**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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| **MOST URGENT**  FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONS  MSG: 01/2017  **Date: Sunday, 01 January 2017** | **FROM: APIO, PID, DHAKA**  Fax: 9540553/9540026  E-mail: [piddhaka@gmail.com](mailto:piddhaka@gmail.com)  [piddhaka@yahoo.com](mailto:piddhaka@yahoo.com)  Web: [www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd](http://www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd) |

**News brief**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and President M Abdul Hamid yesterday greeted the countrymen on the eve of the New Year 2017 in English calendar.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon those who criticize the standard of education in the country to come forward for further improvements of its quality. "...nothing happens overnight,” she said. In this connection, she also said no problem would be solved by mere speeches. The prime minister was talking while formally inaugurating free textbook distribution for the academic year 2017.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday officially launched the dot bangla (.bangla) internet domain allowing web addresses to end with .bangla. From today users can create and use dot bangla sites, which will be run by state-owned Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd and it will be the technical contact point for the domain label.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government has been working for the expansion of the media both in public and private sectors to ensure the free flow of information.“The free flow of information is very much essential to develop an improved and time-befitting social system in the country,” she said while formally extending the broadcasting hours of the BTV's Chittagong station through videoconferencing from the Ganobhaban. The Chittagong station will telecast programmes for six hours a day, up from one and a half hours.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the country’s marine engineers to work with the motto of patriotism and efficiency to survive the present competitive world. The Prime Minister gave the directives while addressing the graduation parade of the 51st Batch of Chittagong Marine Academy through a videoconference from her official residence Ganobhaban.

President Abdul Hamid has expressed the hope that formation of a competent, neutral and acceptable Election Commission would be possible through discussions with the political parties. Hamid said while inaugurating the newly constructed "'EC Bhaban" at Agargaon in Dhaka yesterday. Meanwhile, the president sought strict EC restrictions against the indiscriminate use of his and political leaders' pictures in posters and placards calling it a "bad culture" which should be denounced by the Jatiya Sangsad as well.

The month-long 22nd Dhaka International Trade Fair or DITF starts today at the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar to showcase the products of companies from home and abroad.

A new road will be constructed in Rajshahi city in order to make it free from traffic congestion besides smooth pedestrian movement.  The 2.5-kilometer four-lane road from Kolpona crossing to Talaimary crossing will be constructed with an estimated cost of around Taka 127.50 crore. Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) will implement the project having provision of drain and footpath on both sides of the road.

The Supreme Court (SC), the apex court of the country, will resume its regular function from January 2, 2017 after 15-day recess.

The Textbook Festival Day-2017 will be celebrated across the country today with distribution of free text books to school students. The government will distribute a total of 36, 21, 82,285 text books this year.

DSEX, the prime index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) settled yesterday at 5,036.05 points.

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