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### News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid at a meeting with Uruguayan counterpart Luis Lacalle Pou on Monday urged to invest in Bangladesh's different potentials sectors including energy, ICT and infrastructure. Md. Abdul Hamid at the meeting at the Presidential Palace in Montevideo also called upon the Uruguay government to make the VISA easier for the diplomatic and official passport holders of Bangladesh. Expressing gratitude for joining his Presidential Command Transfer Ceremony, President Luis Pou also expressed his positive attitude to invest in Bangladesh in days to come. On Rohingya issue, Luis Pou reiterated his necessary supports in coming days and hoped that relations between Montevideo and Dhaka in different fields would be expanded in future. Uruguay President expressed his keenness to sign a free trade deal between MERCOSUR and Bangladesh to enhance the bilateral and regional commerce.

President Md. Abdul Hamid has called a special session of the Jatiya Sangsad on March 22 on the occasion of "Mujib Year". The special session which will be the seventh session to run till March 23 where global personalities are expected to deliver speeches, marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The ECNEC has approved a project involving Taka 7,046.88 crore as an additional cost for constructing Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Railway Bridge which will be implemented by December 2025 over the River Jamuna. The ECNEC meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday approved a total of eight projects spending Taka 10,468.24 crore. The other important projects approved in the meeting are Aminbazar Landfill extension, Rajshahi BSCIC Industrial Estate, protection of Right Embankment of River Jamuna under Bera, Rajarhat and Phulbari upazilas, protecting Charbagdanga and Shahjahanpur under Chapainawabganj from the erosion of River Padma.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would open the 9th Bangladesh Games at Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka on April 1. State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Russell said, Bangladesh Games is dedicated to pay homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the 'Mujib Barsho'.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has congratulated Bangladesh national cricket team for clinching the three-match ODI series against the touring Zimbabwe. The Tigers defeated Zimbabwe by four runs in the second ODI at Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday to lead the series 2-0. The final match of the series will be held on March 6 at the same venue.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate condolence messages, expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of Suddhananda Mahathero, who breathed his last at the age of 87 at a city hospital yesterday. Ekushey Padak'-winning Buddhist Suddhananda Mahathero is the foremost Buddhist religious leader and chief abbot of Kamalapur Dharmarajika Buddhist Mahabihar. Meanwhile, Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud visited Kamalapur Dharmarajika Buddhist Mahabihar yesterday afternoon and paid respect to Suddhananda Mahathero.

Japanese Ambassador Naoki Ito called on Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday. During the meeting, the Speaker invited the Japanese Speaker and Ministers to visit Bangladesh on the occasion of the Mujib Year.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, communal forces have started spreading propaganda to foil the celebration of the Mujib year. Addressing a joint meeting of the party on celebration of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation

Please Turn Over

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Dhaka yesterday, he urged party leaders and activists to remain alert so none can hamper the 'Mujib Year' enthusiasm. Terming India as the main ally of Bangladesh during the Liberation War of 1971, he said, blood of our freedom fighters remains blended with that of the Indian army and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is due in our country as the representative of Indian people.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud speaking at a press conference at his ministry yesterday said, BNP raised questions over Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh during the celebration of Mujib Year due to the party's continued trend of anti-Indian politics. He said that celebration of Mujib Year will not be fulfilled without the participation of India as it is the country which had unparalleled support and contributions to the War of Independence of Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen at a function in Sylhet yesterday said, common people of Bangladesh will show respect to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he is set to join the mega event of birth centenary celebration of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Dhaka.

The US capital Washington DC has declared "Mujib Year" from March 17, 2020 to March 17, 2021, marking the birth centenary celebration of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Washington DC Mayor Muriel Bowser on Monday issued a proclamation in this regard.

Bangladesh Film Development Corporation has primarily published the partial list of 50 actors, who will play different characters in the biopic on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman titled, "Bangabandhu". Arefin Shuvo will play the main role – the character of Bangabandhu – in the film, Nusrat Imroz Tisha will portray the role of Bangabandhu's wife Fazilatunnesa Mujib (Renu), Nushrat Faria and Owaria Zarin Anveeta will play the role of young Sheikh Hasina in the biopic, while Jannatul Sumaiya as the grown up Sheikh Hasina. Indian legendary filmmaker Shyam Benegal will direct the film on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which is expected to get released before the end of "Mujib Year".

Health Minister Zahid Maleque has urged people not to be panicked in case of any detection of coronavirus case in the country as the government has sufficient preparation to face the outbreak of the virus. He said this while addressing a press briefing over the preparation of Bangladesh over Coronavirus at his ministry yesterday. He informed, the government has formed two separate 10-member committee in each district and upazila. Besides, separate isolated units have been kept ready at all the public and private hospitals across the country and the physicians and nurses have already imparted training how to deal the coronavirus patients.

IEDCR at a press briefing in Dhaka yesterday said, all returnees from the coronavirus affected countries are being monitored closely to prevent the outbreak of the disease. To monitor the returnees more closely, she urged the concerned hotel owners to give necessary information about their guests coming from abroad.

The USA yesterday announced \$37 million in financing for 25 countries, including Bangladesh affected by coronavirus or at high risk of its spread. The USAID will disburse the aid from its 'Emergency Reserve Fund for Contagious Infectious Diseases' for those countries.

UN agencies and NGO partners launched 2020 Joint Response Plan (JRP) seeking 877 million US dollars for the forcibly displaced Rohingyas as well as host community in Bangladesh. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam speaking at the launching ceremony of this year's JRP in Geneva, thanked the international community for their continued support since Rohingya influx in 2017.

  
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