



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH  
DHAKA



Most Urgent  
For: Bangladoot, All Missions  
MSG: 179/2018-19  
Date: Wednesday, 06 March 2019

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### News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has urged expatriates Bangladeshis to highlight country's different achievements across the globe and uphold country's image abroad as ambassadors of the country. The head of the state made the call as Councilor and Speaker of East London's Tower Hamlets Mohammad Ayas Miah paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban in Dhaka yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought cooperation from the UK in constructing railway lines from the Padma Bridge to the Payra Port. The Prime Minister made the request as outgoing UK High Commissioner Alison Blake met her at the Jatiya Sangsad office in Dhaka yesterday. European Union Ambassador to Bangladesh Rense Teerink also met the Prime Minister yesterday.

The ECNEC with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday approved a project for setting up Economic Zone dedicated for Japanese investors at Araihasar in Narayanganj with Taka 2,582.18 crore. A total of eight fresh projects involving an overall estimated cost of Taka 6,276.24 crore were approved at the meeting.

The health condition of Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, now undergoing treatment at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore, is improving. Physicians said Mr Quader may need a bypass surgery.

National Jute Day-2019 is being celebrated across the country today. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is due to attend a function marking the day at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital this morning.

Textiles and Jute Minister Golam Dastagir Gazi informed the Jatiya Sangsad that Bangladesh exports jutes to a number of countries like Pakistan, India, Nepal, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Vietnam, Brazil, El Salvador, Russia, the UK, Tunisia and Germany. The Minister said this yesterday while responding to a question in the House with Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

The Jatiya Sangsad reconstituted nine more Parliamentary Standing bodies yesterday. Chief Whip Noor-E-Alam Chowdhury following the Rules of Procedure proposed the changes of the committees.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun has underscored the need for cooperation among the nations to achieve the SDGs. The Minister made the emphasis as he was presiding over at a plenary session on technology for clean energy and green industry on the sidelines of the 'Ninth regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific', at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel at Bangkok yesterday.

Bangladesh and Nepal have signed an agreement to avoid double taxation to strengthen its bilateral trade and investment. NBR Chairman Md. Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan and Nepalese Revenue Secretary Lal Shanker Ghimire inked the agreement in Kathmandu yesterday.

Bangladesh Bank is going to release newly printed Taka 100 note tomorrow keeping in view strengthening the security features of the high value currency. The new note will be available at the Bangladesh Bank's Motijheel branch.

The maritime ports of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal number three as squally weather is likely to affect the maritime ports, the North Bay and adjoining coastal areas.

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