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### News Brief

The nation observed the Shaheed Dibosh (Martyrs' Day) and International Mother Language Day yesterday with due solemnity. Thousands of people thronged the Central Shaheed Minar since midnight to pay their glowing tributes to the 1952 language martyrs by placing wreaths and flowers at the altar of the monument.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, the government has been working to ensure that no language across the world would face extinction. The Premier said this while opening the four-day programs marking the Shaheed Dibosh and the International Mother Language Day and distributing the International Mother Language Day Award, 2021, at the International Mother Language Institute-IMLI, joining virtually from Ganabhaban yesterday. Mentioning that a language museum has been established in the IMLI, the Prime Minister further said, the government has given special attention to preserve the languages of ethnic minority groups or to make sure they can study in their native language. Three people and an organization received the first International Mother Language Award in yesterday's function for their contribution to preservation and promotion of mother language nationally and internationally. Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni handed over the award to the winners on behalf of Prime Minister.

The judgments of the Supreme Court will be pronounced soon in Bangla, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain said this yesterday to reporters after paying homage to the language movement martyrs at the Central Shaheed Minar. The Chief Justice said, as per the directives of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, a translation cell has been formed and works have already started to this end.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader made an appeal to the international community to include Bangla as an official language of the United Nations. The Minister made the appeal while talking to journalists after placing wreaths on behalf of the Awami League at the central Shahid Minar marking Shaheed Dibosh and the International Mother Language Day yesterday. He also said, Bangla as a language ranks sixth across the globe in terms of population who speaks in that language. Terming communalism as a prime foe of the nation, the Minister called upon the people of the country to become united for building a democratic and prosperous country which was dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, Bangabandhu's contribution to the 1952 Language Movement remains everlasting as young students' leader Bangabandhu had raised the demand to make Bangla as the state language. The Minister was talking to reporters after paying homage, along with AL leaders and workers, to the language movement martyrs at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. He said, the country's independence and the movement of self-governance were achieved following the path of the Language Movement with the blood of martyrs. Before placing a wreath at the central Shaheed Minar, Dr. Hasan accompanying with the AL leaders visited Azimpur graveyard and paid homage at the graves of language movement martyrs Abul Barkat, Abdul Jabbar and Shafiur.

Lack of funds has stalled the process of getting Bangla recognized as an official language of the United Nations, Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen said this to newsmen after the International Mother Language Day event at Bangladesh Foreign Service Academy yesterday. Initially the UN said Bangladesh will have to provide US\$600 million annually for the recognition, according to the Minister.

The rice market would become normal within a month, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi stated this yesterday while talking to reporters after inaugurating a mural of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Rangpur Zilla Parishad premises yesterday. He added, Boro rice will appear in early April. The government has taken initiative to import one million tons of food. About three and a half lac tons of food have already arrived in the country, he said. Regarding the increase in oil prices, the Minister said, if the price of oil does not come down in the international market, its price in Bangladesh will not come down as Bangladesh imports 90 per cent of required edible oil. The government wants to supply oil at a lower price through the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh, he said.

Post and Telecommunication Minister Mostafa Jabbar formally released a memorial stamp, an opening envelop of Taka 10 and a data card of Taka 5, marking the 'Shaheed Dibosh' and International Mother Language Day-2021.

Bangladesh missions abroad observed Shaheed Dibash and International Mother Language Day in a befitting manner yesterday. Bangladesh missions in Washington DC, New Delhi, Beijing, Kathmandu, Colombo, Athens, Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur, Canberra, Cairo, Hanoi, Tashkent, Bangladesh Consulates in New York, Istanbul and Jeddah, Deputy High Commissions in Mumbai and Kolkata organized different programs, marking the day.

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Ito Naoki hoped that cultural and people-to-people interactions between Dhaka and Tokyo will continue to grow in the years to come. He said, the two countries will continue to work together to further develop the partnership and friendship in the years to come. The Ambassador made the remarks in a video message marking the International Mother Language Day yesterday.

Bangladesh-India Home Secretary-level meeting will be held in Dhaka on February 27, a month before Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's planned visit to Dhaka on March 26-27, sources said.

The National Board of Revenue-NBR has sought budget proposals from the chambers and associations as the government has started preparations for framing the national budget for FY22. These chambers and associations have been asked by the revenue board to submit their recommendations in written before the country's apex trade body FBCCI by March 8.

Meanwhile, with the death of 07 more people yesterday, the number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 8,349. At the same time recovery count rose to 4,91,367, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. With the detection of 327 new cases, the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 5,43,351. As many as 32,74,806 people got registered till 2.30pm yesterday to take the COVID-19 vaccines, DGHS said.



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