



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA



Most Urgent
For: Bangladdoot, All Missions
MSG: 52/2019-20
Date: Monday, 9 September 2019

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News Brief

The fourth session of the 11th parliament that began yesterday unanimously adopted obituary references on a number of distinguished personalities including former opposition leader H M Ershad. Speaking on the obituary references, Leader of the House Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told the Jatiya Sangsad that the trust and confidence of the people on the parliament have returned in the last 10 years. The PM highly praised Jatiya Party for playing a due role in parliament after emerging as opposition. Terming H M Ershad as a good human being, the PM said, many unfinished work, including National Mausoleum and Shaheed Minar, has been carried out by him. Meanwhile, the Business Advisory Committee meeting with Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair decided to continue the current session till September 12. Social Welfare Minister Nuruzzaman Ahmed while replying to a query at the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday said, the government has already allocated around Taka 465 crore for giving loan without interest under the Rural Social Service (RSS) programme to the insolvent and disabled people in villages. The RSS programme is now being carried out at 487 upazilas across the country with a target to bring as many as 27,17,963 people under the coverage of it, he added.

President Md. Abdul Hamid left London yesterday for home wrapping up his 10-day visit to London for health checkup and eye treatment. A VVIP flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited carrying the President is expected to land at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 10.15 am this morning.

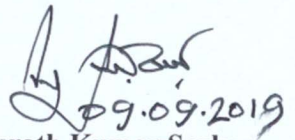
Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud while addressing a prize giving ceremony of a football tournament participated by private TV channels in the capital yesterday said, a strong opposition party is needed for strong democracy and Awami League always wants strong opposition. The government is going to amend the Companies Act, 1994, by including a provision of forming a company by a single person. A consultative meeting was held yesterday in this regard at Law Ministry with Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq in the chair. Land Minister Saifuzzaman while addressing a seminar titled 'Bangladesh: A golden Journey to Development' arranged by the UK-based research think-tank 'Study Circle' in Northern Ireland's capital Belfast recently said, Bangladesh is working sincerely to achieve the SDGs. Bangladesh has been working for decades to eradicate poverty and develop its economy, he added.

The Fisheries and Livestock Ministry yesterday decided to form a probe body to investigate the motives behind the illegal entrance of two fishing vessels bearing Cameron flag into the Bangladesh's maritime boundary. State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury at a function at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday launched inland waterway cargo vessel hiring app 'Jahaji' which is expected to reduce the sufferings of the country's waterway passengers.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury called upon the Canadian Investors to invest in Bangladesh's special economic zones as the Canadian Senator Marilou McPhedran paid her a courtesy call-on at her office yesterday. US Ambassador in Dhaka Earl R Miller while paying a courtesy call on Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader at his ministry yesterday extended his country's support towards the steps taken by the Bangladesh government over the repatriation of Rohingyas to their homeland Myanmar. Meanwhile, opening the new permanent office of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) at Progati Sharani at Baridhara on Saturday, the US Envoy praised the socio-economic progress that Bangladesh achieved over the recent past adding that Washington is and will remain an 'indispensable partner' of the country in all development efforts. Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun during his meeting with Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) President Yasushi Akahoshi at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday urged the Japanese investors to invest jointly in the country's automobile, power and energy, motorcycle, manufacturing and small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) sectors. The Minister at a conference on Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) organized by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) at a hotel in the capital yesterday said, there is a good relationship between Bangladesh and China adding that economic ties of Bangladesh with China will be enhanced through BRI. The other speakers at the conference also emphasized on negotiation with China to garner more opportunities in the BRI as Bangladesh is strategically located in a sub-region that includes two economic powerhouse of the 21st century- China and India and Bangladesh is also a gateway to the Maritime Silk Route that passes through the Bay of Bengal. It has a unique opportunity to emerge in the region as an important economic hub, the speakers said.

Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni at a meeting in the capital yesterday said, the government is going to reform the existing grading system in public examinations to make it consistent with that of the local and foreign universities. The results from JSC to university level exams will be published with 4 being the highest GPA instead of the existing 5. State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Md. Zakir Hossen while addressing a discussion marking the International Literacy Day at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka yesterday said, literacy rate increased by 21 per cent in the last decade due to the government's relentless efforts. Besides, the government has helped 50 lac illiterate people above 15 years achieve fundamental literacy.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handed over financial assistance of Taka 10 lac to eminent singer Andrew Kishore for his treatment at Ganabhaban last evening.


09.09.2019
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