



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA



Most Urgent
For: Bangladdoot, All Missions
MSG: 202/2020-21
Date: Wednesday, 24 March 2021

From: PIO, PID, Dhaka
Fax: 9540553/9540026
E-mail: piddhaka@gmail.com
Web: www.pressinform.gov.bd

News Brief

Bhutanese Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering arrived here last morning on a three-day state visit to attend the grand celebrations of the Birth Centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and golden jubilee of the independence. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina welcomed him at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. After the arrival, the Bhutanese Prime Minister paid rich tributes to the memory of martyred freedom fighters by placing a wreath at the National Memorial in Savar in the morning. Later, the Bhutanese Premier paid glowing homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing a wreath at his portrait on the premises of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi road number 32. Later, Tshering visited the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum and signed the visitors' book.

In the evening, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hosted a dinner in honor of the Bhutanese Premier Dr. Lotay Tshering at the Grand Ball Room of Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon in the capital. Both the Premiers enjoyed a colorful cultural program there. Dr. Lotay Tshering is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Prime Minister's Office this morning. Later, the Bhutanese Prime Minister will pay a courtesy call on President Md. Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban. In the evening, Dr. Lotay Tshering will join the eighth 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 'Santi, Mukti o Manobotar Agrodot' as the Guest of Honor. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will chair the function.

Meanwhile, the visiting Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari also paid glowing homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing a wreath at his portrait on the premises of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi road number 32 last morning. She also visited the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum and signed visitors' book. Bidya Devi left Dhaka in the afternoon wrapping up her 3-day visit. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen saw her off at the airport.

The nation celebrated the seventh day of the 10-day special program of the Birth Centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and golden jubilee of the independence with the theme 'Nari Mukti, Sammo o Swadhinata' at the National Parade Ground in the city yesterday. Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury spoke on the occasion.

In a message, read out by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, played on the special program at the National Parade Ground yesterday, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said, Bangladesh has undergone an impressive development and vibrant democracy is prevailing in the country with high economic growth. The President said, the world very much values Bangladesh's peaceful foreign policy and its generous humanitarian engagement, particularly, when it comes to taking a hundreds of thousands of Rohingya who had fled their homes. The Foreign Minister also read out the message of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, sent to Bangladesh President Md. Abdul Hamid on the occasion of the country's 50 years of independence, saying, "On the special occasion of your 50th Independence Day, I am delighted to convey to Your Excellency my congratulations, together with my best wishes to the people of Bangladesh."

UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay in her video message played on the occasion said, the historic March 7 speech of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman defended universal values, freedom, human rights and dignity. "These are precisely the reasons why UNESCO inscribed this historic speech in its memory of the world register" she said.

The Communist Party of China-CPC extended its heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for the people of Bangladesh and the ruling Awami League on the occasion of the country's golden jubilee of independence. It was 50 years ago Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman founded Bangladesh while now it reaches a crucial stage of national development and is marching toward the realization of the 'Sonar Bangla' dream under the leadership of AL, a press release of CPC on Friday said. "...we salute the Awami League for its important contribution to the independence, development, and progress of the nation," the release said.

The Bangladesh government has acknowledged with deep gratitude the decision of the Indian government to confer the Gandhi Peace Prize 2020 to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, posthumously for the first time. "It is an honor for Bangladesh and its people for the Father of the Nation to be bestowed with this prestigious award", an official release said yesterday. It said the honor assumes special significance on the 50th year of Bangladesh's independence when the country is on the verge of becoming a developing country, through political, economic and social transformation, the foundations of which were laid by Bangabandhu.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader urged all concerned not to incite any chaos centering Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's forthcoming visit to Bangladesh. While addressing a press conference yesterday, the Minister mentioning that India was the main ally of Bangladesh during 1971 Liberation War, said, Indian Premier's visit has no link with the West Bengal elections or any other issue. He is an invited guest. About BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's comment that the party started getting organized to defeat the government, the Minister said, if BNP becomes politically organized, there is no problem. But if BNP carries out their evil attempts to create unrest in the name of movement, the AL, along with the people, will face their evil acts, he said.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen called on the Bhutanese Premier at InterContinental Hotel last afternoon. During the meeting, they talked about enhancing connectivity between Bangladesh and Bhutan through air and railway to reap economic benefits mutually.

Nepal is willing to export its hydropower to Bangladesh, the Foreign Minister said this while addressing a press conference on the outcomes of Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari's visit here held at Foreign Service Academy yesterday. He said, the issue of signing the Preferential Trade Agreement-PTA between Bangladesh and Nepal is at final stage now. During the Nepalese President's visit to Dhaka, four MoUs were signed to enhance cooperation between the two countries in different areas including tourism, sanitation, cultural exchange and railways link, he added. He said, Nepal has shown its interest to use the Chattogram, Mongla and Payra seaports of Bangladesh. Nepal has also showed interest to use the inland shipping network of Bangladesh and to introduce direct air connectivity between Saidpur of Bangladesh and Biratnagar of Nepal, he said. Dr. Momen said, Bangladesh and Nepal agreed to work together in climate change issues at international forums. Bangladesh also urged Nepal to provide support and cooperation in Rohingya repatriation.

Meanwhile, with 18 more deaths yesterday, the number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 8,738. At the same time recovery count rose to 5,25,994, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. With the detection of 3,554 new cases, the highest in 8 months, the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 5,77,241. A total of 78,330 people were administered COVID-19 vaccines across the country yesterday, giving rise to the total number of vaccine receivers to 49,90,232. As many as 63,63,219 people got registered till 2.30pm yesterday to receive the vaccine, DGHS said.

The government confirmed 11 deaths after a massive fire on Monday in Rohingya camps in Ukhia, Cox's Bazar, rendering some 45,000 people homeless. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inquired about the fire incident and ordered authorities concerned to take necessary measures for the affected people. The government has constituted a seven-member committee to investigate into the fire while it has been asked to submit a report in next three days, official sources said.

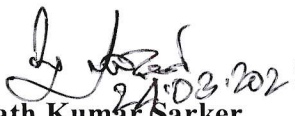
In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, the examinees for Secondary School Certificate-SSC examination -2021 from now on will fill up their forms online from April 1 to 7 and fees can be submitted till April 8, a press release said.

A special tribunal yesterday sentenced 14 members of banned militant outfit HuJI to death in a sedition case filed for plotting to kill Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by planting bomb at the temporary helipad on Sheikh Lutfor Rahman Government Ideal College ground in Kotalipara, Gopalganj in 2000.

The government yesterday rescheduled the public holiday for the upcoming Shab-e-Barat to March 30 instead of March 29 since the holiday for the religious event is determined based on the sighting of the new moon.

The government has drawn up various programs to observe the 'Genocide Day' on March 25 with due respect in remembrance of the brutality carried out by Pakistani Army on the unarmed Bengalis on the black night of March 25 in 1971. The government has also taken elaborate programs to celebrate the Independence and National Day-2021 on March 26 to uphold the spirit of the War of Liberation and build a 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Bangladesh Bank is going to release regular currency notes, commemorative coins and silver commemorative notes of Taka 50 marking the Golden Jubilee of Independence.

Bangladesh made a winning start in the Tri-Nation Cup beating strong Kyrgyzstan Olympic Football team by 1-0 goal held yesterday at Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu.


Surath Kumar Sarker
Principal Information Officer
Phone- 9546091