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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has asked the University Grants Commission to play its due role to ensure proper academic environment and quality education in the universities of the country. The President gave the directive while a UGC delegation led by its Chairman Prof Dr. Kazi Shahidullah submitted the Annual Report-2018 to him at Bangabhaban yesterday. The President during the meeting also stressed the need for setting time-befitting and world-standard academic curriculum to acquaint the graduates with the global competition. The Head of the State urged the UGC authority to consider adoption of an identical teachers' appointment policy as over 150 public and private universities are running their academic activities.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, her government has been working to transform Bangladesh Army into a time-befitting, technologically well-equipped and modern force. The PM said this while addressing the President Parade 2019 of the passing out cadets of the 77th BMA Long Course at the Bangladesh Military Academy at Bhatia in Chattogram yesterday. The Premier said, after assuming office her government established newer military units including new infantry divisions, brigade unit and training institutes as well for overall development of the army. The Premier earlier distributed various prizes among 265 promising young officers who are stepping out of the Academy and entering into army career after successful completion of the course. Of them, 234 are from Bangladesh including 27 women, 29 from Saudi Arabia, one each from Palestine and Sri Lanka.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has paid tributes to Awami League MP from Gaibandha-3 constituency Dr. Md. Eunos Ali Sarkar by placing a wreath at his coffin before namaz-e-janaza at the South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Deputy Speaker Fazle Rabbi Mian as well as the Chief Whip and Whips placed wreaths on the coffin of the deceased. Earlier on behalf of President Md. Abdul Hamid, his Military Secretary placed a wreath on the coffin of the AL lawmaker who passed away on Friday.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has suggested taking pilot initiatives to identify the areas of child marriage and maternal and infant mortality rates and asked the parliamentarians to prepare the action plan through constructive discussions. The Speaker gave the directive while addressing at an orientation workshop on the activities of Strengthening Parliament's Capacity in Integrating Population Issues into Development Project (SPCPD) arranged by the Parliament Secretariat and UNFPA at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

The ruling Awami League has confirmed the mayoral nominations of Barrister Sheikh Fazley Noor Taposh and incumbent Mayor Atiqul Islam respectively for Dhaka South City Corporation and Dhaka North City Corporation polls scheduled for January 30. AL General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader disclosed this in a press briefing at the political office of AL President Sheikh Hasina at Dhanmondi in Dhaka yesterday.

Japanese Ambassador to Dhaka Naoki Ito has expressed eagerness to import mango from Bangladesh. The Envoy showed the interest as he met Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. During the meeting Japanese Envoy also wanted to take skilled manpower in the agriculture sector from Bangladesh.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has welcomed the United Nations for adopting a resolution strongly condemning atrocities against Rohingya in Myanmar. OIC in a press release from Jeddah yesterday urged to redouble all diplomatic and political efforts to put an end to violence and persecution against the Rohingya minority in Myanmar. The resolution was passed with an overwhelming majority of votes at the UNGA at the UN headquarters in New York on Friday. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam said to the media yesterday that Bangladesh has achieved a landmark success in transforming the Rohingya issue into a global one thus it could be discussed in different international forums for ensuring Rohingya's rights and dignity in their homeland, Myanmar.

Planning Minister M A Mannan has said, the government is working to cut poverty rate by half within the next five to seven years. Poverty rate went down to 20.5 percent in 2018-19 from 21.8 percent in the previous fiscal year and extreme poverty rate declined to 10.5 percent in 2018-19 which was 11.3 percent in the previous fiscal, the Minister added. The Minister said this while addressing a dialogue organised by Bangladesh-China Silk Road Forum in Dhaka yesterday.

Tomorrow is the first anniversary of the 11th parliamentary election in which AL-led 14-party alliance won a landslide victory under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to run the government for the third term in a row. A total of 39 registered political parties, including the 14-party alliance led by Awami League and Jatiya Oikyafront led by BNP took part in the election.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the month long Dhaka International Trade Fair 2020 on Jan 1 at the Sher-E-Bangla Nagar in the capital.

State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury has said, the government is spearheading a massive campaign to save the country's rivers evicting encroachers and preventing pollution. The State Minister said this to the media emerging from a meeting of a task force on navigability and flow of rivers at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

The first phase of Biswa Ijtema will be held for three days from January 10 while its second phase from January 17 on the bank of River Turag at Tongi in Gazipur district.

Senior Secretary of Power Division Dr. Ahmad Kaikaus has been made the Principal Secretary to Prime Minister. The Public Administration Ministry issued a gazette notification in this regard yesterday.

Customs officials seized 640 gold bars weighing around 64 kg at the cargo village of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on Saturday night.



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