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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has urged mass media to play a more active role through objective journalism to continue democracy and development of the country. The President made the call as he was addressing Bangladesh Press Council's Award Giving Ceremony at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka yesterday. The President, in his address, said freedom of the press, access to information and people's empowerment are interrelated. The responsible role of media can increase awareness through disseminating correct information to the people, he added. Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu and State Minister for Information Tarana Halim also spoke at the function.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has stressed on the multipurpose use of tea apart from being just a popular drink for flourishing of the sector. The PM laid the emphasis as she was inaugurating a three-day Bangladesh Tea Expo jointly organized by Commerce Ministry and Bangladesh Tea Board at International Convention Centre Bashundhara in Dhaka yesterday. The PM said, tea can be modified to the products like soap, shampoo, lotion etc which are getting huge popularity in the whole world. Sheikh Hasina, in her address, called upon the tea garden owners to give focus on the wellbeing of the tea labourers. She said, the aim of the government is to improve the living standard of the underprivileged community. Simultaneously, she requested the tea labourers to work with utmost sincerity and take care of the gardens through which they earn their livelihood.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address a press conference at 4.30pm today at Ganabhaban on the outcome of her just-concluded visit to Italy and Vatican City.

The UK government has withdrawn the ban on direct cargo flight from Dhaka to London unconditionally which was imposed two years back on security grounds. The announcement was made by the British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Alison Blake at a press conference at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday. The British Envoy said, her government has withdrawn the ban as Bangladesh made satisfactory improvement on security grounds of the airport. Civil Aviation Minister AKM Shahjahan Kamal while speaking at the conference hoped, Australia and Germany would also lift the existing direct air cargo ban from Bangladesh following the British decision.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan has said, the government has a plan to set motor cycle unit in every fire service station in the country. While responding to a question at Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, the Minister also said, so far, the government has provided 174 two-wheeler fire extinguishers at 87 fire service stations. It is under process to sign a MoU with China for supplying more 1000 two-wheeler fire extinguishers, the Minister added.

US President Donald Trump has assured of continued political and humanitarian support of his government to Bangladesh in addressing the Rohingyas crisis. Trump's assurance was conveyed to Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque when he met Lisa Curtis, Deputy Assistant to the US President, in Washington DC on Friday. Lisa Curtis while exchanging views with Shahidul Haque said, President Trump deeply appreciated Bangladesh for hosting more than a million forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar.

Albania has reiterated its support to Bangladesh in solving the ongoing Rohingya crisis. Deputy Foreign Minister of Albania Etjen Xhafaj expressed the views when State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam held a bilateral meeting with him in Tirana of Albania on Saturday.

The mass exodus of Rohingya people following human rights violations makes it necessary for the European Union to reassess its relationship with Myanmar, said European parliament members after visiting Myanmar.

DSEX, the prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange settled yesterday at 5,888 points.

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