



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH  
DHAKA



Most Urgent  
For: Bangladoot, All Missions  
MSG: 169/2019-20  
Date: Monday, 17 February, 2020

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

**News Brief**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has stressed the need for allocating more money to technical and vocational training from the 'Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust' to develop a skilled and efficient generation as they can be entrepreneurs instead of running after jobs. The Premier made the emphasis while speaking at the advisory council meeting of the trust at her office yesterday. The Prime Minister also gave her consent to a proposal of allocating Taka 5 crore more as the seed money to give financial assistance to MPhil and Phd students. The trust has decided to distribute over Taka 111.40 crore among 209,600 poor students of private educational institutions this year.

Qatar showed its interest to recruit skilled manpower from Bangladesh as visiting Qatari State Minister for Foreign Affairs Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Jatiya Sangsad office yesterday. The Qatari State Minister said, his country will continue support to Bangladesh on the Rohingya issue. Sheikh Hasina invited the Qatari Emir to visit Bangladesh in the "Mujib Borsho". Meanwhile, Nepalese Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr. Banshidhar Mishra also called on the Prime Minister and handed over an invitation letter to the Prime Minister to attend "Sagarmatha (mountain) Dialogue" to be held in Kathmandu on April 2 to 4 next. Putting emphasis on strengthening connectivity with the neighbors, the Premier said, the connectivity is very important for further development of the countries of the region.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid tributes to Awami League Advisory Council Member and former State Minister for LGRD Advocate Rahmat Ali by placing a wreath on his coffin at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday. She later talked to the family members of the deceased and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul. Earlier, on behalf of President Md. Abdul Hamid, a wreath was also placed on the coffin of Rahmat Ali, who died at a city hospital yesterday morning at the age of 76.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while speaking at a press conference at his ministry yesterday said, if an application is filed for BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia's release on parole, the government will consider it. About the recent cabinet reshuffle he said, it was aimed at boosting performance.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud briefing the journalists in the port city yesterday said, the matter of releasing Khaleda Zia from jail on parole does not depend on her prayer rather the decision will be taken after assessing whether the release on parole is needed or not at all. The matter of release on parole will be considered soon after getting proper prayer, he said adding that no such prayer has so far been made by BNP.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq while talking to the newsmen at Hotel Sonargaon in Dhaka yesterday said, there is a particular law for release from jail on parole and the government can only consider for BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia if they submit an application for her parole accordingly.

Indonesian Ambassador to Bangladesh Rina Prihtyasmiasi Soemarno called on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. The Foreign Minister suggested the trade imbalance could be reduced if Indonesia invests in Bangladesh as business friendly environment is prevailing in the country. The Indonesian Ambassador appreciated the Bangladeshi technicians and professionals who work in the IT sector in Indonesia. The Ambassador assured to remain engaged on Rohingya issue and continue Indonesia's support for a durable solution to the crisis. Meanwhile, the newly appointed Ambassador of Algeria to Bangladesh Rabah Larbi also called on Foreign Minister yesterday.

Please Turn Over

The Foreign Minister recalled with gratitude that Algeria was among the first Arab countries to accord political recognition to Bangladesh by sponsoring Bangladesh's admission into NAM during the Fourth NAM Summit held in Algiers in 1973. The new Ambassador emphasized on further consolidating bilateral relations especially through holding political consultations and boosting economic & trade linkages.

China is giving 500 sets of advanced kits to Bangladesh to identify coronavirus as a gesture of goodwill. Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming said this at a meeting with Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen at his ministry yesterday.

IEDCR sources said, the Bangladeshi returnees totaling 312 from China's Wuhan now will have to maintain self-quarantine to exercise extra caution for the next 10 days after returning to their respective homes. Meanwhile, a 30-year old Chinese female was admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital yesterday. She entered Bangladesh on February 4 and later joined her workplace, a factory at Uttara Export Processing Zone in Nilphamari.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mahbub Ali informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that the Biman Bangladesh Airlines has made a profit of Taka 423 crore in six months in the current fiscal year. In 2018-2019, the national flag carrier earned a net profit of Taka 217.80 crore, said the State Minister.

The polls to the Chattogram City Corporation and the by-election of Bogura-1 and Jashore-6 parliamentary constituencies will be held on March 29. Election Commission's Senior Secretary Md Alamgir announced the polls schedule at a press conference yesterday.

Three UN agencies along with the government of Bangladesh yesterday launched the Safe Access to Fuel and Energy Plus Livelihoods (SAFE Plus) three-year project involving Tk 98.34 crore through an agreement signing held in Dhaka yesterday to mitigate deforestation caused by the stranded Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar and improve livelihood opportunities there. Manufacture of the first body parts of hydro accumulators for passive core flooding system intended for Unit 2 of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) has been completed. According to a release issued by RNPP yesterday said, the passive core flooding system is a crucial element of the RNPP's safety system designed to release decay heat in the event of a serious coolant accident in the reactor's primary circuit.

Bangladesh will become the 30th largest economy in the world by 2024, leaping past Malaysia, Hong Kong and Singapore, British think-tank Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) predicts. The CEBR in its report published recently also forecast that Bangladesh will emerge as the world's 26th largest economy in the next decade.

A High Court bench yesterday issued a rule asking the authorities concerned why inaction over mandatory use of the Bangla calendar's date alongside that of the English calendar on all national days would not be declared as illegal. Another High Court bench yesterday ordered the government to form a separate taskforce in all districts to monitor and keep unregistered and unfit vehicles off the streets.

School banking is gradually getting huge responses from the students across the country as deposits with the banking accounts crossed Taka 1,600 crore at the end of December 2019. Bangladesh Bank launched the programme in November 2010 for school students to help build the habit of saving.

  
17.02.2020  
**Surath Kumar Sarker**  
Principal Information Officer  
Phone- 9546091