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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid will attend flag-giving ceremony to four artilleries and a passing-out parade of the 94th recruit batch of Border Guard Bangladesh today. The Head of the State arrived in Chattogram yesterday and planted a sapling in front of the VIP complex of Artillery Centre and School after receiving the guard of honour. The President yesterday also enjoyed a cultural programme along with his family members at the Mushfiq Auditorium of the centre there.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reiterated her determination to make Bangladesh a technology and knowledge-based dignified nation along with ensuring economic emancipation of the countrymen as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The Premier expressed the vow while addressing a discussion marking Amar Ekushey and International Mother Language Day arranged by Bangladesh Awami League at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in Dhaka yesterday. The Premier said, her government will construct houses for the landless and homeless as well for those who lost houses by river erosion so that everyone gets an address.

Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal has said, from now on Bangladesh has no need to import pitch for road carpeting, rather it can export. He said this while speaking at the launching ceremony of pitch bitumen plant by Bashundhara Group for the first time in the country at Pangaon area in Keraniganj yesterday. It is to be noted that the annual demand for bitumen in Bangladesh is between 5 lakh to 6 lakh metric tons. Annual production from the state-owned Eastern Refinery Limited is 50,000 to 60,000 metric tons. The remaining bitumen is imported. The production capacity of Bashundhara Bitumin Plant will be 9 lakh metric tons by 2021.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal has said, the drug addicts will not get government jobs since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina strictly directed that no one can enter government service without dope test. He said this while addressing the 30th anniversary of anti-drug activities of Dhaka Ahsania Mission in the Capital yesterday.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen while addressing a discussion on the occasion of International Mother Language Day in Dhaka yesterday sought assistance of the UNDP to improve skills of the educated youth of the country through training. The Foreign Minister also inaugurated a joint exhibition with the art-works of Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan artists dedicated to Father of Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the city yesterday. The exhibition will continue till February 28. The International Mother Language Day was also observed through various programmes in a befitting manner in Paris, Ottawa, Kolkata, New York and Washington. Different political and social organizations and educational institutions observed the day through various programmes.

Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni while speaking at a function on the occasion of 'World Thinking Day' at Baily Road in the capital yesterday enunciated the importance of girl guides for developing the mental and physical skills of girls.

Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury speaking at a meeting in Cox's Bazaar yesterday said, no irregularity in land acquisition activities will be tolerated anywhere of the country.

Social Welfare Minister Nuruzzaman Ahmed while speaking at a function at Nageshwari uazilla in Kurigram yesterday said, schools for mentally challenged children will be established in each district and later in each upazila.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi while talking to the journalists in Dhaka yesterday said, onion price has come down below Taka 100 per kg and price of the essential commodity will not remain an issue from the next month with the appearance of more locally produced onion in local markets.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Md. Mahbub Ali while speaking at a seminar on tourism of Bangladesh in Dhaka yesterday said, an initiative is being taken to declare 2021 as the 'Tourism Year' marking the golden jubilee of the country's independence.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Md. Zakir Hossen while visiting a primary school in Chilmari Upazila under Kurigram yesterday said, Bangabandhu book corner and Shahid Minar will be set up at all government primary schools across the country.

Bangladesh Bank will issue regular currency notes and commemorative notes of Taka 200 in March marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The central bank will also issue Taka 100 denomination commemorative gold and silver coins marking the celebration.

A 39-year-old Bangladeshi in the United Arab Emirates have tested positive for coronavirus, the UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention announced on Friday. Meanwhile, a Bangladeshi student, who recently returned from coronavirus-hit Wuhan city in China, has praised the Chinese government for taking care of them amid the outbreak. IEDCR yesterday informed, anyone returning from China, is not necessarily infected with the coronavirus but a vested quarter is trying to spread rumor over the issue.

FBCCI President Sheikh Fazle Fahim in the capital yesterday speaking a press conference in view of coronavirus threat hoped that trade with China will become normal from Monday. The FBCCI president said, the trade volume between China and Bangladesh was around \$14.68 billion dollars in 2018-19 fiscal. Of them, import trade was \$13.86 billion dollars while export \$831 million dollars.

Private mobile operator Grameenphone will deposit Tk 1,000 crore to BTRC today as ordered by the Supreme Court. GP made the announcement in a media statement on Friday, a day after the appellate division ordered it to pay the amount within Feb 24.

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