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News Brief

Russian President Vladimir Putin has extended his sincere congratulations to Bangladesh Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina on securing her party's landslide victory in the 11th parliamentary elections and reiterated his readiness to work with her government. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Chairperson of Indian Congress Parliamentary Party Sonia Gandhi also congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her victory in the just concluded election.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Harsh Vardhan Shringla paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganabhaban yesterday. The High Commissioner extended his heartiest congratulations to the Prime Minister on securing her party's absolute victory in the 11th parliamentary elections.

The outgoing envoys of Italy and Brunei Darussalam called on President Md. Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban yesterday. The President, at the meetings with Ambassador Mario Palma of Italy and High Commissioner Hajah Masurai Binti Hajj Masri of Brunei, termed Bangladesh's existing relations with the two countries as excellent. The President while exchanging views noted that the trade and investment relations between Bangladesh and the two countries had enhanced.

The newly-elected lawmakers to the parliament will be sworn in today. The Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat has taken all preparations to hold the oath taking ceremony. Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Dr. Shirin Sharmin Choudhury will administer the oath.

Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has expressed heartfelt gratitude to the countrymen for her party's absolute victory in the December 30 national elections, pledging that she will continue to serve them for their wellbeing. The Premier made the vow as different organizations and individuals greeted her at the Ganabhaban yesterday on the occasion of her party's landslide victory in the election. The Premier sought cooperation of all so that she can fulfill the expectations of the people who bestowed upon her the immense confidence in the election.

The Election Commission wants to hold upazila parishad election in March this year across the country. EC Secretary Helaluddin Ahmed said this to the media at Nirbachan Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The schedule of the election would be announced in the month of January or February this year, he added.

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has congratulated her Bangladesh counterpart Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali on his reelection in the 11th National Parliamentary Polls. The Government of India would continue to cooperate with Bangladesh as a close neighbour, Sushma Swaraj said in a message yesterday.

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka has announced that six new Indian Visa Application Centres will be opened in Bangladesh soon. Two visa centres will be introduced in Thakurgaon and Bogura on January 6 while four centres in Cumilla, Noakhali, Brahmanbaria and Satkhira on January 12 this year.

DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, soared by 0.57 per cent, or 31.18 points, to close at 5,496.43 points yesterday.

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