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

News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has urged the Vice-Chancellors of public universities to perform their duties with dedication and honesty and stay away from corruption and irregularities. The Head of the State made the call while addressing at the first convocation of Jagannath University in Dhaka yesterday. A total of 18,284 graduates and post-graduates were conferred upon degrees while another 11 obtained Master of Philosophy and six Doctor of Philosophy degrees at the ceremony. Noted Bangladeshi Physicist Professor Emeritus Dr Arun Kumar Basak delivered speech as the Convocation Speaker. Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury was also present there.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka today for Abu Dhabi on a three-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates to attend Abu Dhabi Sustainable Week, Zayed Sustainable Awards Ceremony and other programmes. A VVIP flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying the Premier and her entourage members will depart Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka for Abu Dhabi at 5:00pm today. Concluding the three-day official visit to the UAE, the Premier will return home on January 14.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in a message yesterday expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of Sultan of Oman Qaboos bin Said, the Arab world's longest-serving ruler, died on Friday at the age of 79. Prime Minister said, he was a true friend of Bangladesh and the symbol of peace and neutrality in the region as he maintained meaningful relations with the Middle Eastern countries. Meanwhile, Prime Minister in a condolence message, expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of Advocate Ahmed Ali, former member of provincial assembly and former General Secretary of greater Cumilla unit of Awami League.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, BNP does not want Digital Bangladesh as they cannot tolerate the country's development. He said this while addressing at a winter clothes distribution programme at Saidpur upazila in Nilphamari yesterday. About the use of electronic voting machines in the Dhaka city polls, he said, they will accept any decision of the Election Commission in this regard. Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi, State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Dr Md Enamur Rahman were also present there.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, the tree-enriched areas of the country was 19 percent before 11-12 years but now it stands more than 24 percent and at the same time, the population of the country has increased at same percentages. He said this while addressing the reunion function of the Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science Alumni Association of Chattogram University yesterday. He also said, effect of climate change is visible and per capita land is at minimum level in our country and how we have attained self-sufficiency in food production is a miracle to the world community. Meanwhile, Information Minister has distributed warm clothes among the cold-affected people in Bandarban yesterday.

Foreign Minister Dr A K Abdul Momen has said, filmmakers from all over the world should make more films on the Rohingya issue, shedding light on the humanitarian crisis unfolding in the refugee camps dotted around Cox's Bazaar. He made the remarks while addressing at the inaugural ceremony of Dhaka International Film Festival's 18th edition at

Please Turn Over

Bangladesh National Museum in Dhaka yesterday. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam speaking at the function announced the 19th edition of this renowned film festival would be dedicated to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, marking the 'Mujib-Year'.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque has said, night blindness rate is below 1 percent in the country due to regular administering of Vitamin A-plus capsules. He said this while addressing at the inauguration ceremony of Vitamin A-plus campaign at Dhaka Shishu Hospital in the city yesterday. Around 2.10 crore children, aged between six months to five years, were fed with Vitamin 'A' plus capsules under a national campaign yesterday. The children of the remote areas under 240 unions in 42 upazilas of 12 districts will be fed the capsules in the next four days of the campaign day through conducting a search programme.

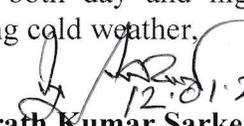
Railway Minister Md. Nurul Islam Sujan has said, assets specially lands of railway will be recovered from the illegal occupants offsetting their influence or power. He said this while speaking at a programme at Chattogram Railway Officers' Club in the port city yesterday.

The 6th session of the 11th Jatiya Sangsad that began on January 9, will continue till February 18. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee of the House at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on Thursday with Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN Ambassador Rabab Fatima has announced that a year-long programme involving the UN will be organized to celebrate the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. She declared this on Friday while celebrating the Homecoming Day of the Father of the Nation as well as inaugurating the countdown of 'Mujib Year' at the Mission's Bangabandhu Auditorium. Meanwhile, Rabab Fatima has urged the UN Security Council to bring to an end to crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes. She made the call while addressing the Security Council Open Debate on "Upholding the United Nations Charter to Maintain International Peace and Security" on Friday, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

The first phase of three-day Biswa Ijtema, the second largest congregation of Muslims after Hajj, is set to end today through the Akheri Munajat. Maulana Jubair Hassan, Bangladeshi leader of Tabligh Jamaat, is scheduled to conduct the final prayer between 11am and 12 noon.

Cold weather is prevailing across the country, particularly in northern region and it will continue for the next three to four days. After mid January, both day and night temperature may rise meaning people would get relief from the prevailing cold weather.


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Surath Kumar Sarker
Principal Information Officer
Phone- 9546091