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From: PIO, PID, Dhaka  
Fax: 55100553/55100026  
E-mail: [piddhaka@gmail.com](mailto:piddhaka@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.pressinform.gov.bd](http://www.pressinform.gov.bd)

### Newsbrief

President Md. Abdul Hamid called upon the entrepreneurs in the education sector to change the mentality of doing business. He said this while addressing the first convocation of 'Canadian University of Bangladesh' at the Osmani Memorial Hall in the capital yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, the 15th amendment to the Constitution strengthened the country's democracy and empowered people to choose public representatives by stopping the path of grabbing state power illegally. She said this while speaking at the oath-taking ceremony of the newly-elected Mayor of Rangpur City Corporation and its ward councilors including those from reserved seats for women at her office in Dhaka yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the Muslim nations to stand collectively over Palestinians cause saying, since its emergence in 1971 Bangladesh's stance on the issue remained very firm. She made the urges when envoys of seven OIC member states in Dhaka jointly made a courtesy call on her at her office in Dhaka yesterday.

Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) Shamsul Haque Tuku underscored the need for taking multifaceted measures to make Bangladesh free from smoking and drugs. He said this while addressing a view exchanging meeting titled 'Tobacco Control Law and Contemporary Thoughts', organized by 'Unnayan Shamannay' at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro in Dhaka yesterday.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader hoped that today's by-polls to five Parliamentary seats will be held in a free and fair manner. He said this while addressing a peace rally arranged by Dhaka City North Awami League on the premises of Tibet Colony Bazar in the capital yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Minister inaugurated the works of master plan preparation and preliminary feasibility study for construction of metro rail in Chattogram port city. The Minister inaugurated the works virtually connecting from his official residence in Dhaka yesterday.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, BNP has to beg pardon to the countrymen before going to them again for the party's ill politics of killing people alive with petrol bombs in 2013, 2014 and 2015 and for the violation of human rights. The Minister said this to reporters replying to a query after addressing the inaugural function of "Transport Master Plan and Preliminary Feasibility Study for Urban Metro Rail Transit Construction of Chattogram Metropolitan Area" project at a hotel in the port city Chattogram yesterday.

Foreign Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen hoped that the bilateral relations among Bangladesh and the countries of accreditation would usher a new avenue during their tour of duty. He said this when newly appointed four non-resident Ambassadors to Bangladesh jointly called on him at Foreign Service Academy in the capital yesterday.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said, the approval of US\$4.7 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund proved that the basic areas of the country's macroeconomic fundamentals are on solid foundation. The Finance Minister said this yesterday after the loan approval meeting of IMF held at its Headquarters in Washington D.C the day before yesterday.

The United States had imposed sanctions on RAB based on wrong information. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam made the claim while participating in the discussion on the thanksgiving motion on the President's speech in the Parliament yesterday.

60% of the brick kilns in the country are being operated illegally without environmental clearance. Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change Shahab Uddin gave this information in response to a tabled question of ruling party Lawmaker Mamunur Rashid Kiran in Parliament yesterday.

The recruiting countries must impose sanction on those, who are accountable for human rights violation against Bangladeshi migrant workers as responsibility for the overseas workers equally falls on countries of destination. Felipe Gonz lez Morales, UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants said this yesterday in a briefing at the end of a 10-day official visit to Bangladesh.

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US Ambassador to Dhaka Peter Haas lauded the success of Bangladeshi students on US campuses. US Ambassador made the laud when he inaugurated the US university fair at a local hotel in the capital yesterday with prospective students and US institutions.

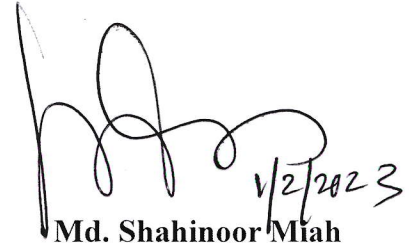
Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Khandker Golam Faruq said, they have taken foolproof security measures like the previous years ahead of the month-long Amar Ekushey Book Fair beginning today. He said this while talking to reporters after visiting the book fair venue in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.

Argentina is very keen to expand its trade relations with Bangladesh as a special delegation including businessmen and high government officials will visit Bangladesh at the end of February. The Head of the economic and trade office and Deputy Chief of mission of the Argentina Embassy in New Delhi Franco Agustin Senilliani Melchior said this during a courtesy meeting with the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry leaders at its office in Dhaka yesterday.

A gazette notification was issued yesterday asking BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman and his wife Zubaida Rahman to appear before the court on February 6 in a graft case, filed against them by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Fourteen dengue patients were hospitalised and Bangladesh reported 13 more Covid-19 cases in 24 hours till Tuesday morning. Directorate General of Health Services issued a press release in this regard yesterday.

DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, settled at 6,296, with a gain of 30.81 points, or 0.49 per cent. The index added around 102 points in the past three weeks.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Md. Shahinoor Miah', with a date '1/2/2023' written to the right of the signature.

**Md. Shahinoor Miah**  
**Principal Information Officer (Acting)**  
**Phone- 55100811**