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News Brief

The Armed Forces Day was celebrated across the country yesterday. On this day in 1971, the members of the Bangladesh Army, Navy, and Air Force officially united and launched an all-out attack on the Pakistani forces in the War of Liberation. On behalf of the President and the Prime Minister, their Military Secretaries placed wreaths at 'Shikha Anirban'-the eternal flame at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday to pay homage to the members of the Armed Forces who laid down their lives during our Liberation War. Later, Chief of Army Staff General Aziz Ahmed, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral M Shaheen Iqbal and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Masihuzzaman Serniabat laid wreaths at 'Shikha Anirban' on behalf of their respective forces.

Later, the Chiefs paid a courtesy call on President Md. Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban on the occasion. During the meeting, the President highlighting the contribution of the Armed Forces to the Great War of Liberation added that the armed forces have brightened the country's image across the globe by protecting the country's sovereignty and ensuring its socioeconomic development.

The Chiefs of the three services also paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the occasion at Ganabhaban last morning. The Premier greeting them on the occasion mentioned the courageous role of the country's armed forces in checking coronavirus pandemic and different natural disasters. The Prime Minister awarded the 'Senabahini Padak' to Chief of Army Staff General Aziz Ahmed for his exemplary contribution to the development and modernization of the army. Besides, a total of 40 officers and sailors of Bangladesh Navy have been awarded peacetime medals for the year 2019 in recognition of their heroic and courageous work.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while delivering her pre-recorded speech on Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar yesterday on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day said, Bangladesh always believes in peaceful coexistence with all neighbors, but it is also ever ready to protect its sovereignty from any aggressive attack. The Premier briefly describing various development programmes implemented for the Armed Forces said, the government has formulated the Forces Goal-2030 following Bangabandhu's Defence Policy-1974 to protect the country's sovereignty. At a time when many developed and developing countries are struggling with negative growth due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Bangladesh's growth increased to 5.24 per cent, the Premier further said. The Premier said the country's remittance inflow, agricultural production and export have made a turnaround as its foreign currency reserve exceeded the US\$41 billion mark.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been made co-chair of One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance-AMR for three years along with Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Amor Mottley. AMR is a group jointly initiated by World Health Organisation, Food & Agriculture Organisation and World Organisation for Animal Health, in response to a recommendation from the Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and supported by the UN Secretary-General. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Press Event of the launching of 'One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance' virtually on Friday sought coordinated global action to monitor the nature of infections, implement the required control measures and raise awareness against the widespread use of antibiotics.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, Awami League witnessed the brutality of August 15 massacre, November 3 jail killings and August 21 grenade attacks but did not do politics of vengeance. The Minister was virtually inaugurating BRTC double-decker bus service on Dhaka-Narayanganj route yesterday. The Minister said, democracy is a developing process as it flourishes through participation of all political parties and nurturing of it. But the irony is that though BNP talks about democracy, it stays far away from playing the role needed to strengthen democracy, he added.

The number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 6,350 yesterday with the death of 28 more people. At the same time recovery count rose to 3,60,352. With the detection of 1,847 new cases the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 4,45,281. Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque speaking at a function at Sauria Upazila of Manikganj district yesterday urged the people to maintain the health safety guidelines and other rules set by the government strictly till the coronavirus vaccine is available. The South Korean Embassy in Dhaka will remain temporarily closed until further notice as one of the Embassy staff tested positive for COVID-19 on Friday.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister S M Rezaul Karim has said, the government wants to invest in the livestock sector to eradicate unemployment created due to COVID-19 pandemic. The Minister was addressing the inauguration function of the Black Bengal Goat Development and Expansion Project in Barishal yesterday.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson during a telephonic conversation with Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on Friday, raised the UK's concerns over the Rohingya crisis. He also called upon Myanmar to abide by the International Court of Justice's provisional measures ruling on the Rohingya issue.

Bangladesh and Jordan are in discussions to convene bilateral Foreign Office Consultations, with a view to strengthening the bilateral relations in areas of tourism, trade and investment, as well as employment and recruitment of Bangladeshi workers in Jordan. Bangladesh Ambassador to Jordan Nahida Sobhan met newly appointed Foreign Secretary of Jordan Dr. Yousef Bataineh and discussed issues of mutual interest, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday. Ambassador Sobhan also requested for opening an Embassy of Jordan in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh attaches great importance to regional cooperation through BIMSTEC and is strongly committed to enhancing cooperation in all 14 areas of cooperation with BIMSTEC member states. Charge d' Affaires of Bangladesh Embassy in Bangkok Shahnaz Gazi has said this as she was addressing an event titled "The Bay of Bengal: An Aspiration for Sustainability" in Bangkok on Friday.

The 38th span of the Padma Bridge was placed at the Mawa end in Munshiganj last afternoon making 5.7 km of the bridge visible. The long-cherished Padma Bridge is likely to be opened for public in the first half of 2022, as the installation of all spans is expected to be completed within next month, officials said.

Detectives in a drive yesterday arrested three activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Juba Dal, student and youth fronts of the BNP, over the arson attacks on buses in Dhaka on November 12.



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