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News Brief

The nation yesterday observed the 90th birth anniversary of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, wife of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a befitting manner with the theme 'Bangamata is courageous symbol of sacrifice and beauty.' The Women and Children Affairs Ministry along with different social and cultural organizations took elaborate programmes to observe Bangamata's birth anniversary nationally. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joined the ministry's programme virtually from Ganabhaban. The Premier distributed 100 laptops among poor meritorious students in Goplaganj district and 3,200 sewing machines and Taka 26 lakh; Taka 2,000 each using Nagad mobile banking among 1,300 distressed women across the country. The Premier later unveiled the cover of a book titled 'Joytu Bangamata' based on the glorious working life of Bangamata. Earlier, the day-long programme began in the morning through placing of wreaths at Bangamata's grave at Banani graveyard by Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader and other leaders.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while addressing the birth anniversary programme said, Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, unlike many big leaders, could have taken right decision in any critical juncture of the nation, adding that Bangamata's decision to reject Bangabandhu's release on parole for holding a roundtable discussion in West Pakistan forced Ayub Khan to withdraw the Agartala Conspiracy case and changed the course of Bangladesh's political history. Bangamata had great capacity in building up struggle and movement which she proved in every national movement of Bangladesh then, the PM added. Turning to the historic 7th March speech, the Prime Minister said, Bangamata suggested Bangabandhu to say spontaneously about the history of oppression on the Bangalees without paying heed to the points of others which made it one of the greatest speeches of all times. Mentioning that Bangamata always stood beside the Father of the Nation, the Prime Minister said that Bangamata even sacrificed her life by standing beside Bangabandhu in the fateful night of 15 August 1975.

Bangladesh missions in abroad including Japan, Australia, Canada, Vietnam, India, Sri Lanka celebrated the 90th birth anniversary of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib. Meanwhile, the Directorate of Posts has released a memorial postal stamp, data card and its first day cover of Taka 10 denomination marking birth anniversary of Bangamata. Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar unveiled the stamp and cover at a virtual function yesterday.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, Bangamata played a vital role from behind the scene in Bangabandhu's political success and she was an associate of Bangabandhu in the Bangalee's struggle for freedom until their deaths. The Minister was speaking at a virtual press briefing after paying homage to Bangamata by placing a wreath at her grave at Banani graveyard yesterday marking her 90th birth anniversary. Later, the Minister virtually joined the coronavirus protective equipment distribution ceremony arranged by the AL's relief and social welfare sub-committee marking the occasion at the party's central Bangabandhu Avenue office.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud paying rich tribute to Bangamata said, Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib had made immense contribution to all struggles and movements of the nation staying behind the scene silently under the leadership of Bangabandhu. The Minister was addressing a meeting and doa mahfil at the Awami League Central Office at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday organized by the Krishak League marking the 90th birth anniversary of Bangamata. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

'Mujib Corner' will be set up in every community center of Dhaka North City Corporation so that the city dwellers come to the library and read books, learn about the history, heritage and culture of Bangladesh, Mayor M Atiqul Islam said yesterday at a virtual meeting.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a message has congratulated her Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa on the victory of his party in the recently held parliamentary polls. The Premier also expressed her optimism of building on the wonderful foundation of friendship that exists between the two countries.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque while addressing a webinar titled "Role of Modern Curriculum in Creating Skilled Agricultural Graduates" organised by the Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University yesterday said, the curriculum of all the agricultural universities needs to be up to the minute, modern and practical, in order to meet challenges in the agricultural sector.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen in a letter to his Indian counterpart Dr. S Jaishankar yesterday conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved families and the people of India at the loss of lives following an Air India plane crash at an airport in Kerala and wished early recovery of the injured. Meanwhile, State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam talked to Indian Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan over phone and expressed deep condolences over the loss of lives and wished early recovery of the injured.

The Foreign Minister on the issue of Dhaka's ties with India and China against the background of recently resurfaced tensions between Bangladesh's two giant neighbours said, Bangladesh ties with New Delhi and Beijing stood on different perspectives while history and emotion made it "rock solid" in the case of India while crucial economic issues dominate the relations with China. We must not compare the relationships from an identical standpoint, he said. The Minister said this while talking to newsmen after paying tributes to the memories of 1971 Liberation War martyrs on a memorial at western Meherpur bordering India, the site where the first Bangladesh government was sworn-in in 1971.

Bangladesh yesterday recorded 32 more fatalities from the novel coronavirus in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 3,365. At the same time recovery count rose to 1,46,604 after another 1,020 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) came up with the disclosure at its daily health bulletin. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 2,611 new cases taking the total number of cases to 2,55,113.

Flood situation in the Ganges Basin has started improving as water levels in most of its rivers were seen a receding trend last morning as a result of reduction of heavy downpour and onrushing of water from upstream catchment areas. Among the monitored of 30 river points in Ganges basin at 9 am yesterday, water levels of 21 stations has declined while went up at seven points and remained stable at two points. Meanwhile, the government has distributed a total of 11,336 tons of rice among the flood-hit people in 33 districts in the country, said an official release yesterday.

The National Energy Security Day is being observed across the country today commemorating the historic decision taken by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman of buying five gas fields from the then British Oil company 'Shell Oil' for the state on August 9 in 1975. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the eve of the day.



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