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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to inaugurate the newly-constructed expressway through a videoconference from Ganabhaban this morning. The country's communication sector is set to enter into a new era on the eve of "Mujib Borsho" as its first-ever expressway on Jatrabari-Mawa-Bhanga route will be opened to traffic. The 55-km long expressway having five flyovers, 19 underpasses as well as some 100 bridges and culverts, ensure smooth and comfortable journey of the people of 22 southwestern districts. The expressway has been constructed on Dhaka-Khulna highway with an estimated cost of Tk 11003.90 crore taking the growing traffic volume into consideration for the next 20 years on this highway. Two service lanes have been kept on both sides of the expressway for local and slow-moving vehicles so that speedy vehicles can ply the road uninterruptedly.

A special session of Jatiya Sangsad on the occasion of the Mujib Year will be held on March 22-23. President Md. Abdul Hamid will address the beginning of the session. Business Advisory Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad took the decision at its meeting with Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair yesterday. The committee members including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina decided that prior to the beginning of the special session, members of parliament will pay homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing wreaths at his portrait on Dhanmondi 32 road on that day.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will have 'virtual form of presence' through video-conference at the birth centenary celebrations of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 17. Modi will also send a recorded video message on the occasion. Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla came up with the information during an interaction with the visiting 20-member media delegation from Bangladesh at Hyderabad House in New Delhi yesterday. India will also provide 150 ambulances to Bangladesh, he said, adding that 100 of them will be provided marking the birth centenary.

Communist Party of China in a message yesterday greeted Bangladesh Awami League on the occasion of Mujib Year, the yearlong birth centenary celebration of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The ruling party of China also lauded the unprecedented development of Bangladesh under the AL government led by Bangabandhu's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Omani Ambassador to Bangladesh Ta'eeb Salim Abdullah al Alawi called on Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury at her office in Dhaka yesterday. The Ambassador said, Bangladesh has ample scope to send doctors, besides workers, to Oman. The Speaker thanked the Omani Ambassador for assisting Bangladesh on the Rohingya issue and requested the envoy to expand facilities for Bangladeshis living in Oman.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader attending a joint meeting at AL central Bangabandhu Avenue office in Dhaka yesterday called upon BNP to cooperate with the government in tackling corona situation shunning their 'nasty' politics over it. He said, the government has taken all-out preparation to face the challenge.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal has said, the government has decided to observe a one-minute "blackout" on the Night of March 25, marking the Genocide Day for the fourth consecutive year. He came up with the information after an inter-ministerial meeting at his ministry yesterday. The Minister said, this year's Independence Day programme will be held in limited version. Mass rally or gathering centering March 26 has

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been discouraged and no cultural programme will be held outdoor on that day considering the outbreak of coronavirus.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has urged BNP to work together instead of doing politics over the outbreak of coronavirus. He made the call at a press conference after holding a meeting with Natore district AL leaders at the party President's Dhanmondi political office in Dhaka yesterday. Replying to a query on filing a case for publishing a list of some people for their alleged involvement with Shamima Nur Papia, the Information Minister said, publishing any fictional list in any media without scrutiny can never be acceptable.

Two out of three coronavirus patients in the country have been cured and will be released from the hospital. IEDCR at a press briefing said, they were diagnosing the three daily as per the directions of World Health Organization and did not find traces of coronavirus in two of them for two consecutive days. So, as per WHO standard, they have been cured and would be discharged from hospital soon. UNB quoting IEDCR, however, said, another test will be done on the patients after 72 hours. If the result is found negative, they'll be declared free of coronavirus.

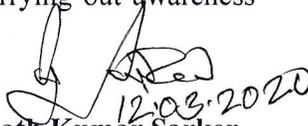
The government has allocated Taka 500 million for health services to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus in the country. Meanwhile, ten more physicians were appointed at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport for screening of the international travellers. WHO, in the meantime, has scaled up its warning regarding coronavirus by declaring its worldwide spread as pandemic. The two-match T20 International series between the Asia XI and World XI, titled 'Mujib-100 cricket' was postponed for the time being due to the outbreak of coronavirus.

The Industries Ministry at a meeting with Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun in the chair yesterday decided to take necessary actions against the tanneries which will release chromium above the standard level.

Bangladesh Water Development Board signed a MoU with JICA for a project for planning capacity enhancement on comprehensive river management, said a handout of Press Information Department yesterday.

Bangladesh Cricket Team has maintained their all the three format win record against Zimbabwe after outplaying the touring team in the second and last match of two-match T20 series by nine wickets yesterday. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages congratulated Bangladesh Cricket team for their sweeping victory.

The 'World Kidney Day-2020' is being observed in the country and elsewhere across the globe today. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages on the occasion urged all concerned to work together for carrying out awareness campaign to prevent kidney diseases.


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