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From: PIO, PID, Dhaka
Fax: 9540553/9540026
E-mail: piddhaka@gmail.com
Web: www.pressinform.gov.bd

News Brief

Nepal rolled out red carpet for President Md Abdul Hamid as he arrived in Kathmandu on a four-day official visit yesterday afternoon. Nepalese President Bidhya Devi Bhandari along with some of her cabinet colleagues, senior civil and security officials were present there to receive the Bangladesh President. Nepalese Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali paid a courtesy call on Bangladesh President yesterday. The President while exchanging views assured Bangladesh's support to Nepal in implementing its development projects and fulfill its vision of Samridhdha Nepal, Sukhi Nepali. Stating that Bangladesh attaches great importance to its relations with Nepal the President said, Nepal can expand its trade and commerce by using Mongla Port. Referring to forcibly displaced 1.1 million Rohingyas, he said it is not the problem of Bangladesh merely rather it has become a regional and global problem as well and this issue should be settled jointly in the greater interest of all. The Nepalese Foreign Minister said the existing bilateral relation between Bangladesh and Nepal would reach a new height through this visit.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has stressed industrialization not only relying on the agriculture to generate more employment, promote exports and socioeconomic development of the country. The Premier said this while presiding over a meeting of the board of governors of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority at the Prime Minister's Office in Dhaka yesterday. Sheikh Hasina, also Chairperson of BEPZA Board of Governors praising the role of BEPZA for attracting foreign direct investment and for industrialization asked for giving further attention to this end. The meeting also discussed several others issues including setting up an EPZ in Joshore district for socio-economic development of the southwestern region of the country, building "Rangpur Export Processing Area" at Sahebganj inside Rangpur Sugar Mill and introducing pension instead of gratuity for the permanent officers and employees of the BEPZA.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while expressing condolence at the deaths caused by the predawn train accident Brahmanbaria has ordered intensified alertness of railway authorities and others concerned to prevent train crashes. The Premier at her speech at BEPZA board of governors meeting simultaneously stressed the need for giving proper training to the rail staffs and drivers to put an end to the train mishaps. Sheikh Hasina prayed for the peace of the departed souls and early recovery of the injured people. At least 16 people were killed and scores injured as two intercity trains collided in Kasba upazila of Brahmanbaria yesterday. Five committees have been formed to investigate the mishap. Railway Minister Nurul Islam Sujan visited the accident site and assured all-out support from the government for the victims.

Bangladesh Flag Vessels (Protection) Bill, 2019 was passed in the parliament with a view to protecting the interest of the Bangladesh flag vessels. State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury placing the bill said, the new proposed bill will protect the interest of the local vessels owners and expedite the country's export import through these vessels. Bangladesh Sugar Crop Research Institute Bill, 2019 was also passed in the Jatiya Sangsad with an objective to update the act through repealing the previous act. Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, on behalf of Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi, yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that the onion crisis will not linger as the government is importing onion from Turkey. Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder yesterday informed the Jatiya Sangsad that a project is waiting for approval to build 200 paddy silos across the country with a capacity of 5,000 metric tonnes aiming at collecting more paddy directly from the farmers.

Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has said, parliamentary diplomacy is playing a vital role in enhancing cooperation among countries across the globe. The Speaker stated this while presenting a keynote paper in a programme titled 'Honing Legislative Innovation: Parliamentary Diplomacy for the Future' of the three-day "Dhaka Global Dialogue-2019" at a hotel in Dhaka yesterday. It is possible to resolve problems and tackle challenges prevailing in different countries through parliamentary diplomacy and negotiations, the Speaker added. Meanwhile, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid at a panel discussion at 'Dhaka Global Dialogue-2019' yesterday said, Bangladesh government is encouraging entrepreneurs for generating clean energy aiming to produce 12 percent of the country's total electricity from renewable sources.

The government would take legal action against the recruiting agencies and its overseas counterparts if there is any allegation of physical or sexual harassment takes place with the women workers in abroad particularly in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The information came from Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Imran Ahmed in the Parliament while responding to the supplementary questions to the lawmakers in the House yesterday. The Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment while briefing the media about his recent official visit to Malaysia at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday expressed his optimism that recruitment of Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia will begin after the joint working group meeting between the two sides in Dhaka on November 24-25.

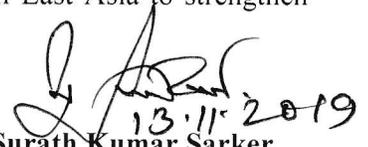
Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while addressing a conference of Dhaka North City Unit of Awami Sechasebok League at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh Auditorium in Dhaka yesterday warned that the country's people would not show mercy to those who make derogatory remarks on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The Minister also said Sheikh Hasina is the most popular leader in Bangladesh and that is why if someone makes derogatory comments on Bangabandhu and her daughter (Sheikh Hasina), it hurts the sentiment of the country's many people.

Agriculture Minister Mohammad Abdur Razzaque has said, the government would provide incentives to the farmers affected by cyclone Bulbul to help them overcome their losses. Speaking at a press conference at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday the Minister said, a proposal had been sent to the finance ministry for extending incentives to the cyclone-hit people. The agriculture ministry would also request the central bank to provide 'soft