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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, the Bangalee people would not have emerged as an independent nation without the birth of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Bangladesh has now achieved the status of developing nation under this government from the LDCs, going through Bangabanhdu-directed pathways overcoming all the black chapters from 1975 to 1996 and 2001 to 2008, and the country will continue its progress, she said. Bangladesh will move ahead as a developing nation and will be a developed nation by 2041, she further said. The Premier was addressing a discussion meeting organized by Awami League to mark 101st birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children's Day at the party's central office in city's Bangabandhu Avenue, joining virtually from Ganabhaban yesterday.

Japan will make more investment in Bangladesh after the coronavirus situation is improved, Japanese Ambassador in Bangladesh Naoki ITO said his while paying a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganabhaban yesterday. During the meeting, the Premier said she wants Japan and Bangladesh to jointly operate the third terminal of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, once it is completed. The Envoy handed over a message of the Japanese Prime Minister to the Bangladesh Premier marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation and golden jubilee of the country's independence. He also handed over a video documentary on the Father of the Nation's visit to Japan in 1973 titled "Welcome Bangabandhu (1973)".

The nation will celebrate the sixth day of the 10-day program of the Birth Centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and golden jubilee of the independence with the theme 'Banglar Mati, Amar Mati' at the National Parade Ground in the city today. President Md. Abdul Hamid will attend the function as the Chief Guest while Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will chair it. Nepalese President Bidhya Devi Bhandari will be present at the function as guest of honor, scheduled to arrive here this morning on a two-day state visit.

Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister Ayman Safadi, also the Foreign and Expatriate Minister, on behalf of the King of Jordan, in a recorded video message on the fifth day of the 10-day special programs yesterday said, his country is interested to enhance cooperation with Bangladesh to address regional challenges, including refugee crisis and fight against terrorism and struck ideology. Ayman Safadi highly praised Bangladesh's tremendous progress in past five decades. Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud moderated the function.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while addressing the special program, called upon all to take lessons from the life and works of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He said, Bangabandhu gave priority to making friends around the world after the independence apart from realizing the global recognition for a new-born country. Bangabandhu took various steps for infrastructure development and trade expansion, increasing export earnings and creating employment opportunities while giving top priority to agriculture to ensure food security, he added. Fourteen months after he took charge of a new-born country, he said, Bangabandhu presented a general election to the nation. He further said, Bangabandhu laid the foundation of the all development works being carried out today in the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The Minister Obaidul Quader called upon the people as well as the party leaders and workers to make united resistance against anti-government and anti-country conspiracies. While addressing the discussion at AL's Bangabandhu Avenue central office yesterday, he added, though the AL is in power, it has not left the street. He said, Bangabandhu remains in the heart of the Bangalee nation with self-glory. Without Sheikh Hasina, it cannot be possible to translate Bangabandhu's dream into reality, he said.

The government has fixed timeframe to dispose of over 37 lac pending cases in the country. Law Minister Anisul Huq said this at an online inauguration of orientation course for chief judicial magistrates, additional district and session judges and its equivalent judiciary officials yesterday. He added that short message service-SMS has already been introduced to inform the date and details of the cases from the court.

Bangladesh has achieved remarkable success in all socio-economic indicators and the country will move forward further to materialize the dream of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal said this while speaking at the opening ceremony of the 'Mujib Corner and

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Bangabandhu Mural' at the Janata Bank Headquarters in the city yesterday. He said, Bangabandhu is the inspiration of the country's people and the young generation will take forward the country in the way shown by Bangabandhu.

Local Government Minister Md. Tajul Islam addressing a seminar in the capital yesterday, urged the local government institutions to become more people-friendly and ensure good service, as this will make the citizens

willing to pay tax accordingly.

The state government of Mizoram wants to establish border huts and land port along border to boost trade as well as commerce and improve the communications system with Bangladesh, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said adding that necessary measures in this regard will be taken after visiting the bordering areas of both Bangladesh and Mizoram. While addressing a joint press briefing at his ministry after holding a meeting with the visiting Health and Family Welfare, Higher and Technical Education, Commerce and Industries Minister of Mizoram Dr. R Lalthankliana yesterday, he also informed that the state government of Mizroam also expressed its interest to use the Chattogram Sea Port.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister S M Rezaul Karim addressing a function at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city yesterday said, the government will extend all possible cooperation for the establishment and development

of the sectors related to the fisheries and livestock, considering the issue of tax rebates in logical cases.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md. Shahab Uddin said, illegal occupants will be evicted from the country's forests at any cost. Addressing a discussion at Ban Bhaban in the capital marking the International Forest Day-2021 yesterday, the Minister also said, about 138,613 acres of reserved forest, which were grabbed earlier, has already been recovered. He said, the amount of tree resources in the Sundarbans has increased as a result of various effective measures taken by the present government. According to the National Forest Survey published in 2019, he said, the total carbon reserves in the Sundarbans are 139 million tons, while it was 107 million tons in 2009.

"World Book of Records", a UK-based organization, at a virtual ceremony yesterday honored Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury in recognition of his contribution to digitalize services and turn the ministry into

a transparent and accountable public institution.

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Md. Murad Hassan describing book fair as a soulful event of the Bangalee nation, urged all for making the book fair lively with the properly following the health guidelines as he was inaugurating two stalls of Jatiya Press Club and Dhaka Reporters' Unity at Amar Ekushey Book Fair on the premises of Bangla Academy yesterday.

The ICT Division is going to take initiatives to create an interactive digital archive of the Liberation War on the golden jubilee of independence in collaboration with the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Cultural Affairs Ministry and Bangladesh Film Archive to prevent distortion of the history of Liberation War and present the correct history of the Liberation War to the next generation, State

Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak said this while addressing a webinar yesterday.

Ambassador of USA to Bangladesh Earl R Miller informed that US-Bangladesh Business Council will be launched soon to facilitate US investments in the country. While paying a courtesy visit to Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the DCCI office in the capital yesterday, he also said agriculture, automobile, blue economy, tourism, eco-tourism and light engineering are some of the potential avenues for the US investors. During the meeting, DCCI President Rizwan Rahman said that the bilateral trade between Bangladesh and the US recorded 37.6 per cent growth over the last ten years. It reached to US\$7.96 billion in FY2020 of which Bangladesh's export was US\$5.83 billion and import was US\$2.13 billion, he added. He urged the USA to include RMG, footwear and dairy products of Bangladesh under duty free quota free-DFQF facility of USA.

News of general holiday run by different media outlets on COVID-19 is false and baseless, the Health ministry sources said. According to a statement of the Health ministry, a section of electronic media is broadcasting false and baseless news on general holiday from March 26 to April 4 quoting Health Secretary. The Health ministry

urged the media outlets to stop broadcasting and publishing the false news on general holiday, it added.

Meanwhile, with 22 more deaths yesterday, the number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 8,690. At the same time recovery count rose to 5,22,405, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. With the detection of 2,172 new cases, the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 5,70,878. A total of 80,222 people got vaccinated yesterday, giving rise to the number of total vaccine receivers to 48,40,969. As many as 61,87,288 people got registered till 2.30pm yesterday to receive the vaccine, DGHS said.

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