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

News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to leave Dhaka on May 28 for attending "Future of Asia" Conference in Japan and OIC Summit in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, respectively. During her visit to Tokyo, the Bangladesh Premier is due to hold official talks with her Japanese Counterpart Shinzo Abe on May 29. The PM is scheduled to perform Umrah during her trip in Saudi Arabia beginning from May 31. Foreign Ministry sources said, the Prime Minister may visit another third country during the same trip and return home after Eid Ul Fitr.

Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal has said, the government is moving forward to implement the new VAT law from July 1. The Finance Minister said this while briefing reporters at his Economic Relations Division office in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister said, the VAT rate for any product will not go up but decline in the upcoming national budget. However, the VAT net will expand, he added.

Commerce Minister Minister Tipu Munshi has sought support of the World Trade Organization to tackle trade-related challenges, which Bangladesh may face after its graduation to a middle income country from the least developing country category. The Minister sought the support in his address at the WTO Ministerial Meeting in the Indian capital New Delhi yesterday. During a sidelines meeting yesterday, the Commerce Minister urged his Indian Counterpart Suresh Prabhu to withdraw the anti-dumping duty imposed on Bangladeshi products in its market.

The Malaysian government has assured Bangladesh of recruiting Bangladeshi workers in the country after almost eight months closure. The assurance came at a meeting between the State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Imran Ahmad and Malaysian Home Minister Muhyiddin Yassin and Human Resources Minister M Kula Segaran at the Malaysian administrative capital of Putrajaya yesterday. Meeting sources said, the matter could be finalised at a bilateral working group meeting between the two sides on May 30 and 31.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has said, the identity of the Bangladeshi victims who died in the boat capsized in Tunisia recently has not been confirmed yet. Addressing a function at Krishibid Institution of Bangladesh in Dhaka yesterday, the Minister said, 37 Bangladeshi people reportedly died in the mishap. Their bodies would be brought back to Bangladesh if their identities can be ascertained.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has assured Dhaka to provide all out support in dealing ongoing Rohingya crisis terming it as a challenge for Bangladesh government. WFP Executive Director David M Beasley made the assurance in a letter sent to Foreign Minister A K Abdul Momen, according to a press release of Foreign Ministry yesterday.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has urged the information cadre officials to work for reaching the country's development news to the people at grassroots level. The Minister made the urge while addressing an iftar mahfil organized by BCS Information Association at the Tathya Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday. Information Secretary Abdul Malek also addressed the function chaired by BCS Information Association President and Secretary of Women and Children Affairs Ministry Kamrun Nahar.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque has said, any request on relocation of doctors and nurses to Dhaka will not be entertained as many hospitals out of the capital city are currently facing shortage of doctors and nurses. He stated this while addressing a coordination meeting with hospital directors at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

Road, Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader returns home today after taking treatment at a Singapore hospital. A Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight will carry him back home this afternoon.

State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Swapan Bhattacharjee has said, stern actions will be taken against corrupt Milk Vita officials and engineers to stop irregularities at the state-owned entity. He came up with the warning at Milk Vita's special general meeting at the Dhugdha Bhaban in the city yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of national award winning poet Hayat Saif who died in Dhaka on Monday.

Bangladesh Team will take on host Ireland in the last group match of the tri-series tournament at 3.45 pm (BST) at the Clontarf Cricket Club ground today. Beating West Indies in the last match, Bangladesh has already secured their place in the final match of the tournament to be held on May 17.

Md. Zashim Uddin

Sr. Deputy Principal Information Officer (Protocol)
Ph-02-9549095