**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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**News brief**

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed satisfaction over Bangladesh’s excellent relations with Norway and laid importance on working together for a successful implementation of SDGs.The prime minister said this when newly appointed Norwegian Ambassador to Bangladesh Sidsel Bleken made a courtesy call on her at her office in Dhaka yesterday. The prime minister and the ambassador discussed the ways of boosting relations between the two countries, including cooperation in the areas of climate change, trade and energy sector.

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday gave donation of Tk 50 lakh to the family members of four policemen who were killed in terror attacks at Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan and Sholakia Eid Jamaat in Kishoregonj in July last. The prime minister handed over nine cheques of Tk 50 lakh at Prime Minister's Office in Dhaka.

 The manpower export scored a 35 percent rise over the last year’s level with sending 7.5 lakh workers this year. Dr Tasneem Siddiqui, founder-chairperson of the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) of Dhaka University disclosed it saying, 7,49,249 Bangladeshi nationals went abroad with jobs between January 1 and December 7, 2016.

 The World Bank has agreed to lend US$300 million for Bangladesh's rural development. An Economic Relations Division (ERD) delegation sat yesterday with a WB team in Dhaka where the announcement was made.

 The government approved yesterday a roadmap for the development of the country's tea sector aimed at increasing production and exports. The cabinet committee on economic affairs approved "A Roadmap to Success: Bangladesh Tea Industry" at its meeting.

 President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged Bangladeshi expatriates working in different countries of the world to work as the country’s goodwill ambassadors. The president made the call when an eight-member delegation of Bangladesh Business Chamber of Canada, led by its President HM Iqbal, met President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban.

 An awareness campaign encouraging Bangladeshi expatriates working in the UAE to send their remittances to their home country through legal channels was launched in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday. The campaign is being launched by UAE Exchange with the support of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment of Bangladesh and The Embassy of Bangladesh.

 Newly appointed ambassadors of Vietnam to Bangladesh Tran Van Khoa and of Morocco Majid Halim presented credentials to President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban yesterday. Terming the relations between Bangladesh and Vietnam excellent, President Hamid said there are many scopes to enhance trade and investment relations between the two countries. In the meantime, the President hoped that the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Morocco will enhance during the tenure of the new envoy.

 Terrorism is neither a form of jihad nor religious revolution, rather a heinous and inhumane crime having no link with religion, said Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday, urging the media not to mix up Islam with terrorism. He said this while addressing the annual general meeting of Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh (CRAB) in Dhaka.

 Bangladeshi applicants with confirmed travel tickets will be able to submit their Indian visa applications without prior appointments or e-token. The Indian High Commission made the announcement in a press release yesterday.

 The district level bilateral conference between Bangladesh and India began in Chittagong yesterday. The bilateral conference is taking place with bordering districts of two countries. The DC and DM level representatives will highlight 10 issues including strengthening security system at border areas, avoiding border conflict and stopping smuggling through border.

 The first-ever Zila Parishad elections held yesterday were free, fair and peaceful, said Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad. “As voters were few, it was a challenge to maintain the secrecy of the voting. That's why special measures were taken. Directives were given so that voters didn't stuff ballots openly and take pictures of their ballots,” the CEC told journalists at a press conference at the Election Commission.

 Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) detained 28 people from Benapole Bazar as they entered Bangladesh from India illegally through a border point yesterday.

 DSEX, the prime index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) settled yesterday at 5,027.91 points.

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