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News Brief

Taking part in the dialogue with President Md. Abdul Hamid yesterday, Jatiya Party led by its chairman Anwar Hossain Manju, MP, proposed to enact a law for formation of an Election Commission in accordance with the Constitution. On the 13th day of the ongoing talks, a seven-member JP delegation took part in the dialogue at Bangabhaban on forming an acceptable EC. The opposition party in Parliament also proposed that the EC in collaboration with the executive branch, would take necessary steps to ensure fair and credible polls. The JP delegation also proposed to form an EC by forming a selection committee with respectable and acceptable individuals of the society without relying on bureaucrats.

President Md. Abdul Hamid will end his discussions with the registered political parties on the formation of a new Election Commission at the Bangabhaban on 17 January 2022. Awami League will be the last political party to participate in the talks. Following the talks, a search committee will be formed. The committee will shortlist names of possible candidates for the posts of Election Commissioner and their chief to the President. President Md. Abdul Hamid will pick from those names and form a new Election Commission, which will oversee the 12th National Election in 2023.

Today our target is to materialize the dream of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for which he liberated the country and we will bring smile on the faces of distressed people and build a Sonar Bangla free from poverty and hunger, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday while virtually presiding over a discussion titled "Mukto Swadeshe Jatir Pita" from her official Ganabhaban residence marking 50 years of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Homecoming Day. The Premier vowed to change the lot of the distressed people by transforming Bangladesh into a developed and prosperous country as envisioned by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and called upon all to work from their respective positions to advance the country maintaining the existing progress.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana yesterday paid the homage by placing wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi. After laying the wreath, the Prime Minister stood in solemn silence for some time as a mark of profound respect to the memory of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday released a commemorative postage stamp, a first-day cover and a data card marking 50 years of the historic Homecoming Day of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at her official residence Ganobhaban yesterday.

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday inaugurated the screening of a full-length autobiographical feature film "Chiranjib Mujib" at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban LD Hall marking the Homecoming Day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The film is based on Bangabandhu's autobiography "Oshomapto Attojiboni" and it is dedicated to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's daughters Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana. Prime Minister's Speechwriter Md Nazrul Islam directed the film.

The anti-liberation forces are still active in Bangabandhu's Bangladesh and they need to be eliminated, said Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud yesterday after placing wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Dhanmondi 32 in the capital marking the Homecoming Day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Dr. Hasan said, the country is marching forward under the dynamic leadership of

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to materialize the dream of Bangabandhu. Bangladesh is now a middle-income and food-surplus country, the Minister added. He said, Bangladesh has been established as a dignified state before the world under the supervision of Bangabandhu's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

All the students, aged 12 or above, will be vaccinated with at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine by January 31 so that they can attend schools and colleges, said Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni yesterday while addressing a press briefing at the secretariat. The Education Minister said, 48,19,554 students have been vaccinated against Covid-19 so far. Students can get the vaccine showing their respective institution's identity card, the Minister added. If they do not have an ID card, they can get a vaccine by showing the registration card and they will not need to show other documents, the Minister further added. She further said that in-person classes will continue as usual and no plans were made to close the institutions soon.

The Education Ministry will determine the fate of this year's Secondary School Certificate, Higher Secondary Certificate and their equivalent exams after reviewing the Covid-19 situation, said Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni at a news briefing in Dhaka yesterday. It's quite natural that the exams will not be held in time as students couldn't attend classes much due to the pandemic, the Minister added. The tests were expected to be held with an abbreviated syllabus in the middle of the year but the authorities have yet to finalize the decision, she further added. The Ministry will continue to review the overall Covid-19 situation and will announce the final schedule at least two months before the start of the tests, she added.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman laid the foundation of our foreign policy, said Foreign Minister A. K. Abdul Momen yesterday while addressing a seminar on the occasion of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Homecoming Day celebrations at Foreign Service Academy in the city. The Minister said, in the case of foreign policy, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman believed in the motto of "friendship to all, malice to none" who introduced foreign policy based on values and ideals during his lifetime, that brought international recognition and appreciation to Bangladesh as a war-torn independent country, the Minister added. In a very short time after gaining independence, we were able to gain the recognition of most of the countries in the world and Bangabandhu's foreign policy was also praised by the United Nations and international organizations, he further added.

The Thailand Embassy will publish series of special articles round the year marking the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Bangkok and Dhaka on October 5 this year. The Royal Thai Embassy will publish articles from January until December 2022 to commemorate historical milestones in the bilateral ties and to enhance mutual understanding between the peoples, a statement of Thai Embassy said yesterday. The articles will be published in Thai and Bangladeshi media.

To prevent Omicron, the government has imposed fresh 11-point restriction which will come into effect from January 13. The Cabinet Division issued a notification yesterday.

The country yesterday recorded 03 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the total death toll to 28,105. With 2,231 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,95,931. The positivity rate stood at 8.53 per cent as 26,143 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,51,113, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. 09 more COVID-19 cases of Omicron variant have been detected in Bangladesh, raising the total tally to 30 according to GISAIID. Besides, 03 new dengue patients got hospitalized across the country in 24 hours till 8:00am last morning, DGHS informed.



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