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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is to inaugurate the construction work of a tunnel under the Karnaphuli river and a 17-kilometre-long elevated expressway under two mega projects involving Taka 13,130 crore in Chattogram today. During the visit, the PM will also address a public meeting at Patenga sea beach.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has assured families of Chawkbazar fire victims of all-out support for their rehabilitation. The PM also assured the injured of better treatment. The Prime Minister gave the assurance while visiting those receiving treatment for burn injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. She consoled the injured and their families, inquired about the treatment and took all responsibilities of expenditure of all affected people.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talking to newsmen after visiting the wounded fire patients at DMCH yesterday said, the government has planned to build modern warehouses for the chemical godowns in Keraniganj particularly to ensure fire safety. The Premier said, the government had launched an initiative to relocate the warehouses of flammable products nine years ago when the Nimali tragedy occurred but the effort was upset due to reluctance of the warehouse owners. The Chawkbazar tragedy appeared as a lesson for chemical warehouse owners in Old Dhaka, the PM added.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has issued directives to shift the unsafe and risky chemical godowns immediately from the old part of the city. The Minister told this to reporters after visiting Churihatta yesterday where a devastating fire took place on Wednesday night. Steps would be taken to evict the risky buildings, the Minister added.

Dhaka South City Corporation has started removing chemicals from old Dhaka with taking away a substantial amount of chemicals illegally stored at the Hajji Wahed Manjil, which caused devastating fire in the dreadful night of February 20. After initiating the removal of chemical godowns yesterday, DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon warned against any kind of storage of chemicals in old Dhaka.

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres has expressed condolence at the loss of lives and destructions caused by the devastating fire at the Old Dhaka City on February 20. The United Nations Secretary General, in his message sent to President Md. Abdul Hamid on Friday, lauded the efforts taken by the national emergency services.

The golden jubilee of bestowing 'Bangabandhu' title on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is being observed in the country amid different programmes. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina released two commemorative postage stamps, a first-day cover of Taka 10 and a data card, marking the golden jubilee of conferment of title "Bangabandhu" on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Ganabhaban yesterday.

Bangladesh Awami League has finalised its candidates for the Chairmen posts in the third phase of Upazila Parishad Polls in 122 upazilas. The nominations were finalised at a meeting of the AL Local Government Nomination Board with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at Ganabhaban yesterday.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has said, the efforts are underway for repatriating 800,000 Rohingyas to Rakhine State in Myanmar soon. The Minister talking to journalists in Sylhet yesterday said, measures have been taken to repatriate the Rohingyas to their homeland. Myanmar has also agreed to take back its forcibly displaced citizens. But the country could not create a peaceful environment in the Rakhine State.

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