and violence across nations."

Bangladesh has now become a 'role model' of development under the dynamic and farsighted leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Social Welfare Minister Nuruzzaman Ahmed said this while speaking on the 4th day of the 16-day

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gala celebration organized by the FBCCI at the Hatirjheel Amphitheatre in the capital yesterday. State Minister for Cultural Affairs K M Khalid also addressed the function.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the inspiration of the oppressed, exploited, deprived, and liberation-seeking people of the world, State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Md. Murad Hassan said this while addressing a discussion at Bakshiganj Upazila in Jamalpur district yesterday. He further said that in the general election of 1970, the boat symbol of Bangladesh Awami League under the leadership of Father of the Nation got 64 per cent of the votes. The remaining 36 per cent of voters were outside the Awami League and they were Razakars and their cohorts, he said, adding that the successors of those Razakars are still living in Bangladesh, and are constantly hatching new conspiracies. "We have to stop their conspiracy under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," he added.

Thailand and Bangladesh aimed to increase trade volume to US\$ 2 billion shortly. Both sides are working closely and actively to facilitate more trade and achieve the target, Thai Ambassador to Bangladesh Makawadee Sumitmor said this in a message on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand and the birth anniversary of King Bhumibol Adulyadej that falls on December 5 (today). A bilateral free trade agreement-FTA with Bangladesh is under consideration while more cost-effective sea transport routes between the Andaman coast of Thailand and the Bay of Bengal are being explored, the Ambassador said.

The bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and Maldives is better than ever, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Maldives Mohammad Nazmul Hasan said this while talking to newsmen at the Bangladesh High Commission office in the Hulhumale area of the Maldives. He also said that discussions were underway with the Maldivian government to regularize the illegal Bangladeshis. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina may visit the Maldives this month, he said. During the Premier's visit, the development of trade between the two countries, the regularization of Bangladeshi irregular expatriates, and some other economic issues will get priority, he added.

Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam, now in the USA on an official visit, has highlighted the importance of post-graduation support measures for Bangladesh in high-level meetings with UN officials. The Cabinet Secretary is leading a two-member delegation to exchange views with the UN leaderships and experts on the graduation of Bangladesh from the LDC category. During the visit, the Cabinet Secretary held fruitful meetings with President of the UNGA Abdullah Shahid, President of the Economic and Social Council-ECOSOC Collen Vixen Kelapile, Under Secretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), Courtenay Rattray and an expert team of the Committee for Development Policy led by Secretary of the Committee Roland Mollerus. The Cabinet Secretary also addressed all officers of the Bangladesh Permanent Mission and provided important directives on the priorities of the government. The Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN Ambassador Rabab Fatima accompanied him during the meetings.

The 58th death anniversary of the champion of democracy and one of the greatest leaders of undivided India, Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy is being observed in the country today. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the eve of the day, paying rich tributes to the memory of Suhrawardy.

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association-BGMEA yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the BRAC Social Compliance program to safeguard (gender-based violence and workplace harassment prevention) garment workers. The MoU aims to improve the awareness level of the factory managers and workers regarding preventing, reporting, and taking actions against gender-based violence and workplace harassment in the factories, a press release said.

Rampal Power Plant will go into production very soon, Secretary of Power Division of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Md. Habibur Rahman said this while visiting the Rampal Power Plant in Bagerhat district yesterday.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in separate condolence messages, expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of former Noakhali district Awami League President Mohammad Hanif, who passed away yesterday in his own residence in the capital at the age of 83.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a condolence message, expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of Advocate Golam Hasnain, one of the members of the Constitution formulation committee, and former member of Gana Parishad. Golam Hasnain breathed his last at his residence yesterday at the age of 92.

The World Soil Day-2021 is being observed in the country today with the theme "Halt soil salinization, boost soil Productivity". President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the occasion.

The country yesterday recorded 06 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the total death toll to 27,995. With 176 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,77,246. The positivity rate stood at 1.07 per cent as 16,428 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,42,048, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. Some 53 dengue patients got hospitalized in the 24 hours till 8.00am last morning DGHS informed.

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