



President Abdul Hamid receiving his smart NID card from Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad at the Bangabhaban yesterday. PHOTO: PIO

Security of citizens' data must be ensured

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Hasina formally opened the distribution by handing over the smart NID card of President Abdul Hamid to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad.
Later, the CEC handed over the PM's smart NID card.
After that, Hasina distributed smart NID cards to members of the national cricket team, including the captain and brand ambassador of smart NID cards Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and ace allrounder Shakib Al Hasan.
CEC Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad was present at the function as the special guest, while EC Secretariat Secretary

Md Sirajul Islam delivered the welcome address.
World Bank Country Director Qimiao Fan spoke and Project Director of Identification System for Enhancing Accesses to Services Brigadier General Sultanuzzaman Md Saleh Uddin gave a short presentation on the smart NID cards.
Ministers, PM's advisers, parliament members, foreign diplomats, ex-CECs and election commissioners, civil society members, members of the national cricket team and high civil and military officials were present at the function.
Earlier, Election Commissioner M

Shah Newaz told BSS that the EC would collect biometric details, impression of 10 fingers and picture of iris of the card holders during the distribution of smart cards.
For being machine readable, the smart cards have additional safety measures against forgery.
The distribution of NID cards will begin in two city corporations in Dhaka and in now-defunct Dashiarchhara enclave in Phulbari upazila in Kurigram today.
Later, the cards would be distributed at upazila, municipality, union and ward levels in phases.

Militants attack

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It is not clear yet whether the attackers managed to enter any of the camps. They first reportedly hurled grenades and opened fire at the gate of the army camp and were engaged in a gun battle by both army and BSF soldiers.
A NDTV report said the terrorists are suspected to have entered India across the Jhelum river in Kashmir.
The camps are located at Baramulla town, some 50 kilometres (34 miles) northwest of the Himalayan region's main city of Srinagar.
India blamed Pakistan for the September 18 attack in an army camp in Uri, something Pakistan denies.
Amid massive public anger over the raid, India has sought to isolate Pakistan -- whom it accuses of sponsoring militant groups -- and has managed to persuade nearly all its other neighbours to boycott a regional summit which was to have been held in Islamabad in November.
The two countries, who were separated at birth at the end of British colonial rule in 1947, have fought three full-blown wars in the last seven decades -- including two over Kashmir.

Brexit to start before April

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Access to the European single market means allowing free movement of people, they say. But May says she wants to curb the yearly influx of hundreds of thousands of people from other parts of the EU.
She said the referendum was a clear message that Britain should have control over the movement of people coming from the bloc.
"We will deliver on that," she said.
Britain will be "able to decide who can come into, and set the rules for who can come into, the country."
"We will look at the various ways that we can bring in the control that the British people want."
"HARD BREXIT" CALLS
Some key Conservatives have said they want to sever all ties with the EU by leaving the single market and imposing work visa rules.
They argue that the European Union would only be harming itself if it began imposing tariffs on British goods and services because the EU exports more to Britain than Britain does to the rest of the bloc.

However, May herself backed staying in the EU, while other key ministers such as finance minister Philip Hammond reportedly want a softer landing, with carve-outs for Europe's most important financial centre, the City of London.
"There is so little known about Brexit," said Tony Travers, a professor of government at the London School of Economics.
"It begs the question of whether the government does have a view about exactly what it's going to do with the country or not."
May started addressing the concerns by announcing yesterday a Great Repeal Bill, ending the authority of EU law once Britain leaves the union.
It will overturn laws that make EU regulations supreme, enshrine all EU rules in domestic law and confirm the British parliament can amend them as it wishes.
"This marks the first stage in the UK becoming a sovereign and independent country once again," May told The Sunday Times newspaper.
"It will return power and authority

to the elected institutions of our country. It means that the authority of EU law in Britain will end."
NO ELECTION BEFORE 2020
On the face of it, May -- whose keynote closing speech comes on Wednesday -- goes to the convention in a strong position.
Opinion polls put the Conservatives well ahead of the deeply divided main opposition Labour Party under their veteran leftist leader Jeremy Corbyn.
But she has ruled out holding a general election before one is due in 2020, telling The Sunday Times it would "introduce a note of instability".
And when Article 50 is triggered, it is likely to be a painful process. This could worsen the decades-old arguments between eurosceptic and more pro-EU Conservatives, already inflamed by the referendum.
"The Brexit negotiations will take much longer and be far more complicated than many British politicians realise," said Charles Grant, director of the Centre for European Reform.

