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| Most UrgentFor: Bangladoot, All MissionsMSG: 107/2019-20Date: Thursday, 21 November 2019 | From: PIO, PID, DhakaFax: 9540553/9540026E-mail: piddhaka@gmail.comWeb: [www.pressinform.gov.bd](http://www.pressinform.gov.bd) |

**News Brief**

The Armed Forces Day is being observed with due solemnity and enthusiasm in the country today. On this day in 1971, Bangladesh Armed Forces comprising army, navy and air force came into being and launched an all-out attack on the Pakistani occupation forces during the War of Liberation. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages greeting members of the armed forces on the occasion. As part of the day’s programme, the President and the Premier this morning laid wreaths at the Shikha Anirban -the Eternal Flame at the Dhaka Cantonment paying deep homage to the martyred armed forces members who laid down their lives in the Liberation War.

 President Md Abdul Hamid has said, Bangladesh always gives priority to maintain a good bilateral relation with all. The President made the statement while the outgoing Ivory Coast Ambassador to Bangladesh Sainy Tiemele made a farewell call on President at Bangabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The Head of the State hoped that the ties between the two countries would be stronger in the days to come. Expressing his gratitude to the President and the Bangladesh government for their heartfelt cooperation the Ambassador said, Ivory Coast is always keen to enhance the bilateral relations with Bangladesh.

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, the government will undertake projects to develop tennis courts at school, college and university levels to popularise the sport alongside cricket and football. She said this while speaking to the players of the participating countries in the Sheikh Russell International Club Cup Tennis Tournament-2019 and diplomats of the respective countries when they called on her at Ganobhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The Premier inaugurated the tournament on November 13 in Khulna through a videoconference from Dhaka. Players of 27 clubs from 19 participating countries including Bangladesh took part in the tournament.

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on a day long visit leaves Dhaka for Kolkata tomorrow morning to enjoy a test match between Bangladesh and India to be held at the Eden Gardens in the West Bengal Capital. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has invited his Bangladesh Counterpart Sheikh Hasina to enjoy the first day of the five-day test match beginning tomorrow. The Prime Minister is also likely to leave Dhaka on November 30 for Spain to attend the 25th UN Climate Change Conference to be held in Madrid on December 2-13. She will return home on December 4.

 Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has urged Cambodia for continuing pressure by ASEAN on Myanmar for the peaceful repatriation of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas to their place of origin in Rakhine State. The Speaker made the call as she met Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen at his office in in Phnom Penh yesterday. Recalling the visits of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Cambodia in 2017 and his visit to Bangladesh in 2014 Hun Sen said, the trade and business between the two countries expanded following the two visits. The Speaker extended her gratitude to Hun Sen for taking an initiative to name a road after Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia.

 Truckers and covered-van drivers called off their strike last night. Leaders of the Bangladesh Truck, Covered-van Goods Transport Owners-Workers Unity Council made the announcement around 1:00 am today following a lengthy meeting with Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan at his Dhanmondi residence in Dhaka. Meanwhile, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, being failed to do anything on the onion issue, now a vested quarter is hatching conspiracy over the transport laws. He said this while inaugurating the triennial council of Noakhali district unit of Awami League at Shahid Bhulu stadium in Noakhali yesterday.

 Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud has said, the government wants to bring back the golden era of country’s film industry and capture the global cinema market. He said this when the new executive committee members of Bangladesh Cholochitro Shilpi Samiti met him at his Ministry in Dhaka yesterday. He said, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman understanding the impact of films on society tabled a bill

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in the provincial assembly of the erstwhile East Pakistan for the formation of Film Development Corporation in 1957 and in continuation to that, the FDC was established. He said, the Bangabandhu Film City in Gazipur will be turned into world-class spot within the shortest possible time.

 Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun has said, there is a buffer stock of salt in the country for the next one year as its production in the last dry season was more than the demand. He said this while opening a session of the ‘Bangladesh Digital Wages Summit’ in Dhaka yesterday. State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak speaking on the occasion said, law enforcement agencies are taking necessary actions against those people who are spreading rumors through using the digital platforms including Facebook.

 Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder sounding a note of warning against unscrupulous trader has said, rice price manipulation would not be tolerated as the country has no shortage of the staple food. The Minister said this at a meeting with the rice mill owners and traders at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. The paddy price has not been increased, so there is no logic to raise the rice price, he said adding that the farmers would have rather been benefited if the paddy price would be higher, but unfortunately it did not happen.

 A cargo aircraft of Azerbaijan’s Silkway West Airlines carrying nearly 82 tonnes of onion landed at the airport around 7:30 pm yesterday. Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi on Tuesday said, the government decided to import 50,000 metric tons of onion by cargo planes to make the onion price down in the market. Meanwhile, the Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry decided that the Biman Bangladesh Airlines will waive its cargo handling charge for any airlines that will import onion.

 Environment, Forests and Climate Change Minister Md Shahab Uddin has said, achieving SDGs will not be achieved unless negative impact of climate change is not successfully combated. He said this while inaugurating the 5th Sub-Regional Workshop on 'Community Resilience to Climate Change in the Bay of Bengal' in Dhaka yesterday.

 State Minister of Information Dr Murad Hassan while addressing at a seminar on Lung Cancer Awareness Programme in Dhaka yesterday said, a mass awareness of the deadly disease is needed among the people across the country. The responsibility of the information officers is to knock every door to talk about non- communicable diseases like cancer, heart attack, kidney disease, diabetics and others, he added.

 NBR bagged Tk 2,613.47 crore in taxes, 5.85% higher over the last year, from the weeklong fair that kicked off last Thursday. The number of service recipients at the fair venues hit 18,63,387 this year, the highest ever in the history.

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