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**News brief**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has invited more Indian investment, especially in infrastructure projects, power and energy, manufacturing and transport sectors. She made the call while holding a meeting with Indian business leaders before wrapping up her four-day state visit to India on yesterday afternoon. A number of business leaders of Bangladesh were also present during the meeting. She said that Indo-Bangla investment agreement is already in place to protect Indian investment. We are providing attractive packages, including 100 percent repatriation of profit and invested capital.

President Md. Abdul Hamid stressed the need for addressing the wrong propagation of Islam that helped spread terrorism and militancy worldwide. "People of Bangladesh consider Islam as a religion of peace and harmony ... And there is no room for terrorism and militancy in Islam," the President came up with the remark as Vice-President of Masjid al Haram Dr Mohammed Bin Nasser Bin Mohammed Alkhuzaim and Imam of Masjid an-Nabawi Abdulmehsin Mohammad Al Quasim called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Bangladesh and India's private sectors yesterday exchanged 13 agreements and Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) worth nearly US\$ 10 billion in the power, energy, logistics, education and medical sectors during a business event. The Indian External Affairs Ministry in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Associated Chambers of Commerce of India (ASSOCHAM) organised the India-Bangladesh Business Forum. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was the chief guest at the Forum which was also attended by Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas of India, Dharmendra Pradhan.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned home yesterday from India. A Biman Bangladesh Airlines VVIP flight carrying the premier back home along with her entourage landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka around 6:50pm. The premier will address a press conference today about the outcome of her India visit.

Nationally recognised top taxpayers in all areas will now be awarded the Commercially Important Person (CIP) status, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday. "It is interesting that those who paid the highest tax were not eligible to get the CIP status due to various reasons. Everyone who gets the national recognition should be a CIP automatically. I have taken a decision to implement it," he told reporters after a pre-budget meeting. Muhith said necessary proposals will be placed before the cabinet to automatically consider the highest taxpayers of all areas for the CIP status.

Bangladesh is not considering West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's proposal of sharing waters of four smaller rivers instead of Teesta, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu said. "We are not giving importance to this proposal. The focus is on the Teesta," he told a press conference on 'Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India' at the secretariat yesterday.

DSEX, The prime index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) settled yesterday at 5,689.67 points.

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