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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has asked the members of armed forces to stay ready for supreme sacrifice upholding the dignity of the National Flag. The Head of the State made the call while addressing a flag-giving ceremony of four artilleries at Hali Shahor Artillery Centre and School in Chattogram yesterday. Noting that modernization and technology are closely related, the President stressed on acquiring necessary technical and professional knowledge by all members to cope with the modern technology. He recalled the dutifulness and professionalism of the armed forces in establishing world peace through different UN peacekeeping missions, saying that their welfare activities enhanced the image of Bangladesh across the world. The President urged the member of the forces to continue their relentless efforts to build “Sonar Bangla” envisioned by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked the authorities concerned to take plans of development projects in such a way that one becomes complementary to another. The Premier said this after witnessing a presentation on the realignment of the Hatirjheel part of Sonargaon-BUET Link of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway at her Office in Dhaka yesterday. The Link will benefit dwellers in old Dhaka city and Dhanmondi as it was estimated that some 20 percent of traffic vehicles enter through the link. She also asked the authorities concerned to take development plans by protecting the water bodies particularly the ponds. Earlier, the Prime Minister witnessed another presentation on the amended plan of the buildings under Joyeeta Tower Construction Project at her office.

Special Envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Hollywood Star Angelina Jolie in a recent letter written to Bangladesh’s Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina applauded Bangladesh’s generosity and leadership role in dealing with the Rohingya crisis. In the letter, Angelina Jolie, who visited Rohingya camps in Cox’s Bazar in February 2019, has expressed her commitment to continue her advocacy for the humanitarian response for Rohingyas.

A meeting of Awami League Local Government Public Representative Nomination Board will be held with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at Ganabhaban in Dhaka today.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury addressing a discussion marking the anniversary of bestowing Bangabandhu title to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the National Press Club in Dhaka yesterday said, all achievements of Bangalee nation ranging from Language Movement to Independence had come under the courageous leadership of Bangabandhu.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, the government will take decision against the cable operators who would not digitalize their operating systems within a timeframe. The Minister at a press conference at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday said, if the system is brought under digitalization, cable operators can’t be able to evade tax and VAT. The government will get about Taka 10,000 to 12,000 crore as tax and VAT from this sector in every year, he added. The Information Minister replying to a question of a journalist said, the leaders of BNP are working to protect the interests of Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman, not for the welfare of the countrymen. Criticizing a comment of BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Begum Zia’s bail issue, he said it is a matter of court whether Khaleda Zia would get bail or not. Meanwhile, the visiting delegation of the Carter Center, US-based nongovernmental organisation met the Information Minister at his office yesterday.

Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal citing the report of an international survey has said, the economy of Bangladesh will surpass that of Malaysia and Singapore by 2024. He said this while speaking the induction ceremony of the new committee of Development Journalists Forum of Bangladesh in Dhaka yesterday. Meanwhile, former UK Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Sir Hugo Swire called on Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal at his ERD office in Dhaka yesterday.

Visiting Malaysian Minister for Human Resources M. Kula Segaran called on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen at his Ministry in Dhaka yesterday. Dr. Momen thanked Malaysian Government for employing around 280 thousand Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia during 2017-2018 under G2G Plus process. He requested Malaysia to remain proactive in the ASEAN platform to convince Myanmar for creating a conducive environment for a safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas.

Local Government Minister Md. Tazul Islam speaking at a meeting on development activities of municipalities at his ministry yesterday called the municipality mayors to observe the Mujib Year marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a befitting manner.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmood Humayun has said, 78 lakh small and medium industrialists across the country are creating self-employment and creating employment for others. He said this while addressing a meeting of the taskforce at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid while inaugurating the Bangabandhu Corner at the Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd headquarters in the city yesterday directed the officials to increase the use of pre-paid metres to collect electricity bills. At present, there is only 3.3 million prepaid metres across the country while the total electricity consumers are 36.2 million.

IEDCR has asked the people concerned not to visit the coronavirus affected countries, otherwise there is any urgency. Bangladesh is still free from coronavirus, IEDCR Director Professor Dr. Meerjady Sabrina Flora informed adding that the country has the capacity to face attack of the disease.

Grameenphone yesterday paid Taka 1,000 crore to BTRC as part of outstanding due of Taka 12,580 crore unearthed by audit. The operator made the payment as directed by the Appellate Division on February 20 to escape any regulatory measures of BTRC after February 24.

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