



## News Brief

The nation celebrated the sixth day of the 10-day special program of the Birth Centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and golden jubilee of the independence with the theme 'Banglar Mati, Amar Mati' at the National Parade Ground in the city yesterday. Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari arrived Dhaka last morning on a two-day official visit to join the twin grand celebrations as the special Guest of Honor. President Md. Abdul Hamid received her at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. After her arrival, the Nepalese President paid glowing tributes to the memory of the martyred freedom fighters at National Memorial in Savar by placing a wreath at the memorial.

Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari highly praised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her dynamic leadership, eulogizing "You are a much inspiring leader in the world", as the Premier Sheikh Hasina paid a courtesy call on her at the Intercontinental Hotel in the capital last afternoon. She further said that Bangladesh can be a role model for women's participation in national development tasks. Seeking 'meaningful cooperation' from Bangladesh, the Nepalese President handed over two books-'Unfinished Memoirs' and 'Karagarer Rojnamcha' of Bangabandhu translated into Nepali language to the Prime Minister. The Premier offered Nepal to use Chattagram and Mongla ports and the Syedpur International Airport. The Prime Minister emphasized on mutual cooperation in the fields of trade and commerce and signing of the preferential trade agreement-PTA between the two countries. She also advocated for strengthening connectivity among the BBIN-Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal, member states as it will boost trade and commerce in the region. She also said that a hydroelectric power plant could be set up using the water resources of Nepal with joint cooperation of Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

In the evening, joining the twin grand celebrations, Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari in her address, terming Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman 'a revered leader' said, "As an excellent orator, organizer and crusader, Bangabandhu won the hearts and minds of the people of Bangladesh and attained the goal of creating a new nation." She added, "We also learn about his great compassion for the weak, downtrodden, poor and other citizens in difficulty." She further said, "As the celebrations on Bangabandhu's birth centenary is going on, I consider the continued progress of Bangladeshi people a fitting tribute to his contributions to the nation building process of Bangladesh." President Md. Abdul Hamid attended the function as the Chief Guest with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presiding over the function.

President Md. Abdul Hamid recalling Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's pro-people political activities, urged the government and political parties to work with honesty and sincerity for the sake of public interest to ensure progress and welfare of the nation as he addressed the program at the National Parade Ground yesterday. The President also urged all concerned to take proper steps so that the future generations can grow up being imbued with the principles and ideals of Bangabandhu and the spirit of the War of Liberation. "Bangabandhu had great confidence, love and trust on his fellow countrymen and lastly had to sacrifice his own life in return of the love of Bangali people," he mentioned adding, "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is not only a name . . . He is an institution, an entity, a history. As long as there will be Bangladesh, there will be Bangali people, Bangabandhu will remain as the source of inspiration till that day."

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, while presiding over the function, pointing to global warming, made a fervent appeal to the world people to ensure sustainable development for their greater interest, saying that the climate change has made the countries of subcontinent the most vulnerable. The Premier said, countries on the Himalayan basin are prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, cloud bursts, avalanches, landslides, flash floods etc. In addition, she said, the coastal regions like Bangladesh are to stand against frequent floods, tidal surges, earthquakes, heavy rains, or droughts.

The Nepalese President expressed her keen interest to work together by utilizing the potentials of the two countries as she paid a courtesy call on President Md. Abdul Hamid at the Credential Hall of Bangabhaban last evening. She also put emphasis on mutual exchange of visit both in public and private sectors to intensify the existing relations. President Md. Abdul Hamid said, the visit of Nepalese President would be a unique milestone to strengthen the existing ties between the two friendly countries.

After the bilateral talks between Bangladesh and Nepal, Dhaka and Kathmandu signed four Memorandum of Understandings-MoUs to enhance cooperation between the two countries in different areas including tourism, sanitation, cultural exchange and railways link. President Md. Abdul Hamid and his Nepalese counterpart Bidya Devi Bhandari witnessed the MoUs signing ceremony. The MoU signing ceremony was followed by a cultural function and dinner. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangabandhu's younger daughter Sheikh Rehana, Cabinet members and senior civil and military officials, among others, attended the dinner.

The nation is celebrating the seventh day of the 10-day special program with the theme 'Nari Mukti, Sammo o Swadhinata' at the National Parade Ground in the city today. Meanwhile, Bhutanese Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering arrives here this morning on a three-day state visit to attend the grand celebrations. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina welcomed her Bhutanese counterpart at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom in a written message sent to President Md. Abdul Hamid said, "On the special occasion of your 50th Independence Day, I am delighted to convey to Your Excellency my congratulations, together with my best wishes to the people of Bangladesh". She added: "We share ties of friendship and affection, which remain the foundation of our partnership, are as important today as fifty years ago. After what has been a difficult year, I hope we may look forward to overcoming global health challenges and to better times in the future".

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has been awarded with the prestigious "The Gandhi Peace Prize-2020" in recognition of immense and unparalleled contribution of Bangabandhu in inspiring liberation of Bangladesh, bringing stability, laying foundation for India-Bangladesh relations and promoting peace in the region, a statement of the Indian ministry of Culture in New Delhi yesterday said. The Chair of the Jury for the prize, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, paying tribute to Bangabandhu said, Bangabandhu was a champion of human rights and freedom, and is a hero to Indians as well. "The legacy and inspiration of Bangabandhu has made the heritage of both countries more comprehensive and deep-rooted and that the path shown by Bangabandhu has laid a strong foundation for the partnership, progress and prosperity of both countries over the last decade," he said.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, communal forces must be resisted to make the country's independence meaningful as BNP is propelling the evil forces. While addressing the conference of Noagaon's Porsha upazila unit of AL through videoconferencing yesterday, the Minister also said, an intrigue is on to oust the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government. "As the BNP has failed in waging an anti-government movement, its leaders are leaving no stone unturned to assume power through local and international plots," he said.

A special tribunal is scheduled to pronounce its judgement today in a case lodged over planting bomb at the temporary helipad on Sheikh Lutfor Rahman Government Ideal College ground in Gopalganj to kill Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2000. Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday set May 20 for holding hearing of Barapukuria Coal Mine graft case against BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and others, allowing a time plea of the defence.

The government has not taken any decision to enforce lockdown or general holiday over the increasing trend of COVID-19 during recent times in the country. A vested quarter has spread a video on general holiday announced on March 23, 2020 on social media aiming to misguide the people, an official release said yesterday. The government will take stern action against the people, who are involved with the incident of spreading such falsehood, it added.

Meanwhile, with 30 more deaths yesterday, the number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 8,720. At the same time recovery count rose to 5,24,159, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. With the detection of 2,809 new cases, the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 5,73,687. As many as 62,71,524 people got registered till 2.30pm yesterday to receive the vaccine, DGHS said.

The World Meteorological Day is being observed in the country today with the theme 'The Ocean, our Climate and Weather'. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the occasion.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate condolence messages, expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of the Daily Janakantha's Editor and Publisher Mohammad Atikullah Khan Masud, who died at a city hospital last morning at the age of 71.

  
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