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NEWS BRIEF

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, Awami League does politics to protect the interest of people and build their fate. Sheikh Hasina also stressed maintaining honesty and boldness as well as working with self-confidence to tackle evil forces. Referring to the Padma Bridge issue, the Prime Minister the mega project is being constructed with own resources facing all the challenges. The prime minister was addressing the leaders of Awami League on Saturday at her Dhanmondi office in the capital.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Switzerland to attend World Economic Forum (WEF) will immensely help Bangladesh encourage multinational companies and foreign investors to invest in the country. Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali yesterday at a press briefing on the PM's visit to WEF, said the invitation extended to the Bangladesh Prime Minister reflects Bangladesh's strong role in global issues and strong position in the world map as well.

Myanmar wants to start consultations for verification and repatriation of only those "who are proved to have fled from Myanmar" since October 9 last though Bangladesh demands taking back all the documented and undocumented Myanmar nationals including new arrivals. Around 65,000 people fled Myanmar and entered Bangladesh since October 9 last and the influx is still on, according to officials at the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry.

President Abdul Hamid is likely to form a five-member search committee soon over the reconstitution of the Election Commission an official at Bangabhaban said.

Bangladesh would attain 8.0 percent GDP growth in two years said Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith on Saturday. The minister was addressing the opening ceremony of the three-day "Kuakata Mega Beach Carnival 2017" here this afternoon. Bangladesh Tourism Board (BTB) organized such an event at the South-eastern region's sandy beach to promote it among tourists at home and abroad.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the country would be able to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) much ahead of the deadline set by the United Nations (UN). He told the inaugural session of a conference on 'SDGs and Environment' in the city's Krishibid Institution.

The country received \$219.80 million in remittance in the first six days of January, Bangladesh Bank statistics show this.

Bangladesh Bank has already got 66 project proposals involving US\$ 403.63 million through different private banks to facilitate long term financing under the World Bank funded Financial Sector Support Project, a senior BB official told in Dhaka on yesterday.

The Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments has started implementing the new integrated checklist approved recently by the government in inspecting factories in all industrial sectors in the country. To ensure workplace safety and worker rights in 42 industrial sectors in Bangladesh, the government in support with the International Labour Organisation prepared the integrated inspection checklist, the labour ministry officials said.

The government has moved afresh to initiate a deal with Qatar's Ras Gas to import LNG six years after inking a MoU, said sources. A high-level government team is expected to visit Qatar within this month to discuss elaborately on issues regarding the quantity of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to be imported from Qatar.

Bangladesh has sought cooperation from the signatories to the International Energy Charter to help promote foreign investment in the country's power and energy sector. The State Minister for power and energy Nasrul Hamid urged for the cooperation when a delegation of the Netherlands-based global body led by its secretary General Urban Rusnak, met him in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

India has identified Mongla as one of the potential locations for establishing a special economic zone for Indian companies said Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Harsh Vardhan Shringla while addressing a function at the Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Recognizing Khulna's importance in Bangladesh-India relationship, India has decided to open an Assistant High Commission in the city.

DSEX, the prime index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) settled yesterday at 5,342.88 points.

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