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FROM: PIO, PID, DHAKA
Fax: 9540553/9540026
E-mail: piddhaka@gmail.com
piddhaka@yahoo.com
Web: www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd

News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has urged all, irrespective of party affiliations and opinions, to give priority to national interest to speed up the country's development and progress. He made the urge while addressing at a function marking the golden jubilee celebration of Bajitpur College in Kishoreganj yesterday. The President in his speech also stressed the need for combating corruption from all spheres of society and implementing the spirit of the Liberation War to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the common people.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali in a diplomatic briefing in Dhaka yesterday said, to make the bilateral process productive to solve the Rohingya crisis, the international community must keep its discourse alive until a logical conclusion is found. He said, the government of Bangladesh is dismayed as atrocities in Rakhine state is not stopped and influx continued relentlessly exposing human sufferings. Ambassadors, high commissioners and mission chiefs of 28 countries were present in the briefing. On the occasion, speaking to media, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali said, Bangladesh will not take any 'suicidal' decision like getting involved in any war with Myanmar as it wants a peaceful solution to the Rohingya crisis through diplomatic efforts.

The Australian government has announced AUD 20 million to support the humanitarian needs of over 500,000 people who have taken shelter in Bangladesh. The Australian support will contribute to providing food, shelter, clean water and essential health services for the displaced people of Myanmar, said the Australian High Commission in Dhaka yesterday.

UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, has said it requires nearly \$112.5 million until February 2018 to address the needs of Rohingyas who are taking shelter in Bangladesh since August 25. The UNHCR said this yesterday in its supplementary appeal over emergency response in Bangladesh.

An agreement between Supreme Courts of Russia and Bangladesh has been signed to extend mutual cooperation on areas of e-judiciary and judicial management systems. Visiting Russian Chief Justice Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Lebedev and Bangladesh's Acting Chief Justice Md. Abdul Wahhab Miah signed the agreement on behalf of their respective countries during a meeting at the Judge's Lounge in Supreme Court in Dhaka yesterday.

Prime Minister's Economic Affairs Adviser Mashiur Rahman has stressed the need for signing agreements between Bangladesh and India on six common rivers including Teesta. He asserted this at his address at a discussion titled 'Asia Confluence of River Conference' hosted by the Indian High Commission in Dhaka yesterday. At another function in Dhaka, Ram Madhav, General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), expressed his party's desire to have a warm relation with the Bangladesh government. Mr. Ram Madhav at the views exchange meeting with central leaders of Bangladesh Awami League in Dhaka yesterday said, his party wants Bangladesh and India to work jointly for the economic development of the region.

Bangladesh and Nepal have agreed to examine existing tariffs and possibility of removal of non-tariff and para-tariff barriers to enhance bilateral trade. Foreign secretaries of the two countries discussed the matter at annual Foreign Office Consultations held in Dhaka on Sunday.

Facebook has started providing training to 10,000 youths on digital marketing within the next six months under its 'BoostYourBusiness' program. State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak inaugurated the training at the auditorium of Bangladesh Computer Council in Dhaka yesterday.

The 'World Mental Health Day' is being observed in the county today as elsewhere of the globe in a befitting manner with the overall objective of raising awareness of mental health issues. This year's theme of the day is 'Mental Health in the Workplace'. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages wishing success of the day.

DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, plunged by 1.23 per cent, or 76.60 points, to finish at 6,128.89 points yesterday.

Kamrun Nahar
Principal Information Officer
Ph-02- 9546091