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News Brief

The nation observed the Martyred Intellectuals Day paying glowing tributes to the intellectuals who were brutally killed by the Pakistan occupation forces and their local collaborators at the fag-end of the country's Liberation War in 1971. Sensing a humiliating defeat, the retreating Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators -Rajakars, Al-Badrs and Al-Shams -dragged off the frontline Bangalee intellectuals and worthy professionals from their houses on December 14 and assassinated them with the intention of crippling the newborn nation intellectually. Marking the day, hundreds of people from all walks of life converged at the Martyred Intellectuals' Mausoleum in Mirpur and the Rayer Bazar killing ground (Baddhobhumi), maintaining the health guidelines, to pay their homage to the worthy sons of the soil. President M Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid their homage to the martyred intellectuals of 1971.

President M Abdul Hamid paid rich tributes to the martyred intellectuals by placing wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Mirpur, marking the Martyred Intellectuals Day yesterday. On behalf of the head of the state, his military secretary Major General SM Shamim-uz-Zaman placed the wreaths yesterday morning to pay tributes to those who lost lives days before Bangladesh's victory in the War of Liberation in 1971.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid rich tributes to the martyred intellectuals by placing wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Mirpur yesterday morning, marking the Martyred Intellectuals Day. On behalf of the Premier, her Military Secretary Major General Naqib Ahmed Chowdhury placed the floral wreaths around 7.10am to pay homage to the great heroes of the country.

President M Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of Ayesha Begum, mother of Air Chief Marshal Masihuzzaman Serniabat. In separate condolence messages yesterday, they prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to her bereaved family.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of Organizing Secretary of Awami League (AL) Brahmanbaria district unit Shah Alam who breathed his last yesterday at his own residence at the age of 51.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader called upon the pro-liberation forces to build united resistance to exterminate communal evil forces from the society. He said, communal evil forces are still hatching conspiracy against the country. On this Martyred Intellectuals Day, it will be our pledge to root out all communal forces under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Quader was talking to reporters after paying tributes at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals Memorial on the occasion of Martyred Intellectuals Day yesterday.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud, after paying rich tribute to country's martyred intellectuals yesterday, urged the countrymen to remain united to resist all ill forces against independence, the Liberation War and culture as well. The minister said, the day will be termed as a black day in the pages of history till Bangladesh's existence. But, it is reality that Jamaat-e-Islami and their collaborators who had designed the blue prints of killing the intellectuals are still active in the country, he added. The minister made the comments yesterday after paying rich tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at his portrait on Dhanmandi 32 No. in the capital marking the Martyred Intellectuals Day.

Awami League Advisory Council Member Tofail Ahmed said, those, who are hatching conspiracy against sculptures, don't believe in the country's independence. He told a human-chain turned rally in protest against vandalism of Bangabandhu sculpture that the people of the country have become united against those who are hatching conspiracy centering sculptures. The veteran leader of AL said Bangabandhu will remain in the hearts of Bangalees as long as Bangladesh exists.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi will hold "comprehensive discussions" on the entire spectrum of the bilateral relationship during their virtual Summit on Thursday (Dec 17). They will discuss ways to further strengthen cooperation in the post-Covid-19 era. MEA also commented, India and Bangladesh have continued to maintain regular exchanges at the highest level and both the leaders have remained in regular touch during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) and Member Secretary of Bangabandhu Awami Bar Council, Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, urged the people to remain vigilant till the communal and fundamentalist forces are completely eradicated from Bangladesh. The DSCC mayor said, on this day in 1971, we lost the best citizens of the nation and he paid respects to their memory. He made the call while talking to reporters after paying homage to the martyred intellectuals at the Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals Memorial on the first morning of Martyred Intellectuals Day yesterday.

Former secretaries of the government have protested over the vandalism of the sculpture of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In a statement issued yesterday, they said, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is the Father of the Nation, founder of the independent Bangladesh and the best Bangalee of all time. The 101 former secretaries said in the statement, we find Bangabandhu in every breath of independent Bangladesh. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is another name of our existence. Bangabandhu, the Liberation War and Bangladesh are inseparable entity. Condemning the vandalism of Bangabandhu's sculpture, the secretaries demanded exemplary punishment of those who were involved in the barbaric act.

Bangladesh recorded 37 novel corona virus (COVID-19) deaths and 1,799 fresh cases in the last 24 hours. The recovery count rose to 4,23845 after another 2949 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. With this the total death toll rose to 7,089 from the pandemic in the country.



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