



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA



Most Urgent
For: Bangladoot, All Missions
MSG: 192/2021-22
Date: Sunday, 16 January 2022

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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid will address the 16th session of the 11th Jatiya Sangsad (JS) commencing today at 4 pm as it is the maiden session of 2022. In line with the parliamentary practice, the President addresses the first parliamentary sitting every year. Earlier, the President convened the first parliament session of 2022 exercising the power bestowed upon him as per the Article 72 (1) of the Constitution. The President's speech has been already approved in the cabinet.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the newly-built a 10-storey ultramodern 'Rangpur Divisional Headquarters Complex Building' through a videoconferencing from her official Ganabhaban residence in the capital today. A wave of cheerfulness is prevailing among officials and employees of the divisional administration, other departments and people centering the inauguration of the state-of-the-art divisional headquarters complex building.

Women empowerment has been ensured under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said Jatiya Sangsad (JS) Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday while addressing as the chief guest at a view-exchange with members of parliament on 'what to do to prevent violence and rape on women and children' at the oath-taking room of JS Bhaban. The Speaker called for raising awareness to stop rape and violence on women and children. Punishment of those who will be found involved with incidents of rape and violence on women and children must be ensured, she added. She said, workplaces and public places should be brought under CCTV camera surveillance to ensure safety and security of women. Males should be conscious and responsive in preventing rape and violence on women and guardians should instill positive outlook into male offspring since childhood, she added. Awareness raising leaflets containing appropriate guidelines should be distributed at female schools and colleges, she further added.

Today's election to Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) will be held in a fair and peaceful manner, said Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque yesterday while addressing a memorial meeting of late agriculturists Shawkat Momen, Abdul Mannan and Badiuzzaman Badshah at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC). To this end, the government has provided all possible assistance to the Election Commission, the Minister added. The law enforcement agencies are working tirelessly for holding fair and impartial election, he further added.

The conspirators have chosen the social media as a big platform for spreading propaganda from abroad, said Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud yesterday while meeting the leaders of All European Awami League at AL President's political office in city's Dhanmondi area. All Awami League leaders and workers have to remain alert against anti-state conspiracy, the Minister added. There is less than two years for the next polls and the social platform is one of the biggest media for our electoral campaign and the opponents of us as well as the state have chosen the social media as a big platform for hatching conspiracy and spreading propaganda, he further added.

A circuit bench of High Court division will be set up in Chattogram city by this year, said Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq yesterday while virtually addressing the lawyers' annual get together organized by Chattogram District Bar Association. The Minister said, I already have talked to the chief justice in this regard while the chief justice gave his consent to this end. The government

is committed to establish the rule of law in the country and the nation will never forget the contributions of the lawyers in all the country's democratic movements, the Minister added.

There is no need to impose lockdown to stem the current spike of coronavirus, if 11-point restriction is strictly followed, said Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday at inaugural function of CT scan machine and dialysis unit at Manikganj 250-bed General Hospital. The Minister said, Infection rate of COVID-19 is increasing sharply in Bangladesh like other countries of the world. The government set a target to administer 280 million vaccine doses including booster ones, he added. Over 50 million people received two vaccine doses while more than 80 million people received the first dose, the Minister further added.

None will remain homeless in the country as the people who don't have a house are getting abode as the gifts of the present government, said Railways Minister Md. Nurul Islam Sujan yesterday while visiting the ongoing construction work of houses for the landless people under the third phase of Ashrayan Project in Boda upazila of the district yesterday on the occasion of Mujib Borsha. The government wants to mitigate the landless people's suffering as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken long term plan for changing the fate of the poor people, the Minister added.

Three newly appointed judges of the Appellate Division of Supreme Court paid rich tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Tungipara yesterday. They placed a floral wreath at the grave of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and offered prayers for the departed soul of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members who were brutally killed by a few insane army officers in 1975 along with four national leaders and martyrs of 1971.

Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni did not say anything about the closure of educational institutions due to a rise in Covid-19 infection recently, said the Education Ministry in a press release yesterday. The Education Ministry said, the news of shutting educational institutions for an indefinite period due to a spike in Covid-19 infection is a rumor. The Ministry urged all not to pay heed to such rumors. It also said that a decision will be taken after the meeting with the national advisory committee on Corona issue.

The United States (US) yesterday donated another 9.6 million doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine to Bangladesh. The United States has now donated the vaccines, free of charge, over 28 million vaccine doses to Bangladesh with millions more on the way, a US embassy press release said quoting the US envoy.

The country yesterday recorded 07 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the total death toll to 28,136. With 3,447 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 16,12,489. The positivity rate stood at 14.35 per cent as 24,028 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,52,600, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. Besides, 05 more dengue patients got hospitalized in the country in 24 hours till 8:00am last morning according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).



16/01/2022

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