



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA



Most Urgent
For: Bangladoot, All Missions
MSG: 977/2019-20
Date: Tuesday, 05 November 2019

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News Brief

Non-resident Ambassadors of three countries to Bangladesh separately presented their credentials to President Md. Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. Welcoming the Envoys: Eleonora Dimitrova of Bulgaria, Coromoto Godoy Calderon of Venezuela and Juan Rolando Angulo Monslave of Chile, the President expressed the hope that the bilateral relations with these countries would expand further during their assignment in Dhaka. Lauding the tremendous development in Bangladesh, especially in socio-economic sector and women empowerment, the Ambassadors assured the President of providing Bangladesh all necessary supports in the days to come.

The Cabinet approved the draft of the National Human Resource Development Fund Usage Policy-2019 aimed at creating skilled manpower to accelerate the booming economy and meet the growing demand of competent workforces. The approval came from a weekly cabinet meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at the Prime Minister's Office in Dhaka yesterday. The cabinet also approved the ratification proposal of an agreement signed between Bangladesh and Nepal for avoiding double taxation on income and preventing tax evasion. At the outset of the cabinet meeting, State Minister for Information and Communication Technology Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak handed over- 'WITSA Global ICT Excellence Awards 2019', 'DCD APAC Award- 2019' and 'GovInsider Innovation Award-2019' given by international organizations for Bangladesh's outstanding success in the ICT sector to the Prime Minister.

Noting that Bangladesh made incredible development in the last one decade, the visiting Executive Directors of the World Bank Group said, they will continue support for Bangladesh's uplift. The World Bank will also provide all sorts of support for the Rohingyas. They said this while paying a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The Prime Minister while exchanging views said, the poverty rate in the country has come down significantly due to various pragmatic steps of her government.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presented 10 laptops and 20 sewing machines to distressed children of Government Shishu Paribar at Ganabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The gifts were distributed among them marking the birthday of Sheikh Russel, the youngest son of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has said, the country's 1972 constitution is reflective of spirit, principles and ideology of the Liberation War and Independence, showing the citizens the path of way forward. The Speaker made the remark while addressing a discussion titled "Bangabandhu's Political Philosophy and the 1972 Constitution" marking the 48th anniversary of framing of the constitution at Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium in Dhaka yesterday. The Speaker said, Bangabandhu had struggled until his death for the emancipation of the people.

Road, Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while talking to journalists in Dhaka yesterday said, the government will extend all-out cooperation in bringing back the body of valiant freedom fighter Sadeque Hossain Khoka, who passed away in New York yesterday. The Minister expressed profound shock at the death of the former Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation. Expressing deep shock at his death, Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud in a condolence message said, the government would extend all-out cooperation to bring Khoka's body to the country if his family wants. State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam said, Bangladesh consulate mission in New York will take necessary steps to bring the body of Khoka home.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud at a press briefing at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday said, BNP does not want Rohingya to be relocated to Bhashan Char as it is opposed to their repatriation. BNP will lose their ill political interest, if the Rohingyas return to their country, the Minister added. Replying to another query over the unnatural death of ninth grader of Residential Model School and College Naimul Abrar Rahat the Minister said, it is very regretful that the organizer kept their programme on even after the death of the student. Dr. Hasan Mahmud informed that the issue was discussed at the yesterday's cabinet meeting.

Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal has said, the government is interested to work more with Japan on more mega projects since they extend credit on soft terms. The Minister said this to reporters after Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Naoki Ito met him at his ERD office in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister informed that a Japanese delegation would arrive in Dhaka on November 16 and hold meeting on the bilateral aspects and mutual cooperation.


Foreign Minister Dr A K Abdul Momen has sought Vietnam's support in resolving the Rohingya crisis within ASEAN framework as Hanoi is likely to be the chair of the 10 southeast Asian nations association that also includes Myanmar, from January 2020. The Minister made the call while outgoing Vietnam Ambassador to Bangladesh Tran Van Khoa called on him at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. The Vietnamese Envoy assured the Foreign Minister of conveying the Dhaka's urge to his headquarters to play a positive role as the ASEAN chair for ensuring a safe, secured and dignified repatriation of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas to Myanmar.

A 12-member high-powered delegation of World Bank led by Geir Haarde met State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak in Dhaka yesterday. During the meeting, Palak briefed the delegation about the activities of Digital Bangladesh being implemented in line with its four pillars development of human resources, connectivity, e-governance and industry promotion.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Alhaj Advocate Sheikh Md Abdullah while addressing the World Hajj and Umrah Convention at Hotel Intercontinental in London yesterday said, with the aim of making the hajj management for Bangladeshi pilgrims in 2020 smooth, the Ministry of Religious Affairs in consultation with all the authorities concerned has adopted a ten-point plan which include; completing immigration of all hajj pilgrims in Bangladesh, further improvement in the luggage management of hajj pilgrims, increasing the quota for Bangladeshi hajj pilgrims, reducing the cost of performing hajj and increasing the number of pilgrims under the government management.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Md Mahbub Ali has said, the government has taken several projects for modernising country's all airports. The Minister said this while inaugurating Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of International Federation of Airline Pilots' Association in Dhaka yesterday. The works of third terminal at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport will begin soon while works of runway extension of Sylhet Osmani International Airport, Cox's Bazar Airport, Shah Amanat International Airport in Chattogram and Jashore Airport are advancing in full force, the State Minister added.

Bangladesh women's Cricket team won a nerve wrecking one-wicket victory against host Pakistan in the second and last ODI at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday and thus levelled the series in 1-1.


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