Tourism or livelihood?

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Of the proposed land, 604 acres of land are in Alutilla mouza and Toikatang mouza under Matiranga upazila, while 95.98 acres of land are in Golabari mouza under Khagrachhari Sadar upazila.
Most of it are Jhum land, on which indigenous families livelihood depend.
Of the 300 families, most are from Tripura community, while the rest are from Chakma and Marma communities. They live in 10 villages of Alutilla, Taikatang and Golabari mouzas, locals say.
The villages which would be affected are Hridoy Member Para, Madhya Para, Jorna Para, Kap Para, Keda Para, Parjatan Para, Haja Para, Hasuk Para, Mondir Para and Golabari Para, said Dulal Chandro Tripura, an organiser of Alutilla Land Protection Committee (ALPC).
"Though the district administration told them that the amount of the proposed land is around 700 acres, it will be around 2,000 acres of Jhum and horticulture land in the three mouzas," he claimed.
"Uncertainty grips us as we do not know how we will survive if we lose our ancestral Jhum land," said Kabilash Tripura, of Jorna Tripura Para under Taikatang mouza.
"I am not sure what will happen to us and where we will go if we cannot cultivate our Jhum fields," said Chironjit Damai, karbari (village chief) of Hridoy Member Para, where 25 families live.
"Neither the headmen [mouza chiefs] nor the karbaris were consulted before the decision of land acquisition," said Hironjoy Tripura, headman of Alutilla mouza.

Bir Bahadur Tripura, convener of ALPC, said, "We don't want any development in our area which will snatch our ancestral land and our source of livelihood."
Rita Roaza, a member of ALPC, alleged that when they tried to organise any programme to protest the "illegal decision" of the government, they faced law enforcers' obstruction.
According to the Hill Districts Council Act, 1998, the deputy commissioner of the district requires permission of the corresponding Hill District Council chairman to acquire any land.
Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) Chairman Kongjari Chowdhury said the district administration talked to him about the matter, but it did not take any approval from him about land acquisition.
Mohammad Wahiduzzaman, deputy commissioner of Khagrachhari, said, "We have just started the [land] acquisition process, and we will discuss the matter soon with KHDC chairman and also the authorities concerned in the area."
"BEZA wants to develop two Parjatan areas Risang Fall and Alutilla Cave and we just proposed the land so that no families will be evicted from the area. Rather, they will be benefited if the tourism zone is established there," the DC said.
Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, said, "It is customary of the DC to consult with the headmen and karbaris of the area before finalising any land deal. The decision of land acquisition in Alutilla is definitely a violation of human rights."
U Sain Chowdhury, headman of Golabari mouza, said neither he nor his karbaris were consulted before

taking the decision of land acquisition.
On August 29, 2016, villagers submitted a memorandum to the prime minister through the DC, mentioning their problems. They urged the government not to allocate their ancestral Jhum land to the BEZA.
But they have not got any response to this end from the government as yet.
State Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing said, "How will I help the families who are thinking of being evicted if they don't come to me?"
"The hilly people in the area will get benefit from the tourism zone, and no one will be evicted from their land."
"If every stakeholder agrees to the plan, the tourism zone will be set up. If the plan is opposed by them, we will not implement the plan."
Talking to The Daily Star, Paban Chowdhury, executive chairman of BEZA, said they took the decision of setting up the special tourism zone in Alutilla after discussion with the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs.
As the hilly people and different indigenous organisations protested the decision, they wanted that the ministry would talk to every stakeholder in Chittagong Hill Tracts.
If the hilly people did not want the special tourism zone, they would not go ahead with the plan.
Alutilla mouza headman Hironjoy said Khagrachhari forest department had planted "environmentally destructive" teak trees after acquiring 1,700 acres of land in the mouza "illegally".
Acquiring land in the name of development, the government had ignored the opinion and rights of the indigenous people, alleged Khagendro Tripura, a social activist of the district.

