



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA



Most Urgent
For: Bangladdoot, All Missions
MSG: 140/2019-20
Date: Wednesday, 08 January, 2020

From: PIO, PID, Dhaka
Fax: 9540553/9540026
E-mail: piddhaka@gmail.com
Web: www.pressinform.gov.bd

News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has promised to keep up the ongoing anti-graft campaign seeking intensified Anti-Corruption Commission drives to expose to justice illegal wealth amassers in a nationwide address coinciding with the first anniversary of her government's third consecutive term in power. The Premier made the statement yesterday while addressing the nation marking the first anniversary of her current government formed through the December 30, 2018 general election. The Prime Minister said, the ongoing drives against militancy, terrorism and narcotics would continue. Sheikh Hasina mentioned, there has been a huge difference between what was 10 years ago in Bangladesh and the one today and economy of Bangladesh now has got a solid ground where small shocks cannot stand in its way of this advancement. Referring to the birth centenary of Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Prime Minister said, the year 2020 is especially important in our national life.

President Md. Abdul Hamid has appreciated proactive role of Sri Lankan High Commissioner in strengthening bilateral relations between the two south Asian nations and urged the outgoing High Commissioner to play due role in utilising the commercial potentials of the two countries. The Head of the State said this while the outgoing Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Bangladesh AWJ Crisanthe De Silva called on President at Bangabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The Envoy said that his country always gives importance to friendly relation with Bangladesh and has invested meantime about \$500 million here.

The ECNEC has approved a taka 8,850.74 crore project to ensure safe water across the country. The approval came at a meeting of the ECNEC with its Chairperson and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the Chair at the NEC Conference Room in Dhaka yesterday. A total of seven projects were approved involving an overall estimated cost of taka 11,042.14 crore. Of the approved seven projects, six are new while another one is a revised project. Department of Public Health and Engineering under the Ministry of LGRD will implement the safe drinking water supply project by June 2025. It was stated in the meeting that 26.36 percent of Annual Development Programme budget has been spent in the first six months of current fiscal.

Outgoing Australian High Commissioner in Dhaka Julia Niblett has said, her country will continue support to Bangladesh's development efforts. The Australian High Commissioner made the remarks when she paid the farewell call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The Australian High Commissioner highly praised Premier for giving shelter to over 1.1 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas. The Prime Minister highlighted her government's various disaster management programmes. Meanwhile, Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Bangladesh AWJ Crisanthe De Silva paid the farewell call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. Pointing out Bangladesh's excellent relations with Sri Lanka, the Premier said, Dhaka always attaches importance to its relations with neighbours.

Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has underscored the need for women empowerment at grassroots level to build a self-reliant nation. The Speaker came up with the remarks while addressing a function of Bangladesh Women Police Welfare Association marking the 'Police Week-2020' at the auditorium of Bangladesh Police in Dhaka yesterday. She urged them to march forward towards new sectors of the country with their creative skills.

Please Turn Over

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, this is the matter of the Election Commission whether it will use the Electronic Voting Machine in the upcoming city elections or not. He said this while speaking at the unveiling a plaque of a year-long programme taken to celebrate the Mujib Year and distributing warm cloths among cold-hit people at Companiganj in Noakhali yesterday.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud has said, BNP is always opposed to use of latest technology, so they are opposing the Election Commission's decision to use Electronic Voting Machines in the city corporation polls. He said this while speaking at a press briefing on the completion of one year of the present government at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. Replying to a query on Dr Kamal Hossain's comments on Begum Khaleda Zia's health and her release, Hasan Mahmud said, he (Dr Kamal) always relates Constitution to every issue. He said the GDP growth was 8.15 percent in the last year which was the highest among all the countries in the globe. The per capita income is now around \$2000 while it was only \$600 in 2008, he added.

Foreign Minister Dr A K Abdul Momen has confirmed that Indian Premier Norendra Modi, Canadian Premier Justin Trudeau and Malaysian Premier Dr Mahathir Mohamad will be among the global leaders who will join the 'Mujib Borsho' cerebation in Dhaka. He revealed the information while speaking with newsmen after holding a meeting of sub-committee of celebration of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at International Mother Language Institute in Dhaka yesterday. He also informed the UAE crown Prince Zayed Al Nahyan, former Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, Indian Congress President Sonia Gandhi and former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will also grace the 'Mujib Year' celebration. A K Abdul Momen said, the 77 Bangladesh missions abroad will hold 261 programmes in their respective host countries round the year marking the Bangabandhu's birth centenary. Foreign Minister also informed Dhaka is in touch with Bangladesh mission in Iraq for ensuring safety of the expatriate workers there amid the escalating tension between the USA and Iran in the Middle East.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi has left Dhaka for Bangkok to join fifth meeting of Bangladesh-Thailand Joint Trade Committee. He is leading a 12-member Bangladesh delegation, said a press release in Dhaka yesterday.

Railways Minister Md Nurul Islam Sujan has said, around 1162.97 km new rail tracks will be constructed after completion of the ongoing projects of the current fiscal. He disclosed the information at a press briefing at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. He also said, 140 locomotives, 700 carriages, 1,000 wagons, and 125 luggage vans will be added to the railway.


Surath Kumar Sarker
Principal Information Officer
Phone- 9546091