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### News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid reached London yesterday en route to Uruguay on an 11-day visit. Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Saida Muna Tasneem welcomed the President at the airport. The President would make a six-hour stopover there prior to flying for Montevideo to attend the Presidential command transfer ceremony of the South American country to be held on March 1.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for not separating groups from class nine to give the students a chance of studying all of the subjects up to SSC level aimed at flourishing their talents. The Premier advised this while awarding Prime Minister Gold Medal to the talented university students who secured the highest CGPA in their faculties at the PMO in Dhaka yesterday. The Prime Minister put emphasis on establishing specialized universities in different areas of the country. Giving emphasis on research activities she said, it is not possible to reach the peak of the development without research.

Chinese President Xi Jinping in a message sent to Premier Sheikh Hasina yesterday appreciated the Bangladesh Prime Minister's recent letter to him offering solidarity and assistance to deal with the deadly coronavirus outbreak. The Chinese President in his letter to the Premier said that as a dearly beloved statesman of the Bangladeshi people, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman played a significant role in promoting China-Bangladesh relations. The Chinese President also said that the people in China are following with intense interest the "Mujib Year" celebrating the birth centenary of Father of the Nation and wishing a complete success.

The newly elected mayors and councillors of Dhaka South City Corporation and Dhaka North City Corporation will take oath today. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will administer the oath of office to DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh and DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam at her office in Dhaka today.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has congratulated Bangladesh national cricket team for defeating Zimbabwe in the lone Test and expressed the hope that the winning spree of the team would continue in future.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury speaking a fuction at Pirganj in Rangpur yesterday said, the present government is working relentlessly for improving quality of education to create skilled workforce in the country. Earlier, the Speaker inaugurated a children rally and a children fair organized by the Rangpur District Information Office at Pirganj upazila parishad premises.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, the government will not spare any wrongdoer of the ruling party. He said this while speaking at the founding anniversary function of Sheikh Russel Jatiya Shishu Kishore Parishad in the National Museum auditorium in Dhaka yesterday. About the trial of BDR tragedy he said, the speedy trial of Pilkhana carnage has set an example in the world as such trial in the quickest time did not happen in any place in the world.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan has said, the government has taken strict monitoring system so that any incident of coronavirus does not take hold in the country. He said this while handing over a virus detection machine provided by a South Korean company at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka yesterday.

Please Turn Over

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud issuing a note of warning against corruption and irregularities has said, the government would not allow anyone to indulge in corruption and irregularity by using political identity. He made the caution while addressing at a function at Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday. He said, there are many intruders and opportunists in the party and many of them entered the party to exploit it as a political shield.

Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal talking to reporters at the Secretariat yesterday said, the interest on the post office savings tools, which were slashed recently, are likely to return to their previous rates subject to the completion of automation formalities of those tools by March 17 this year.

Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury while addressing ADP meeting of his ministry yesterday said, plans are being taken to construct dikes around government khas ponds to facilitate the lives of local poor people in the area. He also said that the ponds would be re-excavated after retrieving from the illegal occupation.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi has said, the signing of Free Trade Agreement among the member states of BIMSTEC will open a new horizon in the trade sector. He said this while addressing the "Integrating BIMSTEC-2020 and BIMSTEC Expo-2020" at World Trade Center in Mumbai, India yesterday.

Park Road at the capital's Baridhara diplomatic zone, was renamed after the late Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk. Local Government Minister Mohammad Tajul Islam unveiling the nameplate of the road yesterday said, during the visit of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Cambodia, it was decided to name one road in Cambodia under the name of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the late Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk in Dhaka.

The Ministry of Labor and Employment will give the 'Green Factory Award' at the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The award will be presented on April 20 at National Occupational Health and Safety Day. The information was revealed at a meeting of the ministry yesterday.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Sheikh Md. Abdullah speaking at a meeting at the Islamic Foundation in Dhaka yesterday said, the government wants to offer better Hajj management in 2020 than at any time in the past. This year 17,000 hajj pilgrims will be taken under government management.

The Maldives has hired prominent human rights lawyer Amal Clooney to represent it at the UN's highest court in seeking justice for Myanmar's persecuted Rohingya Muslims. The Maldivian government yesterday said, it will formally join the mainly Muslim African state of The Gambia in challenging Myanmar's 2017 military crackdown that sent around 740,000 Rohingya fleeing into neighbouring Bangladesh.

The University Grants Commission has decided to introduce cluster admission test system from the next academic year 2020-21 as five major universities have decided to enroll new students as per their own rules. The decision was taken at a meeting between UGC Chairman Kazi Shahidullah and vice-chancellors of 34 public universities in the city yesterday.

  
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