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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid asked Bangladesh Air Force members to work diligently to serve the country and ensure people's security as well as welfare. The President was inaugurating the Barishal Radar Unit and Helicopter Simulator Training Institute at Air Force Base virtually from Bangabhaban yesterday. He said, the incumbent government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been taking different steps to build the air force as a modern and sophisticated one as Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's goal was to build an efficient and smart armed force.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced that the minimum monthly allowance of valiant freedom fighters will be raised to Taka 20,000 from Taka 12,000. The Premier made the announcement while inaugurating the transfer of allowances to valiant freedom fighters and their families through electronic fund transfer using Management Information System at Osmani Memorial Auditorium, joining virtually from Ganabhaban yesterday. Briefly elaborating various programs of the government for the welfare of the valiant war heroes of the country, she also said, the government has taken various types of projects to preserve the memories of the Liberation War so people could know the real history. The government is constructing Muktiyoddha Complex in every upazila where there will be a small museum to preserve the materials related to the Liberation War, she added. The Prime Minister also asked all concerned to present the authentic history of the Liberation War before the new generation.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, on February 15, 1996, BNP staged a farce in the history of Bangladesh by holding a voter less election, which was the stigmatized part of the history of the country's elections. The Minister was virtually addressing a rally, arranged by Dhaka North City Unit of Awami League on Russel Square, Dhanmondi, in observance of the 'Black Day' protesting the election held on that day. BNP now becomes the hawker of democracy, though they snatched votes in the election on February 15, 1996, he said.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, the enemies chose the path of conspiracy against Bangabandhu after they had failed to face him politically. In that way, BNP is now out to hatch conspiracies after becoming unsuccessful in facing Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina politically, being isolated from the mass people of the country. The Minister made the comments while addressing a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital yesterday arranged by Dhaka South City Unit of AL, protesting the election held on February 15, 1996.

A 10-day special program from March 17 to 26, 2021 will be broadcast through television channels, online and social media across the country marking the birth centenary celebration of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as per the directive of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The information was revealed yesterday at a coordination meeting of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Birth Centenary Celebration National Implementation Committee.

State Minister for Information Dr. Md. Murad Hassan said, if life-oriented, healthy and elegant TV program could be made touching the hearts of people and highlighting Bangalee culture, those will reach over 35 crore Bangalees staying in different parts of the world. He urged the program directors make such programs, while speaking at the inaugural session of a training course, arranged by Bangladesh Film and Television Institute at the National Institute of Mass-Communication in the capital yesterday.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will spread its wing to Toronto, Tokyo and Chennai from March next, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M Mahbub Ali said this while addressing a function yesterday. The State Minister said, efforts have been going on to resume the Biman's direct Dhaka-New York-Dhaka route soon.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Bangladesh in March to join the golden jubilee celebrations of Bangladesh's Independence, India-Bangladesh diplomatic relations and the birth centenary of Bangabandhu aims to carry forward ties with Bangladesh for next half a century. Speaking at the DCAB talk organized at Jatiya Press Club yesterday, the Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Kumar Doraiswami said this. He also said, India has offered Covid-19 vaccines to Bangladesh Armed Forces. About the water sharing issue with Bangladesh, he said, the Indian government is trying very hard to materialize the much awaited Teesta agreement. India has internal dynamics regarding the water sharing as the issue is entirely within the mandate of the state governments, he said.

A court in Saudi Arabia on Sunday sentenced Bangladeshi migrant worker Abiron Begum's employer Ayesha al-Jizani to death in a case over the former's killing on March 24, 2019. Besides, the court sentenced Ayesha's husband Basem Salem to three years and two months in jail with a fine of Saudi riyal 50,000, said a press release of Expatriates' Welfare ministry yesterday. Furthermore, the court ordered to send the employers' son Walid Basem Salem to a juvenile correction centre for seven months.

A Grant agreement was signed between the government of Bangladesh and International Development Association-IDA of the World Bank Group for an amount of USD 14.8 million from COVID-19 Accelerated Funding Window of Global Partnership for Education at Economic Relations Division in the capital yesterday.

A total of 2,010 more Rohingyas reached Bhasan Char from Chattogram's Patenga Boat Club as part of their relocation under the supervision of Bangladesh Navy yesterday.

Meanwhile, with the death of 11 more people yesterday, the number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 8,285. At the same time recovery count rose to 4,87,870, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. With the detection of 446 new cases, the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 5,41,038.


A total of 2,26,678 people were administered COVID-19 vaccines across the country yesterday, giving rise to the number of vaccine receivers to 11,32,711. Some 20-30 lac more doses of Covid-19 vaccine will arrive in Bangladesh from India on February 22, Nazmul Hassan Papon, Managing Director of Beximco Pharmaceuticals said this yesterday while talking to reporters.

The government has changed its original plan and will administer the second dose of Covid-19 vaccine eight weeks after the first dose, instead of initial four weeks. Prof A B M Khurshid Alam, Director General of the DGHS, confirmed this to media.

Five of six amici curiae yesterday told the High Court that the writ petition that sought a ban on broadcast of Al Jazeera and the removal of its report titled "All the Prime Minister's Men" from digital platforms is not acceptable as the petitioner has not served any legal notice to government asking for steps to be taken to this effect. The hearing on the petition would resume tomorrow.

The 80th birthday of internationally reputed nuclear scientist and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's husband Dr. M A Wazed Miah is being celebrated today. A number of organizations have chalked out programs to celebrate of Dr. Wazed's birthday.

The Hindu community is celebrating Saraswati Puja, worshipping the goddess of knowledge, music, art and culture, across the country today. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages, greeted members of the Hindu community on the occasion.


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