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

News Brief

The activities of the special session to pay solemn tribute to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of Mujib Borsho ended yesterday with the passage of the resolution placed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on November 9 under rule 147 of the Rules of Procedure. Just before the adoption of the resolution, the Prime Minister told the Parliament that Father of the Nation had formed Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League-BAKSAL to unite the nation, but this idea was misinterpreted. The Premier also said, consolidating democracy; establishing rights of the oppressed and changing people's fate through decentralisation of power were the dreams of Bangabandhu. "Our target is to materialise these dreams," she said. President Md. Abdul Hamid witnessed the discussion, sitting at the President Box in the Parliament.

Opposition leader Raushan Ershad taking part on the resolution in the House said, those who wanted to erase Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from history have been erased from history themselves. Lauding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her able leadership, she said, "I find the image of Bangabandhu in the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has been working 24 hours for the country for the last 11 years. I don't see any alternative to her." Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury taking part in the discussion said, a hunger and poverty free Bangladesh will be forged following the constitution of 1972 formulated by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The Speaker also urged the people to continue the journey for building a hunger and poverty free Bangladesh under the leadership of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The House sits again this evening.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina opened a pavilion "Prodorshonite Bangabandhu" at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad last afternoon, marking the special session. Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and Chief Whip Noor-E-Alam Chowdhury accompanied the Premier.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, the Bangladesh Coast Guard will be strengthened so that they can play a role in helping the government tap the potential of 'Blue Economy'. The Premier said this while addressing the commissioning programme of two offshore patrol ships, five in-shore patrol vessels, two fast patrol boats and BCG Base Bhola held at Coast Guard Berth Patenga, joining virtually from Ganabhaban yesterday. The Prime Minister said, two in-shore patrol vessels, one floating crane, two tugboats and 16 boats will soon be inducted into the Coast Guard fleet. The Premier also mentioned that a dockyard is being prepared in Gajaria for the Coast Guard to increase its capacity for repairing and maintenance. To enhance the capacity of this force, initiatives have been taken to procure hovercrafts, drones, and 3500 metric-ton vessels which can operate in all weather conditions, the Prime Minister said.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while virtually addressing a special representatives conference of Natore district AL yesterday said, BNP is carrying out arson attacks on innocent people claiming that they are waging movement for the people. This is nothing but a farce with the people, he said. Mentioning that the patrons of arson attacks and terrorist acts would be captured, the Minister said, BNP Secretary General is making falsehood and trying to shift the liability of arson attacks to others as BNP has developed a habit of shifting responsibility of own misdeeds to others.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, when all are worried about Covid-19, BNP is involved in the game of burning buses and people. He made the remark while exchanging views with journalists at Press Information Department yesterday. Analyzing video footages, a number of people were arrested and most of them are BNP men, he said. Noting that a Canadian court announced BNP as a terrorist party and its Appellate Division also upheld the verdict, the Minister said adding the court also made the explanation as BNP burnt people alive and torched public property.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has expressed his optimism over signing of Teesta water sharing deal with India as he was talking to reporters during his visit to Varendra Research Museum and Rajshahi College on the concluding day of his two-day visit to Rajshahi yesterday. Responding to a question, Dr. Momen said, the government has planned to shift 100,000 Rohingyas to Bhasan Char for

better living with economic opportunities and to avoid risk of landslides and deaths in Rohingya camps. He hoped the new US government under Biden administration will have stronger voice on Rohingya issue.

Local Government Minister and Chairman of the Master Plan Committee to free river, prevent pollution and increase navigability, Md. Tajul Islam has said, the bridges around Dhaka which are creating obstacles in plying of water vessels will be demolished and new bridges will be built there. He said, 90 per cent of the rivers around Dhaka have been freed from grabbing. He was briefing reporters after a meeting of the master plan committee in the ministry yesterday. The Minister said, the government has taken up the project aimed at connecting the capital's identified canals with one another and there will be walkways on both sides and plying of water transport system for people.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque has said, the government has decided to purchase 300 more ventilators to deal coronavirus pandemic successfully. He said this while attending a function at Kurmitola General Hospital in the city yesterday. US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R. Miller handed over 100 ventilators to the Minister at the function. The government is going to make Covid-19 negative certificates mandatory for every incoming passenger from foreign destinations, Prof Dr. Khurshid Alam, DG of Health Services Department said during his visit to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

The number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 6,194 yesterday with the death of 21 more people. At the same time recovery count rose to 3,49,542. With the detection of 1,837 new cases the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 4,32,333. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and Senior Secretary of the ministry's Public Security Department Mustafa Kamal Uddin have been infected with the coronavirus though they have no physical symptoms of Covid-19 as of yet. The Home Minister, however, received covid negative report from another lab.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a message of condolence expressed profound shock and sorrow at the demise of legendary Indian Bengali Actor Soumitra Chattopadhyay, who breathed his last at the age of 85 in Kolkata yesterday after being tested positive for the Covid-19.

Railways Minister Md Nurul Islam Sujon has said, Bangladesh Railway would get 40 new broad-gauge locomotives at the cost of Tk 1,135 crore between March 2021 and February 2022 according to a deal inked with US railway rolling stock manufacturer 'Progress Rail Services Corporation' on January 14, last year. The Minister said this while addressing a discussion marking the Railway Day, which was observed in the country for the first time, at Railway Building in the capital yesterday.

Posts and Telecommunication Minister Mustafa Jabbar has said, 60 per cent demand of mobile sets is now being met by locally manufactured mobile phones. Bangladesh is exporting mobiles to the United States, Internet of Things-IoT devices to Saudi Arabia, laptops and computers to Nepal and Nigeria. The Minister was addressing a function at Tongi yesterday. Software is being exported to 80 countries around the world, he said.

Eight power plants based on gas/ LNG with a combined generation capacity of 3,471 MW under construction will begin operation in phases from December 2020 to December 2022, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid said to media yesterday. He said, after assuming power, the present government constructed 111 new power plants having generation capacity of 18,606 MW in the last 11 years. Currently the country's power generation capacity reaches 23,548 MW that has helped the government to bring about 98 per cent people under power coverage, he said.

The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs has issued a state honoring order, 2020 on the death of the heroic freedom fighters replacing earlier order of 2005 to this end. Another report says, a writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday challenging the reported government's move to sell the arms and weapons used during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.



Surath Kumar Sarker
Principal Information Officer
Phone- 9546091