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### News Brief

The historic Mujibnagar Day is being observed today marking the oath-taking ceremony of country's first government on April 17, 1971. Following the Pakistan army's genocide on unarmed Bangalees on the black night of March 25 in 1971, senior leaders of Awami League assembled at Baidyanathtala in Meherpur on April 17 to form the provisional government of independent Bangladesh. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was declared the first President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, while Syed Nazrul Islam was appointed the acting President in the absence of Bangabandhu. The provisional government gave successful leadership to the War of Liberation for achieving victory on December 16. Several programmes have been taken to observe the historic Mujibnagar Day. The ruling Awami League has drawn up programmes on this occasion on limited scale with maintaining health guidelines in view of the second wave of the coronavirus outbreak. Newspapers have published special supplements while Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television and private TV channels will air different programmes highlighting significance of the day.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the occasion of the historic Mujibnagar Day. The Head of the State and the Premier urged the countrymen to make effective role in building non-communal, hunger and poverty free, developed and prosperous 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In his message, the President said the journey of struggle for freedom against Pakistani occupational forces, which began through Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's historic March 7 speech, had got the institutional shape with the formation of Mujibnagar Government on April 10 in 1971. In her message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said April 17, the historic Mujibnagar Day, is a memorable one in the national life of Bangalees. On the 50th anniversary of Mujibnagar Day, the Premier urged all to uphold the independence that was earned through the supreme sacrifice of 30 lakh martyrs and two lakh tortured mothers and sisters.

Liberation War Affairs Minister A K M Mozammel Huq, in a message on the occasion of the historic Mujibnagar Day said, the education and consciousness of the historic Mujibnagar Day will inspire and empower the Bengali nation from generation to generation. He called upon all to fulfill their responsibilities to build the 'Sonar Bangla' of the dream of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. In his message, the Minister paid homage to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the undisputed leader of the Bengali nation and father of the nation, the four national leaders and all those associated with the Mujibnagar government.

Meanwhile, an e-poster has been published at the initiative of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Birth Centenary Celebration National Implementation Committee marking the historic Mujibnagar Day. As part of paying homage to the Father of the Nation in 'Mujib Year', the e-poster of the historic Mujibnagar Day has been titled with his words 'Bangladesh will survive in history as an independent country. There is no force that can keep Bengal down', a press release said.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, BNP is now out to spread propaganda centering lockdown after failing in their evil politics over vaccine. The Minister said this while addressing in a coronavirus protective equipment distribution ceremony arranged by AL sub-committee on relief and social welfare in Dhaka, virtually joining from his residence yesterday. Covid-19 protective equipments were handed over to representatives of several journalists' organizations and religious institutions. Obaidul Quader hoped that the ongoing struggle under the leadership of Bangabandhu's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to guide the country towards development, progress and stronger democracy will be successful with the cooperation of people of all strata.

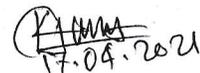
Bangladesh will demand 10 per cent of the funds that the humanitarian agencies raise in the name of Bangladesh and Rohingyas if they do not provide services to 100,000 Rohingyas to be shifted to Bhasan Char gradually. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen said this in an interview at his residence in Dhaka yesterday. Responding to a question on the technical team's observation on Bhasan Char, the Foreign Minister said, 'They have a very good and positive observation. Concisely, they've given a positive observation.' He said they will hand over a 10-page report based on their observations and they have already submitted a two-page synopsis. An 18-member UN delegation visited Bhasan Char in March to have a firsthand view of the housing facility for 100,000 Rohingyas. In their two-page synopsis, the team pointed out three points – education for Rohingya children, increasing heights of the embankments and better communication system. Wishing which would help keep them active. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised the day-long trip to Bhasan Char for the heads of missions of 10 embassies/delegation-Turkey, EU, the USA, the UK, France, Germany, Japan, Australia, Canada and the Netherlands.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Saida Muna Tasneem, who also represents the country on the Board of Governors of the Commonwealth, has reaffirmed her government's commitment to upholding media freedoms within the Commonwealth and beyond. The High Commissioner made the remarks at a virtual event organised by the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and High Commission of Namibia, on 'Media Freedom in the Commonwealth' on Wednesday in London.

Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi observed the historic Mujibnagar Day in advance yesterday with due dignity, reports UNB. Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Muhammad Imran while speaking at the function highlighted the significance of the historic Mujibnagar Day that falls on April 17 and said, the Mujibnagar government played a historic role in the freedom struggle of Bangladesh.

South Korea has suspended visas for Bangladeshis as there has been an upswing in Covid-19 cases among the citizens of the South Asian nation visiting the southern half of the Korean Peninsula recently. Bangladesh Embassy in Seoul confirmed this yesterday, the day when the ban came into effect.

The country yesterday recorded 101 COVID-19 deaths, taking the death toll to 10,182. With 4,417 fresh cases, the tally of infections surged to 7,11,779. At the same time recovery count rose to 6,0,2908, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. The number of vaccine receivers given the first dose of vaccine rose to 56,86,885, while a total of 93,01,51 people received the second dose of the vaccine. As many as 70,86,825 people got registered until yesterday to take COVID-19 vaccines, DGHS sources said.

  
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