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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon Deputy Commissioners to take a firm stance against corruption and create public awareness about the issue. Prime Minister's remarks came in her inaugural speech to the three-day Deputy Commissioners' Conference at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday. She also laid out a 23-point guideline for the Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners to ensure people's welfare. She directed them to be more active in implementing development programmes.

Prime Minister's ICT Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy has said Bangladesh is better prepared than its far wealthier neighbors to withstand the ravages of man and nature as it has one of the world's most comprehensive programmes to deal with climate change and natural disasters. "Indeed, Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable nations in the world to the combined effects of climate change and natural disasters. But it also now has one of the world's most comprehensive programs to deal with them," he wrote in an article published in The Diplomat on July 24. The Diplomat is a Tokyo based online international news magazine covering politics, society, and culture in the Asia-Pacific region.

Bangladesh has condemned the closure of Al-Aqsa Mosque, ban on Friday Prayers at the mosque and imposition of other restrictions around Al Haram Al Sharif by the Israeli authorities. In a message to his Palestinian Counterpart, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali yesterday conveyed Bangladesh's position and called upon the international community to revive the Middle East Peace Process at the earliest and work towards a two-state solution.

The Indian government has removed entry and exit restrictions on visas issued to Bangladesh nationals. Through removal of this restriction, now any Bangladesh national having Indian visa with name of entry or exit point (i.e. by air/ by road) will be able to enter to or exit from India through any of the 24 international airports and two integrated check posts in India in addition to entry or exit point mentioned in the visa.

Bangladesh accounted for a 50 percent share in the GCC labour market from three South Asian Countries in the first half of 2017. Indians comprised just 22 percent while Pakistanis get 28 percent, according to emigration statistics compiled by The Indian Express.

Some 80 Bangladeshi expatriates have been enlisted in the existing Bureau of Manpower database under the ongoing registration programme. The enlisted expatriates are from Greece and Italy. The enlistment programme was launched on June 9 aiming to register Bangladeshis, who went abroad without taking official clearance of the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET). Nearly 2.0 million workers, who went abroad without having official clearance, are expected to come under the existing BMET database through this registration programme.

Dhaka yesterday finalised the terms and conditions for the return of irregular migrants from the European Union and agreed to bring back all its irregular nationals through a nationality verification process within a logical time. In an inter-ministerial meeting held at the Foreign Ministry with Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque in the Chair finalised the Standard Operating Procedures in this regard. High officials from the Ministries of Law, Home, Commerce and Foreign Affairs and all law enforcing agencies and departments attended the meeting.

Dhaka has asked the Malaysian government to immediately stop harassing Bangladeshis travelling with genuine visas and other valid travel documents. The Foreign Ministry last week called Idham Zuhri Mohamed Yunus, the Chargés d'affaires of Malaysian High Commission in Dhaka, and sought explanation from him about the recent harassment against Bangladeshis at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

An Indian Naval ship, 'INS RANVIR', is now in Chittagong port on a goodwill visit to strengthen bilateral maritime cooperation between Bangladesh and Indian Navies. During the visit, Indian Naval personnel will interact with their counterparts from the Bangladesh Navy apart from meetings with various dignitaries at the Chittagong Naval base.

DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange settled yesterday at 5,802 points.

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