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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian Counterpart Narendra Modi, who arrived in the capital on Friday morning on a two-day official visit to attend the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Golden Jubilee of the country's Independence, had a bilateral talks at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday. During the talks, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sought implementation of the earlier reached proposed Teesta agreement and steps to bring down the "border incidents" to zero level. In reply, the Indian PM said, "We're committed to a reasonable solution to sharing of water of all the rivers", adding that ground-level cooperation is needed to check all those incidents happening along the India-Bangladesh border. The Prime Minister further sought New Delhi's more active role in Rohingya repatriation. The Premier drew Modi's attention to resolve the anti-dumping duty imposition issues and proposed enhanced joint cooperation to promote jute as environment friendly fiber. The PM also said that Bangladesh is keen to use effectively the Indian lines of credit-LoC and put emphasis on axing ineffective projects from the list under the Indian credit. The Indian Premier expressed his desire to be a partner to launch the Bangabandhu-2 satellite. Sheikh Hasina said that Indian state Tripura can use Chattogram Airport alongside Chattogram and Mongla Ports. The Premier expected India to consider the prospect for mutual benefits stressing on signing the motor vehicles agreement among Bangladesh, India and Nepal. Narendra Modi said, India took a decision to establish "Bangabandhu Chair" in Delhi University in memory of Bangabandhu. Before the formal talks, the two leaders held a tete-a-tete for some time.

After the bilateral talks, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian Counterpart Narendra Modi jointly inaugurated and laid foundation of five projects : foundation stone laying of the monument at Ashuganj of Bangladesh in memory of martyred members of Indian Allied Forces in Ashuganj, the extended development work at Rabindra Bhawan Kuthibari in Shilaidaha, Kushtia, ground breaking for Infrastructure Development for Power Evacuation Facilities of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, the 'Mitali Express' passenger train service between Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri and three new border haats on India-Bangladesh border. In the presence of the two Premiers, Bangladesh and India signed five MoUs to enhance cooperation in various sectors, including disaster management, resilience and mitigation, trade, ICT, and sports. They also unveiled commemorative stamps of the postal departments of their respective countries on the occasion of 50 years of Bangladesh-India friendship. Meanwhile, the Indian PM handed over a dummy key of the gift of 109 ambulances with life-support facility from the government of India to the government of Bangladesh. Besides, Narendra Modi handed over a box to Sheikh Hasina to symbolize the gifting of 1.2 million doses of Covishield Covid-19 vaccine to Bangladesh from India.

Bangladesh and India in a 'Joint Statement' issued yesterday, termed the visit of Indian Premier Narendra Modi as the symbol of half-a-century partnership between the two neighbors that has strengthened, matured and evolved as 'a model for bilateral relations' for the entire region. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen at a media briefing in the capital yesterday on the outcomes of Narendra Modi's two-day state visit here said, Indian Premier Narendra Modi's visit here reflected the 'heart-to-heart' ties between Bangladesh and India while Dhaka wants to ensure development of the entire region utilizing this 'golden chapter' of relations. Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla addressing at a media briefing at city hotel yesterday said, "Prime Minister's (Modi's) visit to Bangladesh in 2015 made India-Bangladesh relations stronger and more multifaceted ... and today our (India-Bangladesh) ties transcended from strategic partnership."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, earlier in the morning, paid tribute to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing a wreath at his mausoleum at Tungipara in Gopalganj yesterday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with her younger sister Sheikh Rehana was present there at the moment. Earlier, on his arrival at Tungipara, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with Sheikh Rehana received Narendra Modi at the Bangabandhu Memorial Complex with a bouquet. The Indian Premier also signed the visitors' book and planted a sapling there. "Bangabandhu is etched in the collective memory of the sub-continent, whose history he reshaped through the sheer force of his commitment and sacrifice," Narendra Modi wrote on the visitors book.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, accompanied by Sheikh Rehana, paid homage to Father of the Nation at Tungipara in Gopalganj by placing a wreath at his shrine in the morning. They offered Fateha and joined a special munajat seeking eternal peace of Bangabandhu and other martyrs of the August 15 carnage.

