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### News Brief

President Abdul Hamid issued an order summoning the first session of coming 2021 on January 18. The 11th session of the Jatiya Sangsad will be held at 4:30 pm on January 18, an official statement said this yesterday. President M Abdul Hamid convened the session exercising the power bestowed upon him as per the Article p72 (1) of the Constitution, it added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, her government would take all sorts of preparations to safeguard the country's hard earned independence and sovereignty. She was addressing virtually as the chief guest a function from her official Ganabhaban residence marking "President Parade (winter)-2020" of the passing out cadets of the Midshipman 2018 Alfa and Direct Entry Officer (DEO) 2020 Bravo. The Bangladesh Navy organized the function at the Bangladesh Naval Academy, Chattogram yesterday. In the same programme, the Premier reiterated that every person will get home and power in the country before ending the Mujib Borsho.

The 30th death anniversary of Comrade Moni Singh, founder president of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), will be observed today. Comrade Singh was a member of the Advisory Council of the Provisional Government of Bangladesh during the Liberation War in 1971. President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages paying respect to the memory of the late leader and seeking eternal peace for his departed soul. President Abdul Hamid said, Moni Singh was the pioneer of communist movement in the subcontinent while Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid her deep respect to his memory in their messages.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will formally inaugurate the distribution of books through a virtual event from her official residence Ganabhaban today. The Prime Minister will hand over the books to some primary and secondary level students in the presence of ministers and secretaries at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center auditorium in city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Meanwhile, the Premier donated Taka 10 crore to Dhaka Shishu (Children) Hospital, the largest children hospital in Bangladesh. She donated the money mainly for facilitating treatment without operation for the children having congenital heart diseases, said an official release of Press Wing at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday.

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said, nobody can break the BNP's record of vote robbery in the history of Bangladesh. He came up with the remark while speaking at a discussion of Dhaka North City Unit of Awami League at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh (KIB) auditorium through videoconferencing from his official residence yesterday.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said, existence of no terrorist group was found in the country's border areas as per the claim of India. He stated this replying to questions of journalists after distributing medals among BGB members at the BGB headquarters yesterday.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud urged all to remain alert to any conspiracies and commented that BNP is trying to create anarchy again, but people will resist their all evil attempts. The Minister also said, the government is also determined to strictly resist any misconduct for the sake of people's safety. He made this comment while addressing a meeting at an auditorium of Institute of Diploma Engineers' Bangladesh (IDEB) in the capital yesterday.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said, Bangladesh's economy will perform better in the next year as all indicators of the country's economy are in good position despite COVID-19 pandemic. The Minister told the journalists yesterday after the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP) meeting virtually, we are in a good position in every index of our economy and we are making progress in all areas.


Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque said, Bangladesh will collect five to six crore COVID-19 vaccine doses, developed by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca, by June next year. We will get the vaccine soon after getting approval from the WHO (World Health Organization), the Minister told a function at the BCPS auditorium in Mohakhali in the city yesterday.

The government yesterday cleared that the Rohingyas, who were relocated to Bhasan Char, decided to be shifted there voluntarily, saying there was no question of the use of force to relocate them. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said yesterday, the government would like to make it unambiguously clear that the relocation process, in line with the GOB's efforts to decongest and de-risk the camps, strictly followed the principle of voluntariness and was conducted with utmost transparency.

The country's foreign exchange reserves touched a new record of over US\$43 billion amid the coronavirus crisis. The Finance Ministry source disclosed yesterday that the inflow of remittance added to raise the foreign exchange reserve to 43.173 billion. In this regard, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said that the foreign exchange reserves have exceeded \$43.173 billion which is one of the milestones of the country's economic and moral ability.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said, the government is signing trade agreements with different countries for taking trade benefits. The government is trying to get Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) or Free Trade Agreement (FTA) for taking long-term trade benefits, the Minister added. The Minister said this while speaking as the chief guest at a virtual seminar on 'Rise of Geo-economics and Bangladesh' yesterday.

Bangladesh recorded 22 novel coronavirus deaths and 1,235 fresh cases in the last 24 hours. The recovery count rose to 4,56,070 after another 1,507 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. With this, the total death toll rose to 7,531 from the pandemic in the country.

  
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