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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina again laid emphasis on wearing facemasks. The Primier directed to implement 'no mask, no service' policy strictly at all offices. She also directed the authorities concerned to go ahead with stern action further to ensure social distancing in the country to stop the spread of Coronavirus. Prime Minister said this joining the cabinet meeting virtually from her official residence Ganabhaban yesterday.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, BNP is now carrying out evil attempts to make the Election Commission controversial after failing in all sectors. The Minister also said, the people repeatedly boycotted BNP for its negative politics and BNP boycotts people's verdict on the voting day as part of its evil efforts. Now BNP is trying to make the Election Commission questionable by raising allegations of corruption and misconduct, he added. Quader was addressing a discussion marking the Victory Day and distribution ceremony of Covid-19 protective equipment arranged by Awami Swechchhasebak League at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) auditorium yesterday.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud suggested BNP to wear red badge after seeking apology from the countrymen for killing people through arson attack instead of wearing black badge for border killing. The Minister told a memorial meeting at Jatiya Press Club (JPC) in the city yesterday, BNP is telling to wear black badge in the name of stopping border killing but he would like to urge BNP to analyse the statistics of border killing when they were in power and what is now. The border killing has been decreased compared to the BNP regime and our government is trying to bring the border killing to zero, he added.

Foreign Minister Dr A K Abdul Momen yesterday urged the expatriate Bangladeshis to keep eye on Bangabandhu's fugitive killers, who have remained hiding in different countries across the world. The Minister said, expatriate Bangladeshis should keep eye on some fugitive killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who have remained hiding in different countries. The foreign minister added, they (expatriates) are collecting signatures and delivering all those documents to the respective governments in this regard, while speaking at a virtual discussion titled "Spirit of Victory Day and Today's Bangladesh" organised by "Bangabandhu Foundation.

State Minister for Information Murad Hasan said, the war of liberation was the ultimate result of a gradual mobilization of the people against long exploitation, deprivation and discrimination. Bangabandhu is in the consciousness and inspiration of the nation, rather, those who wanted to dishonor the Father of the Nation have been thrown into the black part of history, he added. He was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion organized by

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Bangabandhu Academy marking the Victory on December 16, at the National Press Club auditorium yesterday.

The State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid claimed, the government would conserve all the structures of Panam Nagar if their endeavour for restoring the building No 13 became a success, while inaugurating a pilot project for restoring a building of the site yesterday. The government has taken an initiative to restore the famous historical site of the Panam Nagar to its original state through renovation and preservation, the minister added.

Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam said a media briefing at cabinet meeting yesterday, Bangladesh would get Covid-19 vaccine for a total of 4.5 crore people within May or June. Three crore doses of vaccine for 1.5 crore people will arrive in the country at the end of January or first week of February while another six crore doses for 3 crore people within May or June, he added. He further said, our technical committee would approve the vaccine.

Bangladesh High Commission in Pretoria, South Africa has opened a "Bangabandhu Centre" recently as the government has taken various steps to brand Bangladesh positively through establishment of such centers across the world. The High Commission on Monday said, the Bangabandhu Centre was made based on a library having a rich collection of over 400 books including on life and achievements of Bangabandhu written both in Bangla and English.Bangladesh has so far opened Bangabandhu Corners in 68 Missions of 78 Missions abroad as the government says Bangladesh and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman are inseparable.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu is expected to reach Dhaka today on a two-day visit. A senior official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, the Turkish Minister will have a meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart Dr A K Abdul Momen at state guest house Padma today. The two ministers are likely to join the formal inauguration of the newly built Turkish Embassy in Dhaka today.

A new report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said, Bangladesh has moved up two notches in the Human Development Index to 133 compared to last year. The report, titled The Next Frontier: Human Development and the Anthropocene, launched in Bangladesh this morning, six days after the global launch, includes a new experimental index on human progress. The report said Bangladesh remains fifth among the eight South Asian countries. Planning Minister MA Mannan attended the report launching ceremony as the chief guest at the NEC Conference Room in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area yesterday.

Bangladesh recorded 32 novel corona virus (COVID-19) deaths and 1,470 fresh cases in the last 24 hours. The recovery count rose to 4,39,694 after another 2,167 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. With this, the total death toll rose to 7,312 from the pandemic in the country.

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