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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League to live up to its political ideals and have good manners to make it a dignified organization alongside earning confidence and trust of the countrymen. The Premier made the call while addressing a grand reunion of incumbent and former leaders of the BCL marking its 72nd founding anniversary at the historic Suhrawardy Udyan in Dhaka yesterday. Recalling the glorious role of the BCL in the country's all past movements Sheikh Hasina said, the organization founded by Bangabandhu made important contributions to help reach all struggles to their logical ends. Sheikh Hasina declared Al Nahiyen Khan Joy and Lekhak Bhattacharya as president and general secretary of BCL. Earlier, they were made acting president and general secretary of the organization.

The adjourned first joint meeting of the newly-formed Awami League Central Working Committee and Advisory Council was held at Ganabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. With Party Chief Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, the meeting discussed the celebration of the "Mujib Barsho" marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

A five-day 'Police Week-2020' will begin across the country today with the theme "Mujib Barsher Angikar Police Hobe Janatar". Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the programme at Rajarbagh Police Lines in Dhaka this morning. The Premier will handover awards to the police personnel for their outstanding performance, including heroic activities in combating crimes, efficiency, dutifulness, honesty and discipline.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to inaugurate the countdown to the observance of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary at the Tejgaon Old Airport in Dhaka on January 10 where Bangabandhu landed in the newly liberated and sovereign Bangladesh on January 10, 1972. Through the inauguration, the countdown will begin simultaneously in every district, upazila and all public gathering places across the country.

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain while addressing a seminar on Public Interest Litigation at the Supreme Court Auditorium in Dhaka yesterday said, public interest litigations are playing a helpful role in protecting human rights of the underprivileged people. He urged judges to ensure sanctity and credibility in the judicial process while dealing with such cases.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, BNP founder Ziaur Raman had created a wall of discord in politics through the assassination of Bangabandhu and most of his family members on August 15 in 1975. He said this while speaking at the triennial council of Jatiya Party at Diploma Engineers Institution in Dhaka yesterday. He said, a strong opposition party is needed to have a strong democracy.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud talking to reporters in Dhaka yesterday castigating BNP leaders for their imprudent comments on upcoming two city corporations' polls in Dhaka said, BNP's efforts to make the polls questionable are not accepted. He said, BNP does not participate in election to win rather they want to make the elections controversial.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar has said, country's 65 percent young population is the key strength for the transformation of Bangladesh into a developed nation. He said this while speaking at a workshop on entrepreneurship in Dhaka

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yesterday. He opined, Bangladesh has attained this phenomenal progress in the past 11 years pinning upon the “digital Bangladesh” campaign announced by the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2008.

The Bangladesh Embassy in Baghdad has requested Bangladeshi expatriates in Iraq to stay alert and maintain caution considering the current security situation in the Middle-Eastern country. In a statement on Friday, the embassy also requested Bangladeshis not to attend any gathering, rallies, and meetings until further notice to avoid unwanted incidents. The warning of the Bangladesh Mission came amid a US airstrike at the Baghdad airport early on Friday that killed Iran's most powerful military commander Gen Qasem Soleimani.

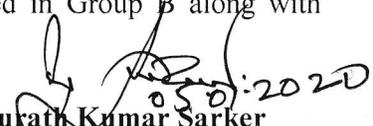
The government has made a time-bound commitment to address the European Union concerns over labour rights issues aimed retain the GSP facility. Official sources said, the government made its resolve to do so in a draft action plan sent to the EU last Thursday. Earlier in the last week of November 2019, the EU provided the Bangladesh government with a list of 'suggested actions on labour rights' to retain trade benefits under its everything but arms (EBA) initiative.

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Dr Md Enamur Rahman has said, the government has sufficient stock of blankets which will be distributed among the needy as per requirement. He said this while speaking at the distribution ceremony of warm clothes and dry foods among the cold-stricken people on Friday at different places of Panchagarh district. The State Minister while giving away warm clothes and blankets among the distressed people in Rangpur yesterday said, his ministry allocated 31 lac 90 thousand blankets for cold hit people during the last October.

The second spell of the season's cold wave may hit the country from tomorrow as the mercury level may start dropping from tomorrow night. The cold wave may last for three or more days and two more such cold spell may also hit the country this month.

Customs, Excise and VAT Commissionerate, Dhaka North introduced one stop service in Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF). In addition, it also formed patrol teams comprising revenue officials to stop VAT dodging in the DITF. They installed booth on the fair premise to offer one stop service regarding any VAT issue as well as ease online VAT registration for the participating business entities.

Bangladesh have been drawn in group A along with defending champions Palestine and Sri Lanka in the six-nation Bangabandhu Gold Cup International Football tournament organised to mark “Mujib Barsho” the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman scheduled to begin on January 15 at Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka. According to the draw ceremony for the tournament held at a city hotel in Dhaka yesterday, another higher ranking team Burundi have been pitted in Group B along with Mauritius and Seychelles.


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