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Your Right to Know

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50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Rejoicing at myriad positives

PORIMOL PALMA and JAMIL KHAN

The country starts its 10-day celebrations of Mujib Borsho and golden jubilee of independence today with colourful events and presence of global leaders.

The celebrations have been planned to coincide with the birthday of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who led Bangladesh's Liberation War against Pakistan in 1971. The celebrations will end on March 26 on Independence Day.

The occasion is well worth a celebration and the government has arranged countrywide programmes to mark it, given the country's socio-economic progress in the last decades and its important place in the global arena.

Different countries as well as experts have lauded Bangladesh, which has emerged as one of the fastest growing economies in Asia. It is well on track to graduate from a least developed country (LDC) to a developing one by 2026.

It stemmed from the country's steady

economic growth in the last decade. And for the past four years before the pandemic, the country's growth rate stood at 7 to 8 percent per year. Life expectancy is now 72 years, and the primary school enrolment rate is close to 100 percent, with girls beating boys.

Bangladesh also stands first when it comes to sending peacekeepers to the UN missions. Besides, it has earned an enormous global accolade by sheltering the nearly a million Rohingyas, who fled military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine.

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No lockdown right now

Govt asks health dept to reopen Covid-dedicated hospitals, beef up screening

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

The government is not considering lockdown right now but has directed the health department to intensify awareness campaigns and ensure strict enforcement of health safety rules amid a rise in Covid-19 transmission.

Health officials will have to work to ensure physical distancing and reopen Covid-dedicated hospitals or units and isolation centres that were shut down earlier.

They will also make sure that these hospitals across the country are provided with necessary logistics, including personal protective gears, oxygen supply and medicines.

Besides, screening at all entry points to the country -- airports, seaports and land

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BIRTH CENTENARY

The shepherd of independence

WASIM BIN HABIB

It was a spring evening on March 17, 1920.

In the stillness of the evening that enveloped the sleepy village of Tungipara in Gopalganj subdivision, a baby boy was born, illuminating the humble family of Sheikh Lutfar Rahman and Sheikh Sayera Khatun.

Adoringly called "Khoka" by his beloved parents, this little boy became the undisputed leader of Bangalees half a century later, leading his people, oppressed and exploited, to freedom and making possible the birth of an independent and sovereign country -- Bangladesh.

That Khoka is none but the greatest Bangalee of a thousand years, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, whose birth centenary the nation has been celebrating over the last year.

Bangabandhu was such an extraordinary political visionary and a charismatic leader that describing this man and his role in the creation of the new state in a few words is a daunting task.

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The Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban illuminated and decorated for the celebrations of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Golden Jubilee of the country's independence. The photo was taken late last night.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



Moudud Ahmed passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader and eminent lawyer Moudud Ahmed passed away yesterday while undergoing treatment at a Singapore hospital.

He was 81.

Moudud breathed his last at 6:30pm at Mount Elizabeth Hospital where he had been undergoing treatment since February 2, said his colleague and BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir.

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