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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned home yesterday morning from Milan concluding her four-day official visit to Italy at the invitation of her Italian Counterpart Giuseppe Conte. During the visit, the Premier held a bilateral meeting with Giuseppe Conte who pledged to provide one million Euros for the help of the Rohingyas in addition to existing assistance through the UNHCR. In Rome, Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the Chancery Building of Bangladesh Embassy and held meeting with the representatives of the Italian business companies.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, befitting reply will be given to BNP if the party carries out terrorist activities in the name of movement. He said this to journalists after a meeting with newly-elected mayors of Dhaka south and north city corporations and MPs at AL president's Dhanmondi political office in Dhaka yesterday. About the issue of BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia's bail, he said, it is the jurisdiction of the court to give her bail.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud reiterated there is no way of freeing BNP Chief Begum Khaleda Zia through movement or street campaigns, saying legal way could be the only path to release her from jail. He said this while addressing a meeting marking 'Mubib Borsho' the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday. Blasting a BNP leader for his comment on selling EVMs, he said, BNP had sold machines of many factories after shutting those down, including Adamjee Jute Mills during their regime.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq has urged the BNP leaders to read and try to understand the newly passed 'Deposition of the Surplus Money of Self-Governed Agencies including Autonomous, Semi-Autonomous, Statutory Government Authorities and Public Non-Financial Corporations into the Government Exchequer Bill' allowing government to use surplus fund of autonomous bodies for development work. He said this while talking to journalists at Akhaura yesterday. About BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's reaction on the new law, he also said, 'whether they can understand or not, whichever law we pass, they term it a black law. I would like to urge them to read the law and try to understand, and then come up with reactions'.

Home Minister Asduzzaman Khan Kamal has said, Bangladesh Police have earned the pro-people image as cherished by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He said this while speaking at the 45th founding anniversary of DMP at Rajarbagh Police Lines in Dhaka yesterday. He also said, the present government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken necessary initiatives to face the challenges of this century and police are coping with the country's ongoing development spree.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has ruled out the complain of food crisis of 171 stranded Bangladeshis in China, saying the Chinese government has ensured groceries and water for Bangladeshis now in Hubei province which is locked down due to the outbreak of coronavirus. He said this while speaking at a function organised by Centre for Non-Resident Bangladeshi at a city hotel yesterday. About bring backing back the stranded Bangladeshi students, he said, Bangladesh requested China to arrange a chartered flight for sending the stranded Bangladeshi students to Dhaka, but China is yet to find any aircraft to charter. +Meanwhile, screening of passengers of all flights has been started at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka as coronavirus cases were detected in more than two dozens of countries including China, Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research sources said yesterday.

Please Turn Over

Environment, Forests and Climate Change Minister M Shahab Uddin has said, environmentally harmful brick kilns will be shut down by 2025 to protect human health from various diseases. He said this while inaugurating an environment-friendly block brick preparing system named eco-brick kiln at Haripur in Sylhet yesterday. He also said, the traditional brick making industry emits unwanted air pollution by extensive use of coal, firewood and also farmland causing heavy loss of top soil.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Muhammad Imran visited a group of Bangladesh freedom fighters who are undergoing treatment at the Army Hospital in New Delhi yesterday. The High Commissioner met the freedom fighters and enquired about their wellbeing and the treatment they are receiving at the health facility. The freedom fighters expressed satisfaction at the treatment and care they have been receiving at the hospital. A total of 29 ailing freedom fighters arrived in India last week from Dhaka and admitted at the specialized Army Hospital in New Delhi and the Command Hospital in Pune. The Indian government is providing treatment to the war veterans under a 5- year scheme launched by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India in April, 2017 under which 100 freedom fighters from Bangladesh would receive treatment in India every year.

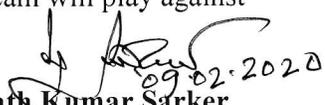
Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam has called upon the government officials to come out of the traditional mentality and exchange information with people to achieve the goals of the developing country, Perspective Plan-2030 and Vision-2041. He made the call while addressing a views exchange meeting marking the 'One Decade of Right to Information Act' at Officers Club in the city yesterday. Presided over by Chief Information Commissioner Martuza Ahmed, the function was also addressed by Information Secretary Kamrun Nahar. Information Commissioners Suraiya Begum ndc and Mr. Abdul Malek were also present in the meeting.

Bangladesh Film Development Corporations (BFDC) in a rejoinder yesterday said, a number of newspapers and media outlets have carried false and misleading stories about the film on Bangabandhu that is being produced through joint project of the Governments of Bangladesh and India. BFDC, the official producers of the film along with NFDC-India will release the names of the caste, crew and production team, as soon as they are finalized by Shyam Benegal, the eminent film maker, who is directing the film, the rejoinder added.

The Primary and Mass Education Ministry has taken 18 work plans including enlightening 2.1 million people with literacy marking the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Sources said the Primary and Mass Education Ministry planned to ensure 100 percent skill in Bangla of all 3rd and 5th grade students at all schools under the ministry during the 'Mujib Barsho' timeframe.

A Bangladesh-India joint military training exercise, titled 'Sampriti-9', kicked off in Meghalaya of India on February 3 as part of strengthening defence cooperation between the two neighbouring countries. Some 169 members of the 42nd infantry regiment of Bangladesh Army and 142 members of the 20th Bihar regiment of the Indian Army are taking part in the 14-day war exercise in Umroi Cantonment.

In the ICC Under-19 World Cup final, Bangladesh U-19 cricket team will play against India at Potchefstroom in South Africa today.


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