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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 asked the Divisional and Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to serve the people as real public servants discarding typical bureaucratic attitude. The President made the urge while addressing the administrative chiefs of divisions and districts on the occasion of DCs' conference at Bangabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. Mentioning that the country's many cities and district towns experience water-logging even after a moderate rain due to the grabbing of canals, rivers and other water sources, the President asked the Deputy Commissioners to reclaim those to maintain the natural flow of water. He also instructed them to properly coordinate the ongoing relief distribution activities among the flood hit people.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the Election Commission (EC) is an independent body and it's working fully independently. The Prime Minister made the remarks when French Ambassador to BD Sophie Aubert called on the PM at her office yesterday. At the meeting, the French envoy apprised the Prime Minister of the Smart Card project of the EC and said the scheme is being implemented with the cooperation of the French firm Oberthur Technologies. Ambassador Sophie sought the support of the Premier to complete the project. Terming the Smart Card project a politically important one, she said the cooperation between the two countries in this regard is a bright example of bilateral relations. Assuring her of all-out support to the project, the Prime Minister hoped that the French company will provide quality products and complete the work in time. The French envoy also apprised the PM of the progress on the Bangabandhu Satellite which is scheduled to be launched in December next.

Rain pounded several parts of the country particularly in Dhaka city throwing life out of gear as the monsoon rain has continued since the past few days. Torrential rain led to a deluge-like situation in low-lying areas of the country, including Chittagong and Dhaka cities. An official of Bangladesh Meteorological Department told that 56 millimeters were recorded in Dhaka city from 6am to 12 noon on Wednesday.

The Ministry of Finance has asked the state-owned enterprises to speed up the ongoing move of offloading their shares in the capital market through resolving the existing complexities. The instruction came yesterday at a meeting chaired by finance minister AMA Muhith.

Bangladesh and the European Union (EU) will discuss today in Dhaka the progress of policy actions needed to further improve the situation for EU trade and investment, and identify new areas of cooperation. Both sides will discuss the issues of mutual interest in a broad way considering longstanding partnership between Bangladesh and the EU at the third Bangladesh-European Union (EU) Business Climate Dialogue to be held in the Commerce Ministry.

No Bangladesh national should come to Saudi Arabia without guaranteed job and proper documentation as the authorities of the kingdom is getting increasingly stringent about illegal workers, the Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh has warned. Bangladeshis should consider coming to Saudi Arabia only for those jobs that are skill-oriented, an embassy official said placing great emphasis on avoiding to come to KSA with so called 'free visas'.

Saima Wazed Hossain, daughter of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has been awarded the International Champion Award from Shema Kolainu, a New York-based school and centre for children with autism, for her relentless and innovative works for the wellbeing of persons with autism. Saima, a member of WHO's Expert Advisory Panel on Mental Health and the chairperson of National Advisory Committee on Autism of Bangladesh, has been an inspirational figure at the international level for her autism work.

Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed has urged the youths to pin their reliance on Awami League and its political partners to transform Bangladesh into developed one. He made the call during an interactive discussion titled "Let's Talk". Center for Research and Information organized the event in Dhaka yesterday. Students from private and public universities took part in the event.

The government has decided to appoint Abida Islam as the next ambassador of Bangladesh to South Korea. She is currently serving as Director General (Americas) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Revenue collection has increased 19 percent, a five-year-high, to Tk 185,003 crore in the last fiscal year compared to the previous year. National Board of Revenue informing this said, income tax collection also rose 17 percent year-on-year to Tk 63,781 crore in 2016-17.

DSEX, the prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, went up by 22.53 points or 0.38 percent to settle at 5,824.

Kamrun Nahar
Principal Information Officer
Ph-02- 9546091