University offers

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But Chris McGovern, of the Campaign for Real Education, said the idea was 'farfical' and that it encouraged students to rack up huge debts on courses that opened up few job prospects, reports Mail Online.
The University of Idaho in US is offering a for-credit "Pop Culture Games" course, in which Pokemon Go will be a focus.
The course is set to open next fall under the university's Department of Movement Science, and will count toward students' physical education requirement, reports Fox News.
It is designed to teach students about living active lifestyles, teamwork and exploring their communities, according to instructor Steven Bird.
"This app does more than let you shoot a Pokeball. You get to adventure around, seeing different things, being active, seeing the sun. It allows you to move in large groups and a team. You get not only physical activity, but you also get team-building and leadership," Bird said in a statement.

Poor inspection

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But in many cases, neither the shipping department nor the BIWTA officials properly perform their duties, creating an opportunity for the unfit and unregistered vessels to operate, said NCPSSR General Secretary Ashis Kumar Dey.
On September 21, for instance, a mechanised boat -- Oishi Plus -- capsized in the Sandhya river in Barisal's Banaripara upazila, leaving around 26 passengers dead and some missing.
The boat was not registered as a passenger-carrying vessel and hence had no valid route permit. It used to ply different waterways illegally, said Mustafizur Rahman, Barisal port officer of BIWTA.
But neither the shipping department nor BIWTA officials stopped this vessel from operating before the accident took place.
Replying to a question, BIWTA Member (planning and operation) Bholanath Dey claimed that the shipping department is mainly responsible for checking plying of unfit and unregistered vessels.
In reality, it is not possible for the department alone to check operation of such vessels, he said, adding that it requires a concerted coordination among the department, BIWTA and district administration.

GRAFT CASES ACC arrests three govt officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday arrested three government officials on charges of graft and caught a government staff red-handed while he was taking bribe.
The arrestees are Acting Executive Engineer of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Saifur Rahman, Superintendent Engineer of Public Works Department (PWD) ABM Jalal Uddin and Sonali Bank's Nawabganj branch officer Haradhan Sarkar. They were arrested in three different cases.
The anti-graft body held Ruhul Amin, an office assistant of Nalitabari upazila land office, at his office.
Besides, three businessmen accused in a graft case filed by the ACC surrendered before a Dhaka court yesterday. Two of them were sent to jail while the other secured bail.
ACC Deputy Director Mozahar Ali Sardar said Jalal, while working as an executive engineer of Gaibandha PWD, along with five others allegedly embezzled Tk 4.78 crore forging tender documents.
A tender was invited to build Technical Training Center (TTC). Contractor Mominul Islam was selected to construct the TTC at about Tk 14 crore.
According to the contract, they were supposed to withdraw only 20 percent of the total cost in advance. But they forged the tender documents and withdrew Tk 4,78,89,000 without any work, he said.
A case was filed against six persons, including Jalal and Mominul, with Gaibandha Police Station on April 17, 2013. Jalal was arrested from Dhaka.
Sonali Bank officer Haradhan was also arrested from the capital.
Case statements say Haradhan, while an officer of Kalakopa Branch of Sonali Bank, in collaboration with 11 other accused opened 46 accounts using the name of different fake organisations with the branch.
Together, the accused transferred Tk 48,25,000 to the accounts and later

withdrew it, read the documents.
The case was filed against them with Nawabganj Police Station on October 12, 2015.
In Chittagong, the ACC arrested Saifur Rahman, the acting executive engineer of CCC, from Kotwali Police Station on charge of amassing wealth worth Tk 33.93 lakh illegally.
Hamidul Hasan, deputy director (Dhaka) of the anti-graft body, filed a case against Saifur on July 17 this year with Khulshi Police Station.
According to the case statement, the arrestee amassed wealth worth Tk 33.93 lakh illegally and concealed information worth around Tk 1.40 lakh.
In Sherpur, office assistant of Nalitabari Upazila land office Ruhul demanded Tk 20,000 from one Dilani Chiran for cancelling a mutation order.
On being informed by Chiran, an ACC team launched a sting operation and caught Ruhul red-handed while he was taking bribe.
Later, a case was filed against Ruhul with Nalitabari Police Station.
Meanwhile, managing director of Stake Fashions Ltd Fazlul Haque Khan, its directors Hafizul Haque Khan and Aminul Haque Khan surrendered before the Metropolitan Session Judge's Court to avoid arrest in an ACC graft case.
According to the case statement, the accused opened a back-to-back letter of credit with Eastern Bank Ltd, imported 3,14,595 yards of cloth and sold them in the open market.
"Creating fake airway bill, they showed 70,000 piece of dresses as exported and misappropriated Tk 1,68,29,086," said Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, public relations officer of the ACC.
A case was filed against them with Motijheel Police Station on February 23, 2016.
The court sent Fazlul and Aminul to jail while granted bail to Hafizul considering his old age.

