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### News Brief

The year-long programmes of Mujib year began yesterday with the celebrations of 100th birthday of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the architect of independent Bangladesh. People from all walks of life including political leaders at home and abroad paid homage to the great leader on the occasion. The nation recalled the moment of the birth of Bangabandhu at 8 pm last evening through eye-catching fire-works at the historic Suhrawardy Uddyan in the capital and other prominent venues. The most attractive part of the day-programme "Muktir Mahanayk" highlighting the life and works of Bangabandhu was simultaneously telecast through all betar and TV Channels and social media. The two hour long programme included speeches of President Md. Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, OIC Secretary General Dr. Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimen and other world leaders. Though the Day is being celebrated as National Children Day, this year the programmes were rescheduled considering the outbreak coronavirus.

President Md. Abdul Hamid in his televised address yesterday on the birth centenary of Bangabandhu said, the ideals of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman would help new generation contribute to nation-building tasks. Noting that Bangabandhu was the symbol of the principle and ideology, the President said his books, including 'Unfinished Memoirs' and 'Prison Life' would help new generation know about the life and works of Bangabandhu. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her nationwide address said, brutal bullets of killers took away the life of the Father of the Nation and the killers tried to wipe out his name from the history of Bangladesh, but they could not succeed. Sheikh Rehana, in a message on the occasion urged all to take a vow to bring smiles on the faces of the distressed people and build a beautiful and prosperous country. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi through a video message describing Bangabandhu as a Man of Courage, Conviction and Sage of Peace, said that Bangladesh's "Jatir Pita" inspired the youth of those times to face the challenges of liberate the country. The Indian Premier recalled how Bangabandhu devoted every moment of his life towards bringing Bangladesh out of the phase of devastation and genocide and making it into a positive and progressive society.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid their homage by placing wreaths at the mazar of Bangabandhu at Tungipara in Gopalganj yesterday. Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Cabinet members, Awami League senior leaders, chiefs of the three services also paid homage at the mausoleum of Bangabandhu at Tungipara yesterday. The President, the Prime Minister along with her family members also witnessed an air show organised by Bangladesh Air Force on the occasion. At a milad mahfil there, the Prime Minister and others offered Fateha and munajat seeking eternal peace of the departed souls of the Father of the Nation, Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib and other martyrs of August 15, 1975 massacre. Ahead of travelling to Tungipara, the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also placed wreaths at Bangabandhu's portrait at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi Road No 32 in the capital yesterday morning.

President Md. Abdul Hamid received a commemorative post card carrying greetings from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina marking 'Mujib Year' at Bangabhaban yesterday. Post and Telecommunication Minister Mustafa Jabbar formally handed over the post card to the President, as a part of sending similar post card message to 5 crore families of the country.

Please Turn Over

President Md. Abdul Hamid hosted a doa mahfil at Bangabhaban on the occasion of birth centenary of the Father of the Nation. Munajat was offered for eternal peace of the Father of the Nation and other patriotic individuals, who had to embrace martyrdom on the fateful night of August 15 and in different democratic movements, including in the 1971 Liberation War and Language Movement in 1952.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has released a Taka 10 commemorative postage stamp and a Taka 10 first day cover and a data card of Taka 5 denomination marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The Premier also released Taka 100 commemorative note and Tk 200 commemorative bank note as well as Tk 100 commemorative gold coin and Tk 100 commemorative silver coin from Ganabhaban in Dhaka yesterday on the occasion of the Mujib Borsho. Sheikh Hasina also unveiled a souvenir titled "Koti Manusher Kanthaswar" published by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Birth Centenary Celebration National Implementation Committee. The Ministry of Information brought out special supplementary covering a number of pages on the occasion. National dailies also brought out special supplementary.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has greeted Freedom Fighters of the country on the occasion of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Like other occasions, the Premier sent flowers, fruits and sweetmeats to the war-wounded Freedom Fighters and members of the martyred families at Martyred and War-wounded Freedom Fighters' Rehabilitation Centre on Gaznavi Road in the capital's Mohammadpur as a mark of her good wishes for them.

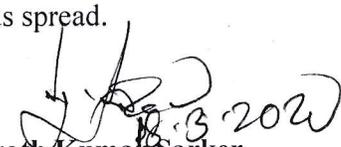
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has recited a poem titled "Baba" authored by her younger sister Sheikh Rehana on the occasion of the inauguration of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu. The recorded recitation was aired simultaneously by all electronic media, including BTV, Bangladesh Betar, online and social media yesterday.

Bangladesh missions in abroad including Tokyo, Delhi, Washington DC, Beijing, Singapore and Vietnam celebrated the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children's Day 2020 in a befitting manner.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader castigating the perpetrators, who hatched hideous conspiracy aiming to remove the name of Bangabandhu from the history of the country said, they will be wiped out politically. He came up with the statements after placing a wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Dhanmondi yesterday on the occasion of the birth centenary celebrations of the great leader.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, BNP had a chance to come out of the politics of killing and conspiracy by seeking apology to the nation on the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, noting that BNP was involved in the killing of Bangabandhu. He made the statement while replying to a question after paying homage to Bangabandhu by placing a wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu on the Film Development Corporation premises in Dhaka yesterday.

The total number of coronavirus infected persons rose to 10 in the country as the IEDCR at a press conference yesterday said, two more persons have been diagnosed positive for the virus. It also said, they tested 36 samples in last 24 hours, of which two new cases were detected. Sixteen people are in isolation and 43 are in institutional quarantine. Meanwhile, the government on Monday decided to keep closed all educational institutions across the country from March 18 to March 31 to prevent the coronavirus spread.

  
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