

**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA**

MOST URGENT
FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONS
MSG: 108/2017
Date: Monday, 04 December 2017

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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid yesterday urged judges to perform their respective duties neutrally without being influenced with any fondness or enmity. "People's fundamental right is to get justice...so being a judge, it's your duty and responsibility to ensure justice for the litigants", he told judges while addressing a pre-dinner function hosted by him at Bangabhaban.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday paid rich tributes to Cambodian martyrs by placing a wreath at the Independence Monument. After placing the wreath, the Prime Minister stood in solemn silence for some time as a mark of profound respect to the martyrs. A smartly turned out contingent drawn from three services of the Cambodian armed forces gave a static guard of honor to the Bangladesh Premier, while bugle played the last post. Later, the Prime Minister paid homage to Cambodian late King Norodom Sihanouk by laying a wreath at his memorial.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said, her government's stance and continued efforts to build the Padma Bridge with its own fund have changed the attitude of the world towards Bangladesh as all now treat it with respect. The Prime Minister said, we want to move ahead in the global arena with due respect as a victorious nation in the Great War of Liberation. She said this while addressing a dinner programme hosted at Hotel Sofitel, Cambodia in honour of her by Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand Saida Muna Tasneem, concurrently accredited to Cambodia.

Holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi, the day of birth and demise of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh), was observed in the country on Saturday with due religious solemnity. Meanwhile, President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia issued separate messages greeting the country's people and the Muslim Ummah.

The head of the Roman Catholic Church Pope Francis said, Bangladesh is a role model of interreligious harmony and peaceful coexistence of people with different religious beliefs. Before leaving Bangladesh, the spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic Church praised Bangladesh while addressing the priests at Mother Teresa Home for orphans in Dhaka's Tejgaon on Saturday.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday urged the countrymen to extend supports to the people with disabilities to ensure their participation in the development process while speaking at a discussion marking the 26th International Day of Persons with Disabilities and 19th National Day of Persons with Disabilities at Bangabandhu International Convention Center. The theme of the day is 'Transformation Towards Sustainable and Resilient Society for All'.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury sought more research opportunities of Bangladeshi scientists in International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) as she is on a visit to its Headquarters in the Philippines. The Minister said, the incumbent government in Bangladesh adopted an agriculture friendly policy and extended all sorts of cooperation in IRRI's research and development activities in the country which would continue in future as well. The Minister is now in Manila leading a Bangladeshi delegation on a visit to the IRRI Headquarters since November 28.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said, the repatriation of Rohingyas will begin immediately after the formation of the joint working group. The Minister said this while distributing relief materials among Rohingyas at Balukhali Rohingya camp in Ukhia, Cox's Bazar.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Harsh Vardhan Shringla yesterday said, Indian government has completed a total of 24 projects in Bangladesh, worth Tk 110 crore, over the last five years adding Bangladesh and India ties are currently at new level. The High Commissioner was addressing the inauguration of 11 water treatment plants installed for the people of Bhandariya Poursabha. Environment and Forests Minister Anwar Hossain Manju attended the function as the chief guest.

Dhaka North Mayor Annisul Huq has been laid to rest at the capital's Banani Graveyard. People from all walks of life attended his funeral prayers and bade him the final farewell on Saturday.

The country's remittance inflow has witnessed a 4.47 percent rise in the month of November compared with last month of October 2017. The increase is 27.68 percent higher than that of November last year. According to Bangladesh Bank, country received \$1.214 billion of remittance in November while fetched \$5.768 billion in last 5 months. This is 10.76 percent higher compared with that of corresponding period in last fiscal (2016-17).

DSEX, the prime index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) settled yesterday at 6,296 points.

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