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News Brief

The Month of Victory begins today. On December 16, 1971, Bangladesh was liberated from the Pakistani occupation forces after a nine-month-long bloodstained Liberation War and the supreme sacrifices of three million people and the honor of two lac women. Different socio-political, educational and cultural institutions and organizations have chalked out various programs to celebrate the nation's great victory that was achieved under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stressing the need for enhancing connectivity between Bangladesh and India to boost bilateral trade and commerce said, the rail communication on Akhaura-Agartala route should be reopened. The Premier said this while Indian High Commissioner here Vikram Kumar Doraiswami called on her at Ganabhaban yesterday. The PM said, the relations between Bangladesh and India has reached a new height. Doraiswami informed the Premier that Indian President will visit Bangladesh to join the Victory Day celebration marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Golden Jubilee of the Independence. The High Commissioner handed over a very rare photograph of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman taken in 1972 where he was seen taking one security person to his home for having lunch with him. He also handed over a pen drive comprising some audios and videos alongside some newspaper clippings. Indian Deputy High Commissioner to Bangladesh Binoy George was present at the mment.

The United Nations would provide continuous support to Bangladesh on Rohingya issue, UN Resident Coordinator here Mia Seppo said this while paying a farewell call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganabhaban yesterday. During the meeting, the Premier said, Rohingyas were sheltered in Bangladesh on humanitarian ground, but they are now creating social problem. The Premier said, "The Rohingyas should return to their country." Referring to a resolution adopted by the ASEAN on Rohingya issue, the Prime Minister said, the ASEAN has sent a good message to Myanmar through adopting the resolution. The PM also opined that the NGO's which are working in Bangladesh can do their parts for the Rohingyas in their homeland. During the meeting, they have also discussed about the COVID-19, Climate Change and Women Empowerment.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would inaugurate a mural of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the premises of Bangladesh Shishu Academy and lay the foundation stone of Joyita Tower construction project in Dhanmondi, Dhaka this morning virtually joining from Ganabhaban.

Dhaka University, the highest echelon of academic excellence, would start celebrating its hundredth founding anniversary and the golden jubilee of the country's independence through a 16-day grand celebration program beginning from today. President Md. Abdul Hamid is expected to inaugurate the opening ceremony as the Chief Guest. On the occasion, President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages, urged the Dhaka University students to play an important role from their respective positions to build a poverty-and hunger-free 'Sonar Bangladesh' with their knowledge, merit, wisdom and innovativeness.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate condolence messages, expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of Swadhinata Padak and Ekushey Padak winning National Professor, Bangla Academy Chairman and noted scholar Rafiqul Islam, who passed away at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 87. The President in his message said, the death of Professor Rafiqul Islam is an irreparable loss to country's education system. The Premier, expressing grief at the death of her teacher National Professor Rafiqul Islam said, the professor will ever remain alive as a shining star in Bangla literature and research.

The 'Bangladesh-WICCI Award' will inspire women entrepreneurs to work with more enthusiasm, Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said this while speaking at the award distribution function organized by Bangladesh-India Business Council of Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BIBC-WICCI) at a city hotel yesterday. Law Minister Anisul Huq and Prime Minister's Industry Affairs Advisor Salman Fazlur Rahman, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Kumar Doraiswami, among others, attended the program.

Awami League is not responsible for the legal complications created over the treatment of BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia abroad, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader made the remark while speaking at a meeting with the party leaders at AL President's political office in city's Dhanmondi area yesterday. Khaleda was sued during the caretaker government and she was convicted in cases. So, she has to abide by the law, he said. He further said, despite attempts to kill Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, arrangements have been made showing the utmost humanity to Khaleda Zia so that she can stay at her home. Turning to UP polls, he said, the BNP men are getting involved in violence shouldering on the AL rebel candidates. He also announced the AL's Victory Day program at the meeting.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque speaking at a review meeting of the ministry's ADP yesterday, asked the field-level officials of the ministry to beef up monitoring and supervision so that none can manipulate price and distribution of fertilizer at farmers-level. He added, the country has adequate stock of fertilizer. Although fertilizer price has increased three times in the international market, the government would not increase its price, he said.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, the Digital Security Act-DSA is for ensuring digital security of all people of the country. While virtually addressing a seminar on 'Fact and Impact of Digital Security Act' organized by a non-government organization, at a city hotel yesterday, the Minister further said, digital issue is now a reality and many

countries have enacted such act, including India and Pakistan. The acts also exist in Singapore, Australia and other European countries, he added. Pointing to the rapid expansion of internet service, social platform users and online newspapers during the tenure of the incumbent government, the Minister said, people are facing different obstacles and different crimes are taking place through online. Referring to the Ramu and Durga Puja incidents, held for spreading propaganda through social platforms, the Minister said, there is no scope of spreading confusion of the act. The government remains alert so that none can misuse the act, he added. State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak presided over the meeting.

