

**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH  
DHAKA**

**MOST URGENT**  
FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONS  
MSG: 35/2017  
Date: Tuesday, 14 February 2017

**FROM: PIO, PID, DHAKA**  
Fax: 9540553/9540026  
E-mail: pidhaka@gmail.com  
pidhaka@yahoo.com  
Web: www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd

**NEWS BRIEF**

The Cabinet yesterday gave its final approval to the draft of the 'Civil Aviation Act, 2017' keeping the provision of death penalty or life-term imprisonment and maximum penalty of Tk. 5 crore on the charge of any willful obstruction in the flight operation that may cause life risks for any one. The approval was given in the regular Cabinet meeting held at Secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The Cabinet also approved drafts of three more Acts and 'Textiles Policy, 2017'.

The Cabinet yesterday formally greeted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for challenging the World Bank asking it to prove the graft allegations over the Padma Bridge project. The Cabinet observed that the country's image has brightened further in international arena following the dismissal of allegations and recent acquittal of three people by a Canadian court in a case related to the alleged corruption in the Padma Bridge project. The Cabinet made the observation at weekly meeting held at the Bangladesh Secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday hoped that the members of the coast guard would work with patriotism, sincerity, honesty, courage and cordiality to ensure foolproof security of the country's maritime and coastal regions. In a message on the eve of the 22nd anniversary of Bangladesh Coast Guard and "Coast Guard Day 2017", President Md. Abdul Hamid said, the coast guard members are playing vital roles in protecting the maritime resources. In her speech, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the government has already taken various measures to build the coast guard as a capable force.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said necessary reforms have been carried out in the country's labour sector to ensure workers' welfare and improve their working conditions alongside boosting production. She said this while a delegation of Labour Friends of Bangladesh from the UK met her at her official residence Ganabhaban in the evening. The Prime Minister said the labour law has been amended while the working conditions in mills and factories improved significantly. She said the government has constructed dormitories for workers, particularly garment workers, and it has been providing healthcare facilities to them.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader told Parliament that 40 percent work on Padma Bridge completed as of January 2017. He also told parliament that depending on the availability of funds the construction work of the second Padma Bridge on Patuaria-Goalanda point would begin in the current fiscal year.

Bangladesh Bank (BB) is going to provide loan to Ready Made Garment sector with an aim to ensuring structural, fire and electrical safety in RMG factories. In presence of Bangladesh Bank Governor Fazle Kabir, the central bank yesterday inked separate agreements with 25 banks and 10 financial institutions to facilitate long-term financing for renovation works, reconstruction, replacement and fire safety in the RMG industries.

India wants to work with Bangladesh on important issues like Teesta water sharing agreement and Ganges barrage project as both sides are now working to finalize dates for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's New Delhi visit. Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Harsh Vardhan Shringla met Foreign Secretary M Shahidul Haque at the Foreign Ministry yesterday afternoon and discussed various issues of mutual interest, including those crucial ones.

Information minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday said, Radio initiates the demand for development, creates awareness among people for democratic needs and satisfies the cultural needs and develops it further. The Minister was speaking at the Jatiya Betar Bhaban at Agargaon on the occasion of "World Radio Day".

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) yesterday introduced a new mobile phone service - 'Voicemail Service' - in the country allowing cell-phone users to send voice mail to each other. Prime Minister's ICT Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy officially inaugurated the service at 11am by sending a voice mail to the Chairman of the BTRC from Ganabhaban. In a voicemail sent to the BTRC Chairman, State Minister for Posts and Telecommunications Tarana Halim said the country's people will be benefited through the service.

Bangladesh has shown keen interest to invest in Nepal's hydropower sector. Bangladesh Ambassador to Nepal Mashfee Binte Shams speaking at an interaction organized by Energy Development Council in Kathmandu said her country was ready to invest US\$ 1 billion in Nepal to pursue every possible collaboration in the power sector.

Bangladesh and Cambodia are moving ahead to form a joint trade commission by signing an agreement soon, officials at the Ministry of Commerce in Dhaka said yesterday. A draft proposal in this regard has already been forwarded to the relevant authorities in Phnom Penh. The Cambodian Commerce Ministry already agreed in principal on a commission framework and was just awaiting official approval from its Bangladeshi counterparts.

DSEX, the prime index of the DSE, settled yesterday at 5558.57 points.

**Kamrun Nahar**  
Principal Information Officer  
Ph: 02-9546091