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### News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has asked Bangladesh Press Council to play an active role to ensure discipline and professionalism in mass media as a 10-member delegation led by Press Council Chairman Justice Mohammed Mumtaz Uddin Ahmed paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban yesterday. The President assured the delegation of providing all necessary supports in performing their tasks properly.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, more development initiatives alongside the existing 10 mega ones should be incorporated as fast track projects as she chaired a meeting of Fast Track Project Monitoring Committee at the PMO in Dhaka yesterday. The PM also said, the common people were benefitted and become solvent as her government took the projects. The ten fast track projects are: constructions of Padma Multipurpose Bridge, Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, Maitree Super Thermal Power at Rampal, Moheshkhali-Matarbari Integrated Infrastructure Development, Dhaka Mass Transit Development, LNG Terminal and Gas Pipe Line, Sonadia Deep Seaport, Paira Deep Seaport, Padma Bridge Railway Link and Dohazari-Cox's Bazar-Gundhum Railway Line.

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday unanimously adopted an obituary reference on Awami League lawmaker Abdul Mannan. The lawmakers observed one-minute silence as a mark of respect to the departed soul. Later, a munajat was offered seeking eternal peace of the departed soul. After the munajat, as convention, the Speaker adjourned the sitting of the House to show respect at the death of a current parliament member Abdul Mannan. Earlier, Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina while participating in a discussion on a condolence motion on Abdul Mannan in the House said, student leaders like him made immense contributions to restoring democracy after the assassination of Bangabandhu in 1975.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in an interview with the Gulf News during in the UAE capital of Abu Dhabi recently said, she did not understand the purpose of the Citizenship Amendment Act passed in India that aims to offer citizenship to non-Muslim minorities. According to Sheikh Hasina, the relationship between Bangladesh and India is currently at its best, with cooperation in a 'wide spectrum of areas'. But she highlighted concerns with Myanmar on the Rohingya issue. The Prime Minister said, Bangladesh cannot indefinitely shoulder the burden of providing for more than a million refugees.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq replying to a question in the the parliament yesterday said, the government has taken various effective measures for quick disposal of the pending cases. The Minister also said, the government would take an initiative soon to set up a law university in the country. State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain yesterday informed the Parliament that 313,848 posts at different ministries remain vacant at present. The State Minister said, various measures were taken to fill the vacant posts. The State Minister also said, the Public Administration Ministry in 2019 gave approval to create 88,123 posts under different ministries and departments.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the Bangladesh High Commission in Singapore to extend full support for the treatment of legendary playback singer Andrew Kishore. With Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's support, twin babies- Rabeya-Rukaya's conjoined heads have been separated. The Premier at a meeting at her office in Dhaka yesterday has assured of providing all sorts of help to conduct such critical surgery successfully in future.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader at a press conference at the Road Transport and Highways Division yesterday said, BNP is trying to make the election questionable sensing their imminent defeat in the upcoming Dhaka south and north city corporations' polls. Earlier, a Thai delegation led by the country's Ambassador to Bangladesh Arunrung Phothong Humphreys paid a courtesy call on him.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud at a press briefing at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday turning down the statements of Amnesty International and 47 personalities on the arrest warrant against the Daily Prothom Alo editor said, the case against the editor and others was lodged for a criminal offence, and the matter has no bearing on press freedom. The Minister also attended the closing ceremony of 18th Dhaka International Film Festival at National Museum in Dhaka yesterday.

Ten guidelines have been issued to ensure the proper use of the 'Mujib Centenary Logo' on the occasion of the birth centenary celebration of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The 10 guidelines will be available on the website: <http://mujib1000.gov.bd>.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the month-long Amar Ekushey Book Fair on the Bangla Academy in the capital on February 2 instead of February 1 as elections to two Dhaka City Corporations will be held on February 1.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal has said, all-out preparation has been made to ensure peaceful city corporations elections to be held on February 1. The Minister said this to the media after a meeting about law and order for the upcoming city polls at his ministry office in Dhaka yesterday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque addressing a workshop titled 'World Report on Vision' in the capital yesterday said, Proper eye care would be ensured through establishing 'Community Vision Centre' at 64 districts across the country within this year.

Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury while presiding over at a coordination meeting of divisional commissioners' at his ministry yesterday said, manual application for mutation of land will not be accepted from March 17, this year. The Minister said that the land ministry is fully committed to digitalize the mutation process at the land office in celebration of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary.

The government has formally launched formulation of much-awaited 'Tourism Master Plan' for next 20 years, aspiring to turn the travel and leisure sector into the 3rd largest economic engine of the country after garments and remittance. This was revealed yesterday at the official kick-off meeting regarding tourism master plan formulation at CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka where State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Md Mahbub Ali spoke as the chief guest.

China has reaffirmed its willingness to provide further support, within its capacity, to Myanmar in the Rohingya repatriation process and resettlement of the displaced people from Rakhine State. This was mentioned in a statement issued on Sunday at the end of visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Myanmar.

New Asian Development Bank President Masatsugu Asakawa has assumed office becoming its 10th President since ADB was established in 1966. Asakawa succeeds Takehiko Nakao, who stepped down on 16 January 2020.

Revised routines for SSC and equivalent examinations under all education boards were published yesterday. As per the revised schedule, the examinations will begin on February 3 and end on February 27 while practical examinations will be held from February 29 to March 5.

Shaheed Asad Day is being observed today commemorating the supreme sacrifice of student leader Asad during the mass upsurge of 1969 that led to the country's independence. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the occasion paying homage to the memory of Shaheed Asad.

Bangladesh confirmed their spot of semifinal as group A runners-up of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup International Football tournament knocking out Sri Lanka by 3-0 goals in their must win match held yesterday at Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka.

  
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