**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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**News Brief**

 President Md. Abdul Hamid has urged New Zealand, Malta and Peru to recruit skilled manpower from Bangladesh. The President came up with the call when newly appointed envoys of the three countries presented their credentials to him at Bangabhaban yesterday. Non-resident High Commissioners of New Zealand and Malta Joanna Kempkers and Stephen Borg respectively, and non-resident Ambassador of Peru Jorge Juan Castaneda Mendez presented their credentials to the President in three subsequent ceremonies. Receiving their credentials, President appreciated Bangladesh's ties with the three countries and called upon them to play their due role in enhancing the trade and economic relations with Bangladesh for mutual benefits.

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked the authorities concerned to take necessary steps for the conservation and renovation of the archaeological sites in Dhaka city. She gave the directives in a meeting with the senior officials of the Cultural Affairs Ministry, Archaeology Department and Rajuk at her office in Dhaka yesterday.

 Japan has decided to invest in a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Bangladesh, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed said yesterday. "A Japanese business delegation will be here soon," he said after a meeting with Japanese Ambassador Masato Watanabe at his Secretariat office. Japan is now providing duty and quota free access to all Bangladeshi products except arms and hand gloves. Last year Bangladesh exported products of US$ 1.08 billion against the import volume of US$ 1.2 billion.

 Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammad Nasim has said the country is now exporting medicines to 140 countries around the world. "Many drugs had to be imported after the country's independence and now only two to three percent medicines are being imported," he told a discussion on "The National Drug Policy 2016" in Dhaka yesterday.

 The construction work of the country's first ever metro rail initiated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina kicked off yesterday to help reduce public sufferings. Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader inaugurated the construction work of the first part of the elevated viaducts and nine stations of the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line-6 at Agargaon in Dhaka. The Minister said construction of 12 kilometers of the overhead metro rail and nine stations from Uttara to Agargaon has started at a cost of Taka 4,230 crore.

 Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu has urged the people to take a fresh vow to advance the country further to repay the debt of blood of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. ‘The politics of conspiracies will have to be rooted out... this is our commitment to the month of mourning,’ he told a rally in front of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in Dhaka yesterday.

 Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Dr Yousef A Al Othaimeen arrived in Dhaka on Wednesday. This is his first visit to Bangladesh since assuming charge as the OIC Secretary General.

 Indonesian Ambassador to Bangladesh Rina Suemarno said that her country is interested to export coal and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) along with construction of the Floating Storage Re-gasification Unit (FRSU). "The Indonesian public and private sectors are interested to work in the Bangladesh's power and energy sector," she said while paying a call on State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid at the latter's Secretariat office in Dhaka yesterday. During the meeting the State Minister and the Ambassador discussed various issues related to mutual interests with particular emphasis upon Bangladesh's power and energy sector.

 The government has agreed to appoint 15,000 more manpower for the paramilitary force Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) aimed at strengthening its capacity to stop smuggling goods, firearms and drugs. Director General Major General Abul Hossain told this at a press briefing held at Peelkhana headquarters in Dhaka yesterday.

 The prime index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSEX) finished yesterday at 5,891.16 points.

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