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On his way to Tungipara, the Indian Prime Minister visited the Jeshoreshwari Devi Temple at Ishwaripur at Shyamnagar Upazila of Satkhira District and worshipped there. After visiting the Mausoleum of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara, the Indian Premier visited a Matua temple in Orakandi under Kashiani upazila in Gopalganj district, the birthplace of Hindu mystic figure and Matua community's spiritual guru Harichand Thakur and offered puja and prayers at the temple as well as performed the rituals. Later addressing a function there, he said, both India and Bangladesh want to see the world advancing through their own progress and peace, stability and love prevailing in the world instead of instability, terror and unrest.

The Indian Prime Minister paid a courtesy call on President Md. Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban in the evening. During the call on, he said, as a neighboring country, Bangladesh has always been considered a loyal friend of India, and his country would always stay beside Bangladesh. Lauding the socio-economic development of Bangladesh under the charismatic leadership of its Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Modi said, Bangladesh has done a tremendous development in recent time. The President said, his (Modi) visit would be a unique milestone in strengthening the existing diplomatic ties between Bangladesh and India. Referring to India's support several times, the President thanked the Government and people of India for their support and cooperation in the Great War of Liberation in 1971.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi left Dhaka last night for New Delhi after wrapping up his two-day official visit. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen saw him off at the airport.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in a statement issued yesterday on the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence, said, the country looks forward to building longstanding cooperation with Bangladesh by expanding trade relationships and advancing shared values, including the empowerment of women and girls, and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity. "We continue to work alongside Bangladesh to meet the needs of Rohingya refugees and to create opportunity for both our countries," Trudeau said adding, "At this important milestone, we reflect on Bangladesh's remarkable economic and social transformation since its independence."

Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman have congratulated Bangladesh and its people on the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. They have sent congratulation messages to President Md. Abdul Hamid on the occasion.

Governor of California Gavin Newsom in a letter issued on Friday extended congratulations to Bangladesh on the occasion of the country's golden jubilee of independence, saying, "On behalf of the State of California, please accept my sincere congratulations as we celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Independence of Bangladesh."

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, BNP was the patron of the violent activities carried out by a communal group in Dhaka-Chattogram-Brahmanbaria to disrupt the golden jubilee celebration of independence. While speaking at a press conference yesterday, he also said that sometimes BNP takes anti-India stand and sometimes it admires India for going to power which reflect the double standard of BNP's politics. Such malpractice of politics has kept BNP isolated from the people. About comments of BNP leaders regarding the change of power, he said, the change of power will happen only through elections. Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud issuing a note of warning against the trouble mongers, said, any untoward incident centering the visit of the Indian Premier will be checked with an iron hand. He said this while unwrapping the book 'Bangabandhu for You' edited by Sattiyam Ray Chowdhury at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday. "What is the relation between the visit of Indian premier and the rail station? Why they torched a land office? Why they carried out attack on police station?" he posed the questions. "They are evil forces. And they are enemies of the liberation, sovereignty, peace and communal harmony," he said.

Posts and Telecommunications Mustafa Jabbar virtually inaugurated an exhibition of commemorative stamps issued on Bangabandhu in Dhaka GPO yesterday, marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the golden jubilee of country's independence.

The country reported highest COVID-19 deaths in over 3 months yesterday with 39 deaths. With this the number of deaths rose to 8,869. At the same time recovery count rose to 5,33,922, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. With the detection of 3,674 new cases, the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 5,91,806. A total of 65,368 people were administered COVID-19 vaccines across the country yesterday, giving rise to the total number of vaccine receivers to 52,04,824. As many as 66,20,866 people got registered till 2.30pm yesterday to receive the vaccine, DGHS said. Meanwhile, the World Bank on Friday approved US\$250 million to help Bangladesh for creating more, better and inclusive jobs and effectively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic for a faster recovery and stronger resilience in future crises.


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