



**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT  
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From: PIO, PID, Dhaka  
Fax: 9540553/9540026  
E-mail: piddhaka@gmail.com  
Web: www.pressinform.gov.bd

**News Brief**

The celebration of Month of Victory, commemorating the country's victory on December 16, 1971 in the Liberation War, began yesterday with different programmes amid much enthusiasm and festivity. The programmes include placing of wreaths at the portrait of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi in capital and processions, discussions, photo exhibition and cultural events.

The Election Commission has instructed the election officials to discharge their duties with utmost sincerity. Election Commissioner Md. Rafiqul Islam made the instruction while speaking at a training session at Nirbachan Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday.

Road transport and Bridges Minister and Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader has said, all fears over the polls started disappearing and the countrymen would exercise their franchise in a favorable and festive environment. The Minister said this while speaking to the media at Awami League President's political office in Dhaka yesterday. The next parliamentary election will be held in a free, fair and peaceful manner, he added.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal has said, in line with the directives of election commission, nobody will be allowed to hold any meeting, rally or gathering for the preparation of Bishwa Ijtema at the Ijtema Ground at Tongi till the parliamentary election slated for December 30 this year. The Minister said this to the media after a meeting with leaders of two groups of Tabligh Jamaat at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

The UK based House of Commons Library, an independent research and information unit, has observed, most experts are still expecting a victory for the incumbents -- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League -- in the Bangladesh's national election scheduled for December 30 this year. The results of the next national election, however, could be closer than previously anticipated, according to a report posted on the official website of the UK Parliament on Thursday.

The 21st anniversary of Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord is today. The treaty was signed on December 2, 1997 between the government and the Parbatya Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samiti during the first tenure of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, ending bloody conflicts in the three hill districts. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages marking the completion of 21 years of the treaty.

Bangladesh Air Force is going to replace its 3 contingents consisting of 358 members including 10 female officers at the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission deployed in Democratic Republic of Congo. As a part of this replacement 202 BAF members left Dhaka for Congo on Friday by a UN chartered aircraft.

Bangladesh in a statement on the situation in the Middle East and question of Palestine has called for giving immediate priority to ensure international protection for the Palestinian people suffering for decades from the occupying power's policy. Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN Tareq Md. Ariful Islam made the call while speaking at a session at the UN General Assembly in New York on Friday.

President Md. Abdul Hamid has expressed deep shock at the death of former US President George HW Bush Senior who died on Friday in Houston in the USA at the age of 94.

Legendary freedom fighter Taramon Bibi, Bir Pratik died at her Katcharipara residence in Rajibpur upazila town of Kurigram district yesterday. She was 63. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock at the death of freedom fighter Taramon Bibi.

Visiting West Indies plunge into deep trouble as they struggled to score 75 for 5 in reply to Bangladesh's massive first innings total of 508 on the second day of the final Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka yesterday.

DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, lost 0.47 per cent, or 24.70 points, to close at 5,281.25 points yesterday.

**Kamrun Nahar**  
Principal Information Officer  
Ph-02-9546091