Law Minister Anisul Huq has called upon the eligible persons to pay tax and thus contribute to the country's development and standing beside people. The Minister was addressing a seminar at the NBR Bhaban in the capital's Segunbagicha area yesterday. The Minister said, the amount of direct tax is increasing day to day while there is no alternative for it in moving forward the country. "We'll have to boost revenue generation in materializing the goal of Vision 2041," he said.

Dhaka will adopt a 'peace declaration' at the 'World Peace Conference' to be held here from December 4 and 5, expecting a gathering of peace activists from more than 90 countries, Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen made the remark while inaugurating a friendly T10 cricket match at Moulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium in the capital yesterday marking the World Peace conference. Bangladesh is hosting the conference marking the Brith Centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and 50 years celebration of the country's independence. Dr. Momen said, Bangabandhu had been struggling for establishing global peace throughout his life as he believed that 'peace is imperative for the development'.

France has donated 2.06 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine to Bangladesh following a pledge made during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent visit to Paris. French Ambassador to Bangladesh Jean-Marin Schuh handed over the vaccine doses to Dr. Momen and Health Minister Zahid Maleque at a ceremony at state guesthouse Padma yesterday. Sweden would also donate 5.30 lac doses of AstraZeneca vaccine to Bangladesh soon, Dr. Momen informed.

India has removed Bangladesh from its red list so that Bangladesh nationals can enter its territory without taking additional measures at airport. Indian High Commission informed this, Dr. Momen said in a message to media yesterday.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun urged the United Nations Industrial Development Organization-UNIDO to mobilize green and innovative technologies for the countries in transition as he attended the high-level opening ceremony of the 19th General Conference of UNIDO virtually on Monday. While highlighting the rapid industrial development of Bangladesh in recent years, he expressed his confidence that under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh is well on track to be a knowledge-based developed country by 2041. Presidents of Madagascar, Rwanda, Kenya, the Prime Minister of Tunisia, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, among others, participated at the event and delivered speeches.

The Greek labor market is going to be opened for Bangladeshi workers as the concerned governments are mulling over the issue. It was disclosed after a formal meeting between Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmad and Minister of Migration and Asylum of Greece Notis Mitarachi in Athens on Monday. A memorandum of understanding was signed between Bangladesh and Greece on safe migration and repatriation of workers from Bangladesh.

A 13-member delegation of Turkey-Bangladesh Business Council led by its Chairperson Hulya Gedi held a view exchange meeting with leaders of Chattogram Chamber of Commerce and Industries-CCCI at World Trade Center yesterday. CCCI President Mahbulul Alam said, Bangladesh government is providing various benefits including tax holidays for foreign investment, adding that Chattogram is emerging as an ideal place for investment through infrastructure development. He said that government is working relentlessly to ensure one stop service in Mirsarai Economic Zone. He hoped that Turkish entrepreneurs can take all the opportunities and would set up an industrial factory in Bangabandhu Industrial City. Hulya Gedi highlighting the immense potential of Bangladesh said, there was a great deal of interest from Turkish investors in Bangladesh's infrastructure, renewable energy, ICT, steel, engineering, education and other sectors.

Narayanganj City Corporation-NCC will go for elections on January 16, Election Commission Secretary Md. Humayun Kabir Khandaker announced this yesterday.

South Korea has donated eight units of ambulances and 100 units of oxygen generator to Bangladesh to support the country's efforts for overcoming the corona pandemic. Korean Ambassador in Dhaka Lee Jang-keun yesterday handed over the ambulances and generators, donated through KOICA to Director General of the DGHS Professor Abdul Bashar Khurshid Alam in the capital while KOICA's Country Director Doh Young-Ah was present.

DP World, a Dubai-based multinational logistics company, will invest US\$1 billion in Bangladesh's supply chain infrastructure, including ports, rail network and inland container terminals, media reported. This is within the scope of the government-to-government agreement entered into in 2019 for public-private participation on infrastructure projects. The assurance came when a high-level delegation of the Bangladesh government led by State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, visited Jebel Ali Free Zone and the Jebel Ali Port in Dubai on 21-23 November.

Public transport owners have decided to take half fare from students in Dhaka from today. General Secretary of Road Transport Owners' Association Khandaker Enayet Ullah told a press conference at the city's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Students must show ID cards of their respective schools or colleges while paying half fare, he said.

The National Board of Revenue-NBR has extended the deadline for submission of income tax returns by another one month up to December 31, following request from the various concerned stakeholders.

The country yesterday recorded single fatality from COVID-19, taking the total death toll to 27,981. With 273 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,76,284. The positivity rate stood at 1.38 per cent as 19,802 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,40,965, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday.


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