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News Brief

The 75th birthday of Awami League-AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be celebrated tomorrow. To mark the day, the ruling AL has taken several programs. AL Agriculture and Cooperative Affairs sub-committee will hold a discussion meeting and doa mahfil at AL's Bangabandhu Avenue central office this morning.

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said, the history of struggle of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina should be spread among new generation. The Speaker said this after inauguration of a photo exhibition titled 'Bangladesh: A Decade of Excellence', organized by Canadian University of Bangladesh in the city's Banani area yesterday, on the occasion of the 75th birthday of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The Speaker said, "Sheikh Hasina, the worthy daughter of the independent sovereign Bangladesh that we got under the leadership of the Father of the Nation, has taken the country from the least developed country to the developing country." Under her able leadership, Bangabandhu's dream of a developed digital Bangladesh free from hunger and poverty will be established, the Speaker added. State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Russell, Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Benoit Préfontaine, among others, were present at the program.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, if the BNP again makes their evil attempts to launch sabotage and arson attacks to thwart the country's ongoing progress, AL, along with the people, will give a befitting reply to them. The Minister was addressing a discussion arranged by the AL's Relief and Social Welfare sub-committee marking the birthday of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue central office yesterday. About BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's comment that there is no achievement in Prime Minister's ongoing foreign visit, he said, "You didn't read the New York Times newspaper. Prime Minister's all speeches, including her speech at the United Nations General Assembly, have been lauded by the world leaders." The reports suggest that if a nation wants to eliminate poverty, it should follow Bangladesh and witness the development carried out by Sheikh Hasina's government, he mentioned. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also boldly raised the Rohingya issue, he said. Because of Prime Minister's contribution, Bangladesh stepped up one stair at the UN, he said. On the other hand, BNP slipped one step down due to their evil acts, the Minister opined.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque has urged all the countrymen to keep watchful eyes on the anti-liberation forces as they are still hatching conspiracy against the country. While addressing a meeting of Tangail district AL yesterday, the Minister also urged AL party leaders and activists to stand firm against BNP as the party may try to create anarchy in the country in the name of movement regarding the demand of caretaker government. Mentioning that AL should be reorganized by bringing educated young leaders in the frontline, he also underscored the need for increasing cultural activities across the country to save the next generation from the derailment.

The construction work of fire service and civil defence stations in each upazila is now in the final stage, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said while speaking at the concluding parade of the 41st Batch Officers Foundation Course at Mirpur Fire Service Training Complex in the capital yesterday. The Minister said, there were only 204 fire stations in the country before the AL government took power, but now the number of fire stations has increased to 456. After completion of the ongoing projects, the number of fire stations will stand at 565 and the number of manpower will increase to 16,000, he said. The work of reforming the organizational structure of fire service has started to increase manpower to 25,000 as per the directives of the Prime Minister, he added. The government has enhanced the capacity of the fire service by providing the latest equipment, as such it can now engage in multidisciplinary services, he added.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud while speaking at the special extended meeting of Rangunia Upazila AL yesterday said that all the world leaders, including UN Secretary General praised the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. They took Bangabandhu's daughter to the UN on a special invitation, he added. He said that Bangladesh has been able to sustain economic growth under Sheikh Hasina's leadership despite the Corona epidemic. But, BNP leaders are speaking against the government because they do not see the success of AL and Sheikh Hasina, he added. The unity process of BNP will become a great disunity like the past because there is great disunity among those parties with whom BNP formed unity, Dr. Hasan further said. About the upcoming elections, he said that elections will be held in Bangladesh after two years.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen suggested that International Committee of the Red Cross-ICRC should work more actively in Rakhine state with the Myanmar authorities for the creation of a favorable environment so that the Rohingyas can go back to their homeland with dignity, in a sustainable manner. He made the suggestion as the President of the ICRC Peter Maurer paid a courtesy call on him on 23 September. During the meeting, the ICRC President expressed gratitude to Bangladesh, particularly to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her humanitarian gesture in providing shelter to the Rohingyas when they entered Bangladesh after being persecuted in their homeland by their own state machinery.

Bangladesh has set a target of inoculating 80 lac people, aged 25 and above, tomorrow across the country on the occasion of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's birthday, Health Minister Zahid Maleque made the disclosure at a virtual media briefing organized by Directorate General of Health Service-DGHS yesterday. Those who have already completed the registration process will get priority in receiving the vaccine, he said.

It is possible to compensate 50 to 60 per cent of the losses of the cheated clients of Destiny Group and Jubok by selling the assets of the two companies which collapsed amid widespread fraud, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said this adding, "But, the whole matter lies with the court." The Minister was addressing a workshop organized by the Bangladesh Competition Commission-BCC, for the members of Economic Reporters Forum at the BCC office in the city yesterday. He further said, the government wants the e-commerce sector to run in a more disciplined way shrugging off recent anomalies by some companies. He also urged the consumers to remain more cautious.

'Mujib Amar Pita' (Mujib-My Father), the first 2D animated film fully developed in Bangladesh, based on the book by the same name authored by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, is set to be released on her birthday tomorrow. State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak announced it at a press conference yesterday. Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud will inaugurate the film as part of the country's celebration of the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the 50th year of the independence of Bangladesh.

Bangabandhu's fugitive self-confessed murderer Noor Chowdhury will be brought back to Bangladesh and the death sentence will be executed. The government is making every effort to bring killer Noor Chowdhury from Canada, State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Md. Murad Hassan said this as he was speaking at a view-exchange meeting, jointly organized by the AL of Canada, the Quebec AL and the Canadian Jubo League on Saturday. Besides, the posthumous trial of the main killer and mastermind Ziaur Rahman will also be ensured, he added.

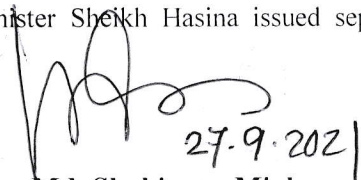
The much-awaited RT-PCR labs to conduct COVID-19 tests for the outgoing passengers will go into full-scale operation at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport from tomorrow. Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh-CAAB Chairman Air vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman announced this after launching the RT-PCR labs on experimental basis at the airport yesterday. State Minister for Civil aviation and Tourism M Mahub Ali was present at the moment.

The BGMEA has proposed a joint collaboration program with Disney to start unconditional sourcing in Bangladesh and build capacity together understanding their specific need in technical, social compliance and sustainability. BGMEA President Faruque Hassan came up with the proposal as he held a meeting with David Grazi, President, and Albert Daniel, Global Vice President, Sourcing at Dreamwave, a major sourcing partner of Walt Disney, in New York on September 24.

A total of 25 lac doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine are scheduled to arrive today at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka from the USA under COVAX facilities, a press release said.

The country yesterday recorded 21 fatalities from COVID-19, the lowest in four months, taking the total death toll to 27,414. With 980 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,51,351. The positivity rate stood at 4.41 per cent, as 22,221 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,11,479, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. Besides, 242 dengue patients got hospitalized in the last 24 hours till last morning, the DGHS informed.

The World Tourism Day is being observed in the country today like elsewhere in the world with the theme 'Tourism for Inclusive Growth'. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the eve of the day.



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