



**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA**



Most Urgent
For: Bangladoot, All Missions
MSG: 138/2018-19
Date: Tuesday, 8 January 2019

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News Brief

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has taken oath as Prime Minister of the country for the 3rd consecutive term along with her 46 cabinet members following her party's massive victory in the 11th National Election. President Md. Abdul Hamid administered the oath to the Prime Minister and her cabinet colleagues at a ceremony at the Darbar Hall of Bangabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiu Alam conducted the oath-taking ceremony.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will pay homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing wreath at the portrait of the great leader in front of Bangabandhu Bhaban at Dhanmondi this morning on the occasion of installation of her government for the third consecutive term. The Prime Minister and her new cabinet colleagues will later go to National Memorial at Savar and pay tributes to the martyrs of the War of Liberation. The Premier will also visit Tungipara of Gopalganj tomorrow to pay homage to Bangabandhu by placing a wreath at his shrine.

Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang has extended his heartiest congratulations to Bangladesh Awami League President Sheikh Hasina on her taking oath as the Prime Minister for the third consecutive term. The Chinese Prime Minister in his message expressed the hope that the bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries will be further strengthened in the days to come. Nepalese Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli also greeted Sheikh Hasina for taking oath as the Prime Minister for the third consecutive term.

Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal has expressed his optimism that the GDP growth rate in the current fiscal year would reach near 8.5 per cent surpassing the fiscal target of 7.8 per cent. Mr. Mustafa Kamal expressed the optimism while exchanging views with officials of the finance ministry at his secretariat office after taking oath yesterday.

New Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, he would consider providing state assistance to good media outlets that cannot perform smoothly for various obstacles. The Minister said this while talking to media after taking oath at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder has pledged to work for ensuring food security and safe food for the people as per the instruction of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The newly-appointed Food Minister expressed the vow while talking to media yesterday.

Bangladesh has been ranked 41st among the world's largest economies in 2019, moving up two notches from last year's position. The country has become the second biggest economy in South Asia, according to an analysis by a London-based think tank - Centre for Economics and Business Research.

The 24th Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF-2019) will begin at Sher-E-Bangla Nagar in the capital tomorrow. President Md. Abdul Hamid is expected to inaugurate the month-long fair jointly organised by the Commerce Ministry and Export Promotion Bureau.

The government of Japan and World Food Programme (WFP) signed an agreement in Dhaka yesterday to provide US \$ 5 million to support Bangladeshi small farmers and Rohingya people displaced from Myanmar. The assurance of the support came as WFP urgently needs US \$52million to continue providing assistance through June 2019.

DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, lost 0.55 per cent, or 31.82 points, to close at 5,655.18 points yesterday.

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