

**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA**

MOST URGENT
FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONS
MSG: 102/2017
Date: Wednesday, 22 November 2017

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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has asked the members of armed forces to uphold their image at national and international levels ensuring utmost professionalism adding, the armed forces are playing an important role in the international arena which has brightened the image of the country in the world. The President made the call while the chiefs of the three services met him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the members of the armed forces to work with the people for crafting a happy and prosperous Bangladesh with the spirit of the Liberation War. She said this while addressing a reception at Senakunja in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday marking the Bangladesh Armed Forces Day. At the reception, Sheikh Hasina presented honorarium cheques and gifts to the successors of seven Birshreshthos and other gallantry award-recipients. The PM handed over "Shantikalin Padak" (peacetime medals) to 12 armed forces members and "Osamanya Seba Padak" (outstanding service medals) among 14 armed forces officers in recognition to their heroic role in war and peacetime. The PM has announced, the government would provide allowance to the members of different forces who took part in the Liberation War from January next.

The Sheikh Hasina University Bill, 2017 was placed yesterday in the Jatiya Sangsad with an aim to set up a university for creating an opportunity of enhancing modern knowledge practice and impression on various affairs. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid placed the bill in the House with the Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair. Under the proposed bill, the Education Ministry will take an initiative to establish a university at Netrokona district in light with the announcement made by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The governments of Bangladesh and Turkey have vowed to work together and share experiences for risk management of disasters including flood, cyclone and earthquake. Bangladesh Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and head of Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) Mehmet Gulluoglu came up with the commitment at a views-exchange meeting at the Turkish capital of Ankara. During the meeting, they discussed types of natural disasters, rescue operation and rehabilitation process of both the countries.

The government of Thailand will impart training to primary students in growing vegetables and flowers for promoting sound health and nutrition of the children in Bangladesh. Ambassador of Thailand in Dhaka Panpimon Suwannapongse expressed his country's interest when he called on Minister for Primary and Mass Education Mostafizur Rahman at his office yesterday.

The government has completed its preparation to send the final draft copy of the proposed amendment to the existing labour law to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) within a day or two regarding allowing the trade unionism in the garments sector. The expert committee of the ILO is scheduled to start its three week-long meeting in Geneva from yesterday to review the labour practices by different countries including Bangladesh. The decision came at a meeting held at the secretariat yesterday. Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Law Minister Anisul Huq and State Minister for Labour Mujibul Haque Chunnu attended it.

Amid mounting international pressure, Myanmar's State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi planned to sign an MoU with Bangladesh this week to enable them to start the repatriation process of all Rohingyas from Bangladesh. She expressed this to a crowded press conference at Myanmar International Convention Centre yesterday. Meanwhile, Bangladesh is in talks with Myanmar bilaterally apart from international engagement on the safe and voluntary return of Rohingyas. Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali who led the Bangladesh delegation in the ASEM Foreign Ministers' meeting will overstay there to further discuss the repatriation process with Suu Kyi today and tomorrow.

Pope Francis, the 266th and current Pope of the Catholic Church will reach Bangladesh on November 30 on a 3-day visit. The committee formed on the occasion of the arrival of the Pope, revealed the information to the media at Archbishop House in Dhaka yesterday.

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA) has taken plan to create environment friendly water system, sewerage management and drainage system for the city dwellers by 2021, adding all steps to supply drinking water and manage the sewerage system have been taken to remove the problems faced by the mass people. The Managing Director of the DWASA said this to the media at DWASA Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday.

Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu leaves Dhaka today for Austria to join the "7th Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)". United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) is organising the two-day conference scheduled to begin from November 23. The Minister is scheduled to return on November 26.

The key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSEX, lost 0.58 per cent, or 37.25 points, to close at 6,281.87 points yesterday after gaining 83 points in the previous three sessions.

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