

# Nationwide observance of National Mourning Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation is set to observe the National Mourning Day today.

The government and numerous political, socio-economic and cultural organisations have chalked out programmes to mark the 43rd death anniversary of Bangabandhu.

On this day in 1975, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was brutally assassinated by a group of conspiring army officers.

Bangabandhu's wife, sons, and daughters-in-law were also killed in the massacre, one of the most heinous in world history.

Sixteen others, all close to Sheikh Mujib, were shot dead at his Dhanmondi residence.

Bangabandhu's daughters Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana, survived as they were abroad at the time.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages marking the occasion.

In his message, the president urged all to follow the path shown by the Father of the Nation and devote themselves to turn the country into "Golden Bangla".

In her message, PM Sheikh Hasina pledged to ensure a non-communal, illiteracy-free, prosperous country, and build the "Golden Bangladesh" as dreamt by the Father of the Nation, upholding his philosophy.

The government has planned elaborate programmes to observe the day with due respect and solemnity. The national flag will fly half-mast at offices of all government, semi-government and autonomous bodies and educational institutions today.

The president and prime minister will both place wreaths at the portrait of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Museum

in Dhaka at 6:30am.

Later in the day, Sheikh Hasina will place wreaths and offer prayers at the Banani Graveyard for her family members and others, who embraced martyrdom on the day.

The PM will also place wreaths at the mazar of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara in Gopalganj, later in the day.

Prayers will be offered and the armed forces will again stage a guard of honour there. A special milad mahfil and dua will be held there on the day.

Bangladesh missions abroad will arrange discussions and hoist the national flag half-mast at their respective offices.

Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television, private TV channels and radio stations will air special programmes marking the day, while national and regional newspapers will bring out special supplements.

# All secondary-level students to get unique ID cards

Ecneec approves projects worth Tk 2,775 crore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to provide numbered ID cards to all students at secondary level to introduce a better tracking system.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) in a meeting yesterday approved a project called "Establishment of Integrated Educational Information Management System" at a cost of Tk 313 crore.

According to the project proposal, the integrated system will be established for students and teachers.

Civil registration and vital

statistics of students from sixth to tenth grade will be included in their profiles.

According to the project proposal, a coordinated software for all education boards will be designed, through which results will be published.

At present, results are published with the cooperation of BUET through Teletalk.

Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS) will implement the project by June 2020. For the purpose they will design a number of software and hardware.

At yesterday's meeting, Ecneec also

approved 8 other projects at a cost of Tk 2,775 crore.

It approved a Tk 658 crore project for installing 8,50,000 smart pre-payment metres in Dhaka and Narayanganj city corporation areas.

Under the project, the pre-payment metres will be set up in Ramna, Jigatola, Dhanmondi, Adabor, Paribagh, Kakrai, Banasree, Moghbazar, Shyamoli, Kamrangir Char, Bangla Bazar, Narinda, Postogola and Demra under Dhaka City Corporation; and Fatullah, Sitalakha and Shiddhirganj in Narayanganj.

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# Death threats 'can't stop me from doing people's welfare': PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she never tried to retreat from doing welfare of the country and its people, even after repeated death threats in her life.

"I have to move with the pain of losing close relatives. The path is not easy. I know I may have to face death again ...I never tried to step back," she said.

The prime minister made the remarks while inaugurating 23 bridges on Joydebpur-Chandra-Tangail-Elenga road under South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) and Fatehpur railway overpass in Feni on Dhaka-Chitagong highway through videoconferencing, from her official residence Gono Bhaban.

She said although Bangladesh earned independence under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the defeated forces never sat idle.

"When they saw that Bangladesh was advancing economically, they made the strike on August 15, 1975 with their all strength."

Sheikh Hasina said after passing six years in exile, she returned home in 1981 and since then, she has a single aim which is to uplift the nation for which her father had sacrificed his life. "I have to change people's fate anyhow, so that they can live in peace, happiness and economic solvency."

The premier said the government is taking necessary steps for the development of the country and its people. "And I'm getting cooperation from all," she added.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader and Chief of Army Staff General Aziz Ahmed also spoke at the programme.

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