**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **MOST URGENT**  FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONS  MSG: 244/2016  **Date: Wednesday, 28 December 2016** | **FROM: PIO, PID, DHAKA**  Fax: 9540553/9540026  E-mail: [piddhaka@gmail.com](mailto:piddhaka@gmail.com)  [piddhaka@yahoo.com](mailto:piddhaka@yahoo.com)  Web: [www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd](http://www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd) |

**News brief**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made the announcement of Bangladesh’s support to the candidature of Qatar for the post of director general of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The Prime Minister announced it when Dr Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari, the adviser to the Diwan Amiri of the State of Qatar and the Qatari candidate in the UNESCO Director General post, met the PM at her office yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday formally inaugurated mobile application ‘BMD Weather App’ at her office. Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) has developed the mobile application to facilitate smartphone users to get its all daily information services and keep them update about weather. The smartphone users can now download the mobile application from the Google Play Store.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday extended her heartiest greetings to Bangladesh Volleyball Team for clinching the Bangabandhu Asian Senior Men's Central Zone International Volleyball title. Hosts Bangladesh won the championship as they beat favorite Kyrgyzstan by straight 3-0 sets in the final at Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium at Mirpur.

Bangladesh and Qatar have discussed ways and means to further deepen cooperation in bilateral trade and investment, energy and power plants, LNG and green energy sectors. Both sides stressed the need for enhancing high-level bilateral contacts, including business-to-business contacts, between the two countries. The issues came up for discussions during a meeting held yesterday between Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and Adviser of the Diwan Amiri (Royal Palace of Qatar) of the State of Qatar Dr Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari.

President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged the country’s universities to increase their research activities so that students can keep pace with the global competition. The President made the remarks when a delegation of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) led by its Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Md Aminul Haque Bhuyan made a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban.

President Abdul Hamid has said he has found some similar proposals placed by political parties during talks on the formation of new Election Commission (EC).The President came up with the observation yesterday during a dialogue with Workers Party of Bangladesh, an ally of the Awami League-led government.

The maiden election to 61 Zila Parishads (district councils) is going to be held today.

A new train service between Kolkata and Khulna is likely to be launched during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's upcoming trip to India. All ground works have been completed for the launch of the new train.

The government has taken initiatives to develop railway as a modern public transport to ease traffic congestion in the capital and help people travel around the city comfortably. Railways Minister M Mujibul Huq said that the government has procured 20 sets of diesel electric multiple units (DEMU) trains in this regard. Besides, circular commuter trains have been introduced on different routes. He said more commuter trains would be pressed into service on completion of different ongoing projects. He said the government has undertaken a project for feasibility study to construct circular railways around Dhaka city.

The government has taken steps to preserve the canals of Sylhet. On 22nd December ECNEC approved Tk 236 crore 40 lakh for this project.

The Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi has unveiled a coffee table book (CTB) marking the Victory Day 2016.Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Syed Muazzem Ali launched the 98-page CTB at a function at the conference room of the chancery yesterday. The publication contains write-ups, illustrated with photos on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the history of 1971 War of Liberation.

The government has started an initiative to block several hundred pornography websites and already sent a list of more than 500 sites, mostly locally hosted, to internet providers. The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission on Monday evening sent the list to all the mobile phone operators, international gateway operators, international internet gateway operators, interconnection exchange operators, internet service providers and other telecom service providers to block the domains from their respective networks. After receiving the list the operators have started to comply with the directive.

Six Bangladeshi fishermen sustained bullet wounds, as members of Myanmar’s Border Guard Police (BGP) opened fire on them while catching fish in the Bay of Bengal adjacent to St. Martin’s Island yesterday afternoon.

DSEX, the prime index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) settled yesterday at 5,016.75 points.

**A K M Shameem Chowdhuri**

Principal Information Officer

Ph: 02-9546091