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News Brief

The nation is observing the 'Shaheed Dibash' and the International Mother Language Day today paying glowing tributes to the memories of language movement martyrs, the valiant sons of the soil who made supreme sacrifices to establish the rights of the mother tongue, Bangla, in 1952. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid rich tributes to the Language Movement heroes in the first minute of the day. On behalf of the President Md. Abdul Hamid, his Military Secretary Major General S M Salahuddin Islam and on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her Military Secretary Major General Naquib Ahmed Chowdhury placed the wreath at the Shaheed Minar at one minute past midnight tonight, due to COVID-19 pandemic. The day is a public holiday.

President Md. Abdul Hamid in his message on the occasion laid special emphasis on raising global voice for protecting the language and culture of all ethnic groups, including development of respective mother tongue and culture. He said, "Being a source of ceaseless inspiration, Amar Ekushey (Immortal Shaheed Day) inspired and encouraged us to a great extent to achieve the right to self-determination, struggle for freedom and War of Liberation".

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her message on the Day, extended her sincere greetings to the people of all languages and cultures of the world including Bangla. The Premier remembered with the utmost respect all the language heroes, including the greatest Bangalee of all time Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who led the struggle for the dignity of the Bangla language, whose visionary historical decisions and supreme sacrifices have saved the existence of our mother land and people.

Ekushey Padak, the second highest civilian award in Bangladesh, was distributed yesterday at a program at Osmani Memorial Auditorium among 21 eminent persons on the eve of Amar Ekushey and the International Mother Language Day. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the ceremony, joining virtually from Ganabhaban said, it is the Language Movement in 1952 that paved the way for achieving independence. Briefly describing the contributions of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, from the Language Movement to independence, she recalled the sacrifices of the great sons of the soil, including Rafique, Salam, Jabbar, Barkat and Shafique and said they wrote the rights of the mother tongue with blood.

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs in a press release requested the people to maintain health guidelines while laying wreaths at the Shaheed Minar on Ekushey February and International Mother Language Day today. A maximum of five delegates from each organization and a maximum of two individuals can lay wreaths at the Shaheed Minar and basin and liquid soap for hand wash will be kept at all entrances. No one would be allowed to enter the Shaheed Minar premises except those wearing masks, it said.

Islamic Foundation has requested the Imams to offer special prayers in all mosques across the country today marking the Day. Islamic Foundation will arrange Qurankhwani and special prayers at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque around 11 am in the morning seeking eternal peace of the martyrs, who sacrificed their lives in 1952 for mother tongue.

An E-poster has been published in print, electronic, online and social media on the occasion of Language Martyrs Day at the initiative of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Birth Centenary Celebration National Implementation Committee.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury formally inaugurated a newly built Shaheed Minar on the Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat Residential Complex premises yesterday in the memory of the Language Movement martyrs, through a videoconferencing. Addressing the function, Dr. Shirin called for upholding the true history of the Language Movement before the new generation. JS Deputy Speaker Advocate Md. Fazle Rabbi Miah, among others, addressed the function.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque said, applying 'Samaloy' method, in which all together the same variety of paddy is planted in one field at the same time by machine, would reduce the use of machinery, farmer's time and labor cost. Taka 4500 would be reduced per acre using this method, he added. He was addressing the inauguration of planting of rice saplings in 50 acres of land through rice transplant in 'Samaloy' system at Kendua village in Dhanbari upazila of Tangail district yesterday.

Eminent actor, Television personality, Ekushey Padak -2015 winner, A T M Shamsuzzaman, passed away at his own residence at city's Sutrapur area last morning at the age of 80, suffering from old-age complications. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in separate condolence messages expressed deep shock at his death. Later, A T M Shamsuzzaman was laid to rest at Jurain graveyard in Dhaka last afternoon after the second namaz-e-janaza at Sutrapur Mosque. The first namaz-e-janaza was held at Pir Saheb er Bari Jame-e-Mosque after Zohr prayers.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while addressing a press conference yesterday said, BNP has been doing politics of conspiracy since inception of the party. He further said, the people showed 'red card' to BNP long ago for its anti-people activities. Mentioning BNP's announcement of ousting the government by fixing date could be a new conspiracy of the party against the country, he said, AL's root is very deep in this soil and the people have firm confidence in Bangabandhu's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, Bangladesh will have to be built as a humane state side by side with its materialistic deployment for fulfilling the dreams of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He was speaking at Save the Future Foundation Delegates Conference-2021 at Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh auditorium at Kakrail in the capital yesterday. Earlier in the afternoon, the Minister visited the Sutrapur Community Center in the city for paying last respect to veteran actor A T M Shamsuzzaman and condoled the deceased's family members.

There is enormous scope for private sectors of Bangladesh and Japan to engage in trade and investment for mutual benefit, Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen said this while addressing a webinar on 'Bangabandhu and Japan' held recently. Bangladesh intends to conclude a Free Trade Agreement with Japan, he said. Department of Japanese Studies, University of Dhaka and Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry jointly organized the webinar recently to celebrate the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Japanese Ambassador Naoki Ito, among others, spoke on the occasion.

US President Joe Biden has welcomed the new Bangladesh Ambassador M Shahidul Islam there and expressed his government's desire to deepen the strong and abiding friendship between the two countries by advancing common goals. President Biden made the remarks in an acceptance letter signed on February 17.

Special US Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry has invited Bangladesh to attend the US Climate Summit while acknowledging the threat of climate change and highlighting the risks faced by Bangladesh. The summit will be held on April 22 in Washington DC. Stakeholder nations, such as Bangladesh, need to join developed nations' climate conferences and bring up their concerns, Kerry said while speaking at the Munich Security Conference-MSC held virtually on Friday.

Bangladesh entered the era of paperless trade yesterday as member countries of the World Trade Organisation-WTO agreed to it to reduce hassles in cross-border trade and to expedite customs activities, a Commerce ministry statement said on Friday.

World Bank is expected to approve US\$1.6 billion in Covid-19 vaccine funding for Bangladesh and 11 other countries, its President David Malpass said.

Meanwhile, with the death of 05 more people yesterday, the number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 8,342. At the same time recovery count rose to 4,90,892, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. With the detection of 350 new cases, the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 5,43,024. Besides, a total of 2,34,564 people were administered COVID-19 vaccines across the country yesterday, giving rise to the number of vaccine receivers to 20,82,877. As many as 31,36,976 people got registered till 2.30pm yesterday to take vaccines, DGHS said.


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