Police foil BNP rally

FROM PAGE 16
The land of Sadeque Hossain Khoka [former DCC mayor]. It had taken a verbal permission from the police," said BNP Vice-Chairman Shamsuzzaman Duda.
"But yesterday, when the party men went there to hang banners, police told them that they had revoked the permission," he said.
Shamsuzzaman made the comments while addressing a briefing at the BNP Nayapaltn headquarters and protested the incident.
Maruf Hossain Sorder, deputy commissioner (DC) of Ramna Division, however, rejected the allegation of the BNP and told The Daily Star that they had not foiled any programme of the party at the IEB.
He said the BNP was regularly organising programmes at the IEB and they were to hold another programme there today.
The government took control of former Dhaka mayor and BNP senior leader Khoka's properties in Gazipur, Gulshan and Narayanganj following court directives in connection with corruption cases.
The BNP leader said the incident of foiling the programme proved that there was no freedom of expression in the country. He said the government's behaviour could not be tolerated in a democratic country.
He also claimed that police yesterday arrested a number of party men at different places in the capital when

they held demonstrations, protesting the recent arrest warrant issued for BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman.
BNP O NEC
Shamsuzzaman said the BNP was hopeful that the government would sit with them and discuss the holding of the next general elections under a neutral Election Commission.
"The prime minister rejected our demand preliminarily, but I hope she will respond to our call [to hold talks with everyone before forming the EC] ...," said Shamsuzzaman.
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday aired doubt whether a credible EC could be formed including suggestions from the BNP, reported the UNB news agency.
"If their [BNP's] suggestions are taken, we'll have to form an Election Commission which will again make the voter list with fake voters," she said.
Hasina came up with the remarks at a press conference responding to a question from a journalist whether the government will take BNP's suggestions in forming the next EC.
Shamsuzzaman said the discussion table is the best place for resolving any crisis. "National leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman" had continued talks with Pakistan in 1971, even after he became the supreme leader of the largest party, said Shamsuzzaman, adding that he wanted to remind the prime minister of the qualities of her father.

Duterte apologises to Jews, but defiant

AFF, Manila
Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday apologised to Jews for comparing himself with Adolf Hitler but said he did nothing wrong and reiterated his desire to kill millions of drug addicts.
Duterte, whose bloody war on crime had already drawn international condemnation, sparked fresh outrage on Friday when he likened his deadly crime war with Hitler's efforts to exterminate Jews.
Duterte said he was merely reacting to critics who drew comparisons between him and the Nazi leader.
"So I said, 'sure I am Hitler, but the ones I will kill are these (drug addicts)'," Duterte said in a speech broadcast on national television.
"But it is not really that I said something wrong. But rather they do not really want to tinker with the memory so I apologise profoundly and deeply to the Jewish (people)."
"It was never my intention but the

problem was I was criticised using Hitler, comparing to me. But I was very emphatic. I will kill the three million."
Duterte, 71, won elections in May in a landslide after a campaign dominated by his pledge to eradicate drugs in society by killing tens of thousands of people.
Since taking office on June 30, police have killed more than 1,200 people and about 1,800 others have died in unexplained circumstances, according to official figures.
While issuing his qualified apology on Friday, Duterte continued to lash out at Western critics and warned he was willing to kick all American troops out of the Philippines.
"The Americans, I don't like them.... they are reprimanding me in public. So I say: 'Screw you, fuck you, everything else. You are stupid!'," he said.
Duterte threatened to cancel a defence accord with the United States, the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), that went into force in January.