



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA



Most Urgent
For: Bangladdoot, All Missions
MSG: 153/2019-20
Date: Monday, 27 January, 2020

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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has stressed the need for taking concerted efforts by the global community, donors and international organizations to continue the trend of development of climate vulnerable countries. The Head of the State made the emphasis the emphasis while addressing an International Conference on 'Earth and Environmental Sciences and Technology for Sustainable Development' organised by the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences of Dhaka University in the capital yesterday. The President called upon the global community to come forward with financial and technical assistance as only pledges and lovely words cannot bring any solution.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina described as prerequisite the common people's uplift at grassroots for the country's overall development as she opened a number of development projects through video conference from Ganabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The projects the Premier opened are: Sheikh Russel Water Treatment Plant in Chattogram, Bangabandhu Water Treatment Plant in Khulna, Titas Bridge in Brahmanbaria, Kaliganga Bridge in Manikganj, Jamalpur Express on Tarakandi-Jamalpur-Dhaka route, Rajbari Express on Pachuria-Faridpur-Bhanga route Bhanga, Dhalarchar Express on Dhalarchar-Pabna-Rajshahi route, Udayan and Paharika Expresses on Sylhet-Chattogram route and 12-hour transmission of BTV's Chattogram centre. Prime Minister directed the Railways Ministry to take up a project to properly repair shabby rail bridges across the country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina put emphasis on enhancing connectivity between Bangladesh and Vietnam for mutual benefits of the two countries. The Premier made the comments when newly-appointed Vietnamese Ambassador to Bangladesh Pham Viet Chien paid a courtesy call on her at Jatiya Sangsad in Dhaka yesterday. Turning to the excellent friendly relations between Bangladesh and Vietnam since independence, Sheikh Hasina invited the Vietnamese President and Prime Minister through the Envoy to visit Bangladesh to attend the "Mujib Barsho" programmes.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina put emphasis on finalising the BIMSTEC Coastal Shipping Agreement on urgent basis as the waterway connectivity is very important. She made the stress when Secretary General of BIMSTEC Shahidul Islam met her at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the capital yesterday. The BIMSTEC Secretary General informed the Premier that the process is on to complete BIMSTEC Motor Vehicle Agreement and BIMSTEC Coastal Shipping Agreement. Earlier, former British MP Keith Vaz paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have warmly greeted the people of India on the occasion of the neighbouring country's 71st Republic Day by sending separate messages of felicitations to Indian President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Indian High Commission in Dhaka arranged a programme on the occasion at the International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka yesterday. Foreign Minister A K Abdul Momen in his address pledged to strengthen bilateral ties further. Indian High Commissioner Riva Ganguly Das also spoke at the function.

About 85 percent people of the country are satisfied on the present Awami League government, led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, according a survey conducted by an organization - Research International. The opinion poll was carried out randomly selected on 5,429 mobile phone users on the first year activities of the present government. The findings of the survey was revealed at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

Please Turn Over

Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has said, the government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is committed to ensure the establishment of rule of law. She said this while addressing the 'Annual Feast- 2019' organised by Chattogram District Lawyers Association in the port city yesterday. She urged the lawyers to cooperate with the government to mark the occasion of Mujib Year.

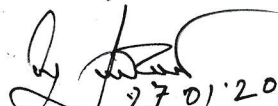
Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan has said, Bangladesh is closely observing India's internal situation over its National Register of Citizens and the Citizenship Amendment Act. He made the statement while replying to a question in Parliament yesterday. A bill titled Electoral Rolls (Amendment) Bill 2020 extending the deadline for updating voter lists every year was passed in Parliament yesterday.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, BNP cannot come out of negative politics as it has become 'a party of complaints' after failing in elections and movements. He said this while speaking at the triennial conference of Motor Chalk League at Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque has said, the government is considering a temporary ban on travel to and from China as a precautionary measure in the wake of the outbreak of coronavirus there. He said, an inter-ministerial meeting will be held tomorrow where the issue of imposing a temporary ban on the travel to and from China will be considered with importance.

Hectic campaign is going on in the Dhaka north and south city corporation elections as only 4 days are left for voting. Awami League nominated Dhaka South City Corporation Mayoral candidate Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh during an interview with BSS yesterday said, he will devise short and long term plans to turn DSCC into a modern city with all civic amenities. The Dhaka North City Corporation mayoral candidate Atiqul Islam while unveiling his election manifesto yesterday said, he will build a modern, dynamic and healthy Dhaka if he is reelected. A writ petition was filed with the High Court on Sunday seeking its directive to revoke the candidacy of BNP mayoral candidate Tabith Awal for the allegedly concealment of his wealth information. Meanwhile, the High Court yesterday rejected a writ petition that challenged the legality of using Electronic Voting Machines in the mayoral elections to the Dhaka North and Dhaka South cities.

Amar Ekushey Book Fair is expected to get a new look this year as the fair venue is being decorated with colourful portraits and historic photographs of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman marking the birth centenary of the great leader. Bangla Academy has planned to publish 100 books on the life and works of Bangabandhu over the next three years and as part of it, the academy will publish 28 books this year.


27.01.2020
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