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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid asked the National Human Rights Commission-NHRC to become more active in protecting the public interests and help make the government more accountable in its activities as a four-member delegation of the NHRC led by its Chairman Nasima Begum submitted its annual report-2020 to the President at Bangabhaban yesterday. The President also called upon the Law Commission to take necessary steps to modernize and update the country's existing laws. The President made the call when a four-member delegation of Bangladesh Law Commission led by its Chairman Justice A B M Khairul Haque submitted its 'Annual Report-2020' to him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The 75th birthday of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was celebrated across the country yesterday amid festivity. The Ruling Awami League and its affiliated organizations celebrated the day through various events and discussions on the life and achievements of the Premier. In the morning, AL and its associate bodies brought out jubilant processions in the capital and across the country, including district, city, upazila, municipality and union levels as well. A discussion was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital marking the day. Chaired by AL presidium member Begum Matia Chowdhury, the discussion was addressed, among others, by Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud. Special prayers were offered at different places of worship. Beside these, a special mass vaccination campaign was conducted on the day to inoculate 8 million people against COVID-19.

Meanwhile, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her 75th birthday. "Warmest good wishes on your 75th birthday! Wish you many more years of health and success in service to the people of Bangladesh," reads the message shared by Indian High Commission in Dhaka. The Chinese Embassy in Dhaka also greeted PM Sheikh Hasina on the occasion.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reached her current position through long struggle and has now become a world leader crossing the country's boundary. He was addressing the aforementioned discussion, on the occasion of the Premier's birthday. He further said, as Sheikh Hasina remains alive, war criminals were brought to justice, Bangladesh has been witnessing massive progress and the people remain well. Because of her bold leadership, Bangladesh becomes a role model in poverty alleviation, he added. The Minister virtually addressing a meeting marking the PM's birthday, arranged on the bank of the Padma River at Naria upazila yesterday said, the Padma Bridge, which is now visible due to the efforts of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, will be opened for vehicular movement before June 2022.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque taking part in the discussion organized by Bangladesh AL on the occasion of the Premier's 75th Birthday said that all the successes and achievements of Bangladesh have come at the hands of the incumbent Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as she is the worthy Premier and leader of the Bangladesh. Later, the Minister virtually addressing a meeting on the progress of ADP implementation of his ministry, highlighted that the country has produced record rice, adding that despite all the successes, rice has to be imported. He urged all concerned to think ways out to increase the productivity.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, there is no alternative to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to reach the country in its desired destination. The Minister was addressing a discussion organized by 'Pragatishil Sangbadik Mancha' marking the 75th birthday of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Highlighting the phenomenal development that took place in the country under the Premier's leadership, Dr. Hasan further said, the country has been turned into a middle income country from the least developed state and Bangladesh is now a food-surplus country from a food deficit. The poverty rate has been reduced to 20 per cent from 40 per cent during the last 12 and half years. Due to the government's endeavor, not a single man died due to starvation during the coronavirus pandemic. As promised by the Premier, the government has a plan to hand over houses to three lac homeless families by this December. About 1.50 lac homeless people have already got their houses, Dr. Hasan said.

Marking the Premier's 75th birthday, Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud inaugurated the exhibition of 'Mujib Amar Pita', the 2D animated film, based on the book 'Sheikh Mujib Amar Pita' written by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, at Star Cineplex in the capital yesterday. State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak, among others, spoke at the function. Dr. Hasan also took part in the closing ceremony of a photo exhibition titled "Bangladesh: A Decade of Progress" and "Jayotu Sheikh Hasina International Grand Master Chess Tournament" arranged by Canadian University of Bangladesh, on the occasion of the Premier's birthday, at a city hotel yesterday. In his address, the Minister said, Bangladesh has been able to attain extraordinary success in the field of sports because of the sports-loving Prime Minister. State Minister for Youth and Sports Md. Zahid Ahsan Russel, among others, addressed the function.

Dr. Hasan while addressing a discussion organized by the Information Commission marking the International Day for Universal Access to Information 2021 at the Commission in city's Agargaon area yesterday said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has ensured the right to information of the countrymen through forming the Information Commission. The Information Commission Act was passed in the Parliament when AL formed the government in 2009, he said. The Minister further said, there is a scope of seeking information to the commission if any ministry or government bodies deny providing such information which is not secret documents of the state. There is no need to take picture of files or steal papers for information from ministries, he added. Secretary of the Ministry Md. Mokbul Hossain, Chief Information Commissioner Martuza Ahmed also addressed the discussion.

Bangladesh has reached a new height in all the economical indexes like per-capita income, GDP growth and foreign exchange reserve. Country's economy has seen a revolution. So, the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is now able to implement self-finance projects bigger than the Padma Bridge, Local Government Minister Md. Tazul Islam stated this yesterday while addressing a function organized by Dhaka North City Corporation in Gulshan marking Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 75th birthday. Presided over by DNCC Mayor Md. Atiqul Islam, the function was virtually attended by Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury.

This year the JSC and JDC examinations will not be held rather the students would be promoted to the next classes through the school exams, Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni said this to newsmen as she joined a function at Ganabhaban High School and planted a sapling there marking the birthday of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. While addressing a function marking the Premier's birthday at Agargaon Mohila Polytechnic Institute in the city, she said, the Education Ministry has taken initiatives of planting saplings at the educational institutions by the students across the country to make Sheikh Hasina's birthday memorable.

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Md. Murad Hassan has urged the Bangladesh High Commission in Ottawa to work to open new door to business between the two countries and further strengthening trade relations. He was speaking at a reception accorded to him at Bangladesh High Commission, Ottawa yesterday. He added, Bangladesh has a conducive environment for foreign investment as there are now 100 economic zones in the country where the government is cooperating with setting up of any business and industry. High Commissioner Dr. Khalilur Rahman was present on the occasion.

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission-BTRC has been given two more weeks to comply with the High Court's order to shut down unregistered online news portals in the country.

The Met office in a bulletin yesterday advised the maritime ports of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra to hoist local cautionary signal number three as a low is persisting over Northwest Bay and adjoining Bangladesh-West Bengal coast.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines is going to operate a direct flight on the Saidpur-Cox's Bazar-Saidpur route from October 7.

The country yesterday recorded 31 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the total death toll to 27,470. With 1,310 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,53,873. The positivity rate stood at 4.49 per cent, as 29,186 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,13,876, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. Besides, 219 dengue patients got hospitalized in the last 24 hours till last morning, the DGHS informed.

DSEX, the prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange-DSE yesterday hit a record high, as it went up 45.52 points or 0.62 per cent to settle at more than 7,297.24, the highest since its inception in 2013.


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