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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has asked police to make sure that the general people do not face any harassment while seeking service from them. The Head of the State made the call while addressing at a dinner programme marking the Police Week-2020 at Rajarbagh police auditorium in Dhaka yesterday. The President suggested the police personnel to perform their duties sincerely being imbued with the spirit of Liberation War and Independence.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked Bangladesh Police personnel to make themselves the police of people, saying it is very easy to eliminate any crime by gaining people's confidence and trust. The Premier said this while addressing at the inauguration ceremony of the Police Week-2020 at Rajarbagh Police Lines in Dhaka yesterday. The Prime Minister said the government is working on making Bangladesh Police as a modern and time-befitting force so that the people can get desired services from the law enforcement agency. On the occasion, Prime Minister inspected the parade and took salute of different contingents of Bangladesh Police. Sheikh Hasina later distributed medals to 118 police officials for their outstanding contribution to maintaining the law and order in the society.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, there is no democracy in the BNP but it is prevailing in the ruling party, pointing at BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhurul Islam Alamgir's remarks on dynasty in Awami League politics. He said this to the reporters at a reunion function of AL's 21st national council at Ramna Restaurant in Dhaka yesterday.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud has charged BNP with establishing and practicing the culture of political 'dynasty' in Bangladesh, turning down the allegation of BNP leaders that Awami League is going to establish political 'dynasty'. Replying to another query on a comment of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon President Begum Sultana Kamal on the environment issue, Hasan Mahmud said she always tried to draw attention by making rough comments. He said the government has introduced 'Bangabandhu Wild Life Award' to encourage the protection of bio-diversity. On the other hand, the government has introduced Jatiya Poribesh Padak to motivate the countrymen for protecting environment, he added.

Foreign Minister A K Abdul Momen has sought Australia's support in expediting the repatriation process of Rohingyas to Myanmar. He made the request when departing Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Julia Niblett made a farewell call on with him at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. He requested Niblett to pursue her government to operate direct flight and cargo from Bangladesh to Australia, open visa office in Bangladesh and to invest in the country in a large scale. The High Commissioner assured the Foreign Minister of taking up the requests with her government.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque has said, help centres titled "Bangabandhu Corner" would be set up at every government hospital with a view to ensuring health services and providing essential information. He revealed the information in Dhaka yesterday at a discussion on work plan to celebrate Bangabandhu's birth centenary to be celebrated this year.

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmad has said, the government has set a target to send 7.5 lakh workers aboard in the 'Mujib Year'. He gave the information while speaking at a press conference on 'The government's Labour Market Plan in the New Year' at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. About the government's measures for the safety of Bangladeshi expatriate workers during the current spate of tension in the Middle

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East, the minister said, they will hold a discussion with the foreign secretary today to this end. He also said, the government started sending workers in Cambodia, Herzegovina, Romania, Hungary, Poland and China and it has a plan to send workers in newer countries this year. Initiatives have been taken to reopen the labour market for Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates and Bangladesh received US\$ 16,667.79 million Remittance till November 2019 while it was US \$ 15,544.68 million during the corresponding period in 2018, he added.

Distribution of the e-passport is set to start from January 22 as the authorities have completed its preparation and formalities to enter e-passport era, Department of Immigration and Passports officials said yesterday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to launch the e-passport at a programme to be held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on January 22, the source added.

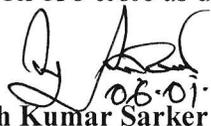
The Embassy of Nepal in Dhaka will formally appoint and honour three renowned personalities of Bangladesh - two time-Mt. Everest Summiteer MA Mohit, popular singer Mehreen Bhuiyan Mahmud and popular artist Zahid Hassan - as goodwill Ambassadors on Tuesday for the 'Visit Nepal Year 2020'. The Embassy will host a function titled 'Unveiling Visit Nepal Year 2020 Campaign' the same day marking the start of 'Visit Nepal Year 2020'.

A total of 1,37,198 pilgrims will go to Saudi Arabia from Bangladesh this year for performing hajj. Among them, 1.2 lakh people will perform hajj under private management while 17,198 others under government management. This information was revealed at a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on Religious Affairs yesterday.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines resumed its direct Dhaka-Manchester-Dhaka flight with newly purchased brand new dreamliner Boeing 787-9 after more than seven years as its 17th route. State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M Mahbub Ali inaugurated the flight at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka yesterday. Biman temporarily suspended Dhaka-Manchester route in September, 2012 due to shortage of aircrafts.

A Dhaka court yesterday asked police to probe a case filed against 11 BNP men, including its acting Chairman Tarique Rahman, over issuing death threat to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Jananetri Parishad President AB Siddiqui. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Satyabrata Shikder passed the order to Hatirjheel police station to investigate the matter and submit the report before the court on February 18 next. According to the case statement, the accused with the directive of Tarique Rahman issued death threat to the plaintiff and the Premier going to his office in the city's Mirpur on December 27, 2019.

The Dhaka Senior Special Judge's court yesterday ordered arrest of former Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha and 10 others, including six officials of now-renamed Farmers Bank Ltd. The judge of the court, KM Emrul Kayesh issued the warrants after taking cognisance of the charge sheet submitted by the Anti-Corruption Commission on charge of the laundering of Tk 4 core from the bank. Meanwhile, the High Court yesterday directed mobile phone operator Robi Axiata Limited to pay within five months Tk 138 crore as due to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.


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