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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, Bangladesh Awami League is committed to the Father of the Nation that the party would always work for the welfare of the people. The Premier said this while joining an unscheduled discussion in Parliament marking the 71st founding anniversary of the party. The Premier said, "On this day, we are taking pledge that we would materialize the dream of the Father of the Nation by making the country a 'Sonar Bangla' free from poverty and hunger." Recalling the contribution and sacrifices of the AL and its leaders for the nation, the Premier said that the AL has been working and struggling for the welfare of the people since its formation. The Premier went on saying that the leaders and activists of the Awami League, Chhatra League, Juba League, Swechhchhasebak League and its other front and associate bodies have been currently working round the clock to reach the relief materials to every doorstep and joining the funeral of COVID-19 patients and thus doing everything.

Bangladesh Awami League celebrated its 71st founding anniversary yesterday with different programmes particularly on virtual media due to coronavirus outbreak. In the morning, Bangladesh AL and its front and associate organizations paid rich tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing wreaths at the portrait of the great leader on the premises of Bangabandhu Bhaban at Dhanmondi in the capital. On behalf of Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina, AL General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader laid wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu. The leaders and activists of the party led by Central Awami League Presidium member Jahangir Kabir Nanak paid homage by placing wreaths at the mausoleum of Bangabandhu at Tungipara in Gopalganj. In the afternoon a doa mahfil was held at Party President's political office in the city's Dhanmondi area.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, the country's oldest political party, Bangladesh AL enjoys the people's trust and it is the beacon of hope to them. The Minister said this as he was addressing a virtual press briefing from his official residence yesterday marking the AL's 71st founding anniversary. Greeting the AL leaders and workers and the well-wishers on the occasion the Minister said, the seven-decade glorious history of AL is the history of Bangladesh. The Minister added, Bangabandhu was a role model for political emancipation, while his daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is a role model for economic development. The Minister further said, following the path of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is working restlessly to materialise his dream of 'Sonar Bangla'.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, Bangladesh AL had not only done welfare of the people when it was in power, but it also stood beside the common people and led movements for realising their rights during the times when it remained out of power. The Minister made the remarks after placing rich tribute to the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Bhaban yesterday. The Minister said, Bangladesh is now moving ahead indomitably under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to fulfil the dream of Bangabandhu. Replying to a query, the Minister said, the party moved ahead facing challenges during the last 71 years of its journey. But, a political party- BNP- is out to patronise the anti-liberation forces after 50 years of independence. While taking part in general discussion on the proposed budget in the Parliament yesterday, the Information Minister said, the proposed budget for fiscal 2020-21 is a courageous and implementable one. The Minister recalled that the greatest achievement of the nation – the country's independence – was achieved under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He said, if Bangabandhu was not assassinated, Bangladesh would have become a more developed country than today's Malaysia,

Singapore and South Korea within 10 to 15 years of its independence. A number of bills were placed in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday including the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (Amendment) Bill, the Air Transport (Montreal Convention 1999) Bill, the Designated Reference Institute for Chemical Measurements, Bangladesh Bill and a bill to empower courts to run trial proceedings through videoconferences and other digital platforms.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has formally informed Bangladesh that it would hold 'very limited' hajj this year instead of a traditional one in view of the COVID-19 pandemic situation. Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud informed the decision to his Bangladesh counterpart Dr. A K Abdul Momen on Monday evening over phone. Dr. Momen termed the decision as 'wise' under the circumstances. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Religious Affairs has said, the pilgrims who paid for the registration of Hajj this year will be able to take back their money if necessary.

Bangladesh yesterday recorded 43 more fatalities from the novel coronavirus in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 1,545. At the same time recovery count rose to 47,635 after another 880 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. Directorate General of Health Services-DGHS came up with the disclosure at its daily health bulletin. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 3,412 new cases taking the total number of cases to 1,19,198. A total of 16,292 samples were tested at the authorised labs across the country during that time, DGHS added.

Meanwhile, considering severe COVID-19 transmission, the Ministry of Public Administration in a gazette notification issued yesterday marked red zone areas in more four districts- Cox's Bazar, Magura, Khulna and Habiganj and declared general public holiday there.

Slovenian President Borut Pahor has assured Bangladesh of extending its support for an immediate and sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas to their ancestral lands in Myanmar. The assurance came when non-resident Ambassador of Bangladesh to Slovenia Md. Abu Zafar met the President at his office in Ljubljana recently. The President appreciated Bangladesh's remarkable socio-economic progress in recent times under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Local Government Minister Md. Tajul Islam has urged all to be aware so that any dengue outbreak caused by the Aedes mosquito could be tolerable during the ongoing coronavirus crisis. The Minister came up with the call while talking at an online inter-ministerial meeting over mosquito-borne disease prevention activities at his ministry yesterday. The Minister also informed that a master plan was formed to keep the rivers in Dhaka including Buriganga and Turag and its surrounding areas free from grabbers.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun while addressing a virtual dialogue titled "Covid-19 Economic Crisis and SME Industry of Bangladesh" yesterday said, the SME database will be updated soon to ensure the benefits of the incentives to the corona-virus affected SMEs at the grassroots level.

Post, Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister Mustafa Jabbaryesterday inaugurated two commemorative stamps marking Awami League's 71st founding anniversary and the inauguration of satellite land station by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Betbunia on 14 June 1975. Meanwhile, a webinar titled 'Youth Expectations from Bangladesh Awami League' was held last night to mark the party's founding anniversary. Another special webinar titled 'Mass people's party Awami League' will be screened from 8.30 tonight.


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