**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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**News Brief**

 President Md. Abdul Hamid yesterday visited the Padma Multipurpose Bridge project in Munshiganj and Shariatpur area. During the visit, the President expressed his satisfaction over the progress of work of the mega project.

 The government has given approval to the draft of a law to constitute a full-fledged medical university in Sylhet Division. The approval came at a weekly cabinet meeting held at the PMO yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The meeting also decided on observing March 1 every year as the National Voters' Day to make the people aware about their voting rights.

 The government has approved a proposal to turn Mymensingh pourashava into Mymensingh City Corporation. The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Implementation Committee for Administrative Reform (NICAR) yesterday at PMO with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The meeting also decided to change the English spelling of five districts in line with Bangla pronunciation of their names.

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon all to stand beside autistic and other handicapped people to unfold their hidden talents. The PM made the call as she was addressing the inaugural function of the 11th World Autism Awareness Day at BICC in Dhaka yesterday. At the function, Sheikh Hasina handed over awards to some individuals and organisations for their role in building awareness about autism.

 Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has assured Bangladesh of providing assistance on the Rohingya issue. The assurance came as he was holding official talks with Foreign Minister AH Mahmud Ali at the Ministry of Foreign Afairs in Moscow yesterday. Both the Ministers have expressed deep satisfaction on the pace of progress of the Russia assisted Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

 Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid has said, the government has taken all necessary measures to check question paper leakage in the HSC and its equivalent examinations. The Minister said this to journalists while visiting an examination centre at Siddeshwari Girls College in Dhaka yesterday.

 The National Film Day-2018 is being observed today in a befitting manner. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina , in separate messages on the occasion, called for making film a major weapon to root out terrorism and militancy to build a non-communal society imbued with the spirit of Liberation War. BFDC and the National Film Observance Committee have jointly undertaken an elaborate programme to celebrate the day. Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu has inaugurated the celebration programmes by laying wreaths at the portrait of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the BFDC compound. State Minister Tarana Halim was also present on the occasion.

 Environment and Forests Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud has said, his ministry would plant 30 lakh saplings in memory of 30 lakh martyrs, who sacrificed their lives to achieve the independence of the country during the Liberation War in 1971. The Minister said this while presiding over an inter-ministerial meeting at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

 Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque has said, the government has planned a series of steps so that the upcoming monsoon does not aggravate miseries of Myanmar's Rohingya community in Cox's Bazar. He said this at a two-day conference on Rohingya Crisis at Dhaka University yesterday.

 The first unit of Payra Ultra Super-Critical Coal fired Power Plant having a 660-MW generation capacity is expected to go into operation by June 2019. The plant would be an eco-friendly one with clean coal technology.

 DSEX, the benchmark index of the premier bourse, finished yesterday at 5,827 points.

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