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### News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid attended the Presidential Command Transfer Ceremony of Uruguay's new President Luis Lacalle Pou who was sworn-in for the period of 2020-2025 at the Legislative Palace in Montevideo on Sunday noon local time. The new President exchanged pleasantries with President Md. Abdul Hamid and other dignitaries. At the function the Bangladesh President also exchanged greetings with Brazilian President Jair Messias Bolsonaro, Spanish King Felipe the sixth and other heads of states and governments attending the ceremony.

The cabinet has approved the draft of 'Sunamganj Science and Technology University Bill 2020' for establishing one more public university in the haor region. The meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday also approved in principle the draft of 'National Agriculture Extension Policy 2020' for selecting research topics on the basis of demand. The Premier speaking at the meeting directed all the ministries and divisions not to take any unnecessary programme with big budgets on the occasion of Mujib Year.

Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Bangladesh this month for attending the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was discussed during the call on. The Premier conveyed her greetings to her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi. The Indian Foreign Secretary lauded Bangladesh's astonishing successes in improving socio-economic indices from infant mortality to women's education and from primary health to literacy.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader after exchanging views with the Indian delegation led by its Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla at the secretariat yesterday informed media that the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India will further be strengthened through Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's joining the Mujib Year's programme in Bangladesh. It was informed that Narendra Modi will join the opening session of the Bangabandhu's birth centenary programme on March 17 and then he will attend a bilateral meeting with his Bangladesh Counterpart on the following day.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen after emerging from a meeting with visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla in Dhaka yesterday expected that some deals would be signed on water sharing of other transboundary rivers between Bangladesh and India during the Modi's visit. During the meeting, Shringla raised Bangladesh's concern about increasing trend of border killing as well as delay of Tessta water sharing agreement. The Foreign Minister said, Dhaka will show all respect to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a guest when he will visit Bangladesh to join the birth centenary celebration of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr. Gowher Rizvi while addressing a seminar in Dhaka yesterday said, Bangladesh does not want to see any situation that might affect the secular social fabrics. Visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla speaking the seminar titled "Bangladesh and India: A promising Future" said, Bangladesh and India are working to finalise an agreement on water sharing of seven common rivers within this year and they can proceed on sharing the waters of other shared rivers so that there is a positive progress that benefits people on both sides. He also said, the National Register of Citizens and Citizenship Amendment Act are purely internal matters to that country and they would not affect its friendly relationship with Bangladesh.

Please Turn Over

A seven-member delegation of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BPSC) led by its President Professor Quazi Deen Mohammad called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. They extended an invitation to the Prime Minister for attending their forthcoming convocation of BPSC. The delegation thanked Sheikh Hasina for her important role in expanding medical education in the country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the nine-day '8th National SME Product Fair 2020' in Dhaka on Wednesday. Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun informing this at a press briefing yesterday said, the fair is being arranged for promoting SME products and bringing the local small and medium entrepreneurs under a roof.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, it is known to all that the key task of BNP's alternative powerhouse 'Hawa Bhaban' was to impose 10 percent 'toll' on business during the BNP-Jamaat regime. He said this while talking to journalists after addressing the founding anniversary programme of the Dainik Somoyer Alo in Dhaka yesterday. He said, the US intelligence agency FBI gave testimony on corruption of BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, elder son of BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, who has been awarded 10-year imprisonment in graft cases. He said, BNP Chairperson, who is also a convict of graft cases, had whitened black money giving fine. Khaleda's another son Arafat Rahman Koko's laundered money was brought back from Singapore, he said, adding that these incidents were unearthed by foreign intelligence agencies and not by the government.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq has said, the Election Commission should stay alert so that the Rohingyas can never be enrolled as voters adopting illegal means. He said this while attending a discussion on the occasion of the National Voters Day at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in Dhaka yesterday. Speaking on the occasion Chief Election Commissioner K M Nurul Huda said, the number of total voters now in Bangladesh is 10 crore 98 lakh 19 thousand and 112 with 69,71,470 new voters.

IEDCR at a press briefing in Dhaka yesterday said, they have examined the samples of 93 people. None was, whoever, detected with coronavirus. The epidemic coronavirus has no bearing on temperature levels, however, can't survive at 70 degree Celsius, which does not prevail in any country, it said.

Expatriate Bangladeshis sent US\$ 12,498.56 million remittances during the first eight months of the current fiscal 2019-20, which is apparently 20.06 percent higher than the same period of the preceding year, according to a Bangladesh Bank data.

The Indian government is going to lift its ban on onion export on March 15. The Indian government had imposed the ban on onion exports on September 29 last year showing their domestic need.

  
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