



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH  
DHAKA



Most Urgent  
For: Bangladoot, All Missions  
MSG: 102/2020-21  
Date: Sunday, 29 November 2020

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### News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would virtually lay down the foundation stone of the 4.8 km long double-line dual-gauge Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Railway Bridge this morning. The project is scheduled to be completed by 2025. Once built, the dual-gauge double-track bridge would be the largest dedicated rail bridge in the country.

Awami League Local Government Nomination Board at a meeting chaired by the party President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held at Ganabhaban yesterday finalized candidates for the 16 municipalities out of 25 municipalities of the first phase scheduled to be held on December 28.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while addressing a press conference yesterday said, a communal force is creating unwanted debates over the establishing of sculptures of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, challenging the Liberation War spirit and the country's culture. The Minister issuing strong warning said, any such attempt to destroy the people's peace will be resisted. The Minister said, Bangabandhu had established Islamic Foundation to promote Islamic research and practice and reformed the Madrasah Board for flourishing religious education and gave land to Tabligh Jamaat for spreading Islam. Following the footsteps of Bangabandhu, his daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, as a devoted follower of Islam is establishing model mosque complex in every upazila to foster true Islamic practice, he added. Meanwhile, Muktijuddho Moncho yesterday blocked Shahbagh for one hour, demanding arrest of two leaders of Hefajat-e-Islam and Islami Andolan Bangladesh for opposing the establishment of Bangabandhu's sculpture and placed seven-point demands.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud urged all to remain alert against plotters, who choose the path of fundamentalism, conspiracies and rumours after failing to face the government politically. He said, Bangladesh is moving ahead in all indexes. The Minister while addressing the Bangladesh Press Council Award 2020 giving ceremony at the auditorium of Tathyo Bhaban in city's Kakrail yesterday also said, the law of the council would be modernized. State Minister for Information Dr. Md. Murad Hasan also addressed the event. A total of seven journalists were awarded at the ceremony.

Local Government Minister Tajul Islam addressing a function in the Port City yesterday said, many projects are underway in Chattogram, including Mirsarai Industrial Zone. Construction works of many projects including the Outer Ring Road is moving fast. A marine drive rout from Mirsarai to Cox's Bazar could be proposed and there is plan for establishing a bay terminal in Chattogram, he added. The Minister also inaugurated the Municipal Auditorium named after Advocate Nurussafa Talukder, one of the organizers of the Liberation War and father of Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud in Chattogram yesterday.

Bangladesh has disbursed US\$ 500,000 to OIC in a fund raising campaign for its West African member Gambia's legal battle against Myanmar over Rohingya genocide in International Court of Justice as the two day 47th session of 57-member OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers-CFM meeting began in Niamey, Niger yesterday. Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to OIC Dr. Mohammad Javed Patwary, also the Ambassador to Saudi Arabia who leads Dhaka at CFM in Niger, in place of Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen as he tested COVID-19 positive, taking part in the discussion urged the OIC member States to continue political and humanitarian support to Bangladesh until dignified repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar is ensured. During the CFM, Ambassador Hussein Ibrahim Taha from Chad was elected as the new Secretary General of the OIC for a five-year term starting from November 17, 2021, replacing Dr. Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen. Official report says,

four thousand Rohingyas from different camps of Ukhia and Teknaf in Cox's Bazar are willing to go to Bhasan Char. They will be sent there within the next month. However, the number may increase.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, have reaffirmed Bangladesh's position for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state within the pre-1967 borders.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi has said, Bangladesh wants to double its export earnings from Canada within the next three years. To attain this, the potentials of SMEs and female entrepreneurs should be utilized, he said as he was addressing a function at a city hotel yesterday marking the successful completion of the phase-1 of the 'Export Launchpad Bangladesh' project. Benoit Prefontaine, Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh also addressed the function.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid while addressing a webinar on "Formulation of National Energy Policy" yesterday said, the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission has been asked to set the price of liquefied petroleum gas- LPG. The government has moved to set up a land-based LPG terminal as consumption of this kind of gas is growing in the country. Also, LPG is now being imported through a floating terminal, he said.

State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak opened the construction work of Sheikh Kamal IT Business Incubator Centre at Chandgaon area in Chattogram yesterday in a bid to create successful entrepreneurs in the country's IT sector. Another report says, a tri party MoU among Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry-BMCCI, Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services-BASIS and Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation-MDEC was signed yesterday at BMCCI Office to bridge the gap between the ICT Industries of Bangladesh and Malaysia to explore the opportunities.

The number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 6,580 yesterday with the death of 36 more people and detection of 1,908 new cases. Bhutanese Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering and Foreign Minister Dr. Tandi Dorji in separate messages, sent to Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, wished an early recovery of him from the coronavirus. Meanwhile, the DGHS recorded 29 new dengue cases in 24 hours until last morning. The Bankers' Selection Committee has postponed the combined recruitment test for the post of senior officer of seven state-owned banks and financial institutions due to the rising COVID-19 situation in the country.

The 39th span of the Padma Bridge was installed on Friday, making 5.85km stretch of the main structure visible. Officials said, they have the target to install the rest two spans by December 16, the Victory Day.

The construction work of the Rooppur nuclear power plant project will be completed within the stipulated time, Sergey Lastokin, Vice President of the project expressed the hope when State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury visited the power plant site yesterday.

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan became the only third cricketer to achieve the rare double of 5000 runs and 300 wickets in T20 cricket. Shakib now has 355 wickets along with his 500 runs. Shakib reached the milestone of 5000 runs when he scored three runs against Gazi Group Chattogram, playing for Gemcon Khulna in the Bangabandhu T20 Cup yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium.

  
29.11.2020  
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