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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked for countrymen's extra caution against quick-spreading new coronavirus variants, warning that the crisis was yet to be over, and urged all eligible people to be vaccinated in quickest possible time. The Premier told this while addressing the nation marking the 3rd anniversary of her current government formed following the 11th national parliamentary election held on December 30, 2018 and stepping into four years of the present Awami League government. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called for stricter maintenance and enforcement of health guidelines as a new surge of corona virus was quickly grasping the globe again, even after exposing Bangladesh and most other countries to a "deep crisis" in 2020 and 2021. The premier said, the inoculation campaign was underway in full swing while her government took steps to expedite the drive setting a target afresh to vaccinate one crore (or 10 million) people every month from January. She said, nearly half of the country's population or 7.58 crore people so far received the first COVID-19 vaccine dose and nearly 5.46 crore people got the second one while the authorities started administering the third or booster dose last month. We have 9.5 crore doses in our stock right now, the Premier added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that despite the development spree, anti-Bangladesh and anti-Liberation elements were reactivating staying at home and abroad to thwart the country's march forward. The Premier urged people remain alert against these elements and allow them not play ducks and drakes with fate of Bangladesh's people. The development journey could not be hampered anyhow, said the Prime Minister yesterday at a nationwide televised address on the day of third year of third consecutive term of her government. The Premier visibly outlined the governance policy at the onset of the fourth year of her government announcing that it would take tougher stance particularly against corruption, communalism and extremism. The Prime Minister said that the Anti-Corruption Commission was working independently to lash out corrupt elements but added that a social campaign was simultaneously necessary to whip out 'the disease'. She said, Bangladesh handled the extremism with an iron fist under an announced 'zero tolerance' policy against the menace and simultaneously her government was committed to uphold the country's tradition of interfaith harmony as a secular country. The Premier also said, Bangladesh secured the number one position in terms of GDP in South Asia with 5.43 per cent growth during the last fiscal, also heightening the per capita income to US\$ 2554 in 2021. The Prime Minister said that different global watchdogs praised Bangladesh's economic performance with World Economic Forum predicting the country to be 24th largest economy by 2030 while the Economist placed it in ninth position in a list of 66 successful emerging economies. The Prime Minister said that Bangladesh would be an upper middle-income country by 2031 and a high-income prosperous country by 2041 referring to the Eight Five Year Plan (2021-2025). The Premier added that generation of around 1,16,70,000 employments has been targeted in this period while poverty rate will come down to 15.6 per cent and extreme poverty rate to 7.4 per cent after the implementation of the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Newly appointed Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique pays floral tributes at the Mazar of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara yesterday. He was appointed as the country's 23rd Chief Justice on 29 December 2021 by the President Md. Abdul Hamid.

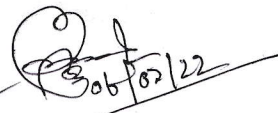
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will allocate the venue of international trade fair in Chattogram very soon, said Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud yesterday while speaking as chief guest at the inaugural function of CMSME Trade Fair-2022 organized by Chattogram Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday evening. After the inaugural function Dr. Hasan said, now the situation of BNP is like that when someone loses way in the ocean he tries to see light to survive. I hope that BNP would be able to get out from the tunnel if they can see the light inside the tunnel, the Minister added.

The Minister also hopes that BNP will become a true political party and will play a role to consolidate democracy in the country. He also said that the country's people are the strength of Awami League as historical evidence shows that Awami League has always been in state power with the verdict of country's people. The independence of the country came under the leadership of Bangabandhu and Awami League and All the achievements of the country have been achieved under the leadership of Bangladesh Awami League, the Minister added. Bangladesh is sitting on the seat of dignity today with the dynamic leadership of Bangabandhu daughter Sheikh Hasina, the Minister further added.

Foreign Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen exchanges new year's greetings with envoys of Bangladesh appointed to foreign countries virtually from the seminar room of the ministry yesterday. Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen urged the missions of Bangladesh in different countries to find new labor market and make arrangements for recruitment of manpower.

The government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is working round the clock for the welfare of the country and its people and various development projects have been undertaken by the government to alleviate poverty and improve the living standard of people, said Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md. Shahab Uddin yesterday while distributing winter cloths, corrugated iron sheets, and grant cheques for constructing houses among the distressed, helpless and cold-hit people affected by natural disasters at Juri upazila auditorium under Moulvibazar district. The Minister also distributed livestock among small ethnic people living on plain lands, under the integrated livestock development projects, at the programme. Terming the government as pro-people government, the Minister said, the government is working for the development of the poor and distressed people.

The country yesterday recorded one fatality from COVID-19, taking the total death toll to 28,098. With 1,146 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,91,093. The positivity rate stood at 5.67 per cent as 20,204 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,50,534, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. Ten more cases of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 have been detected in Bangladesh, taking the total tally to 20 till yesterday, according to GISAIID. Besides, some 01 dengue patient got hospitalized across the country in 24 hours till 8:00am last morning, DGHS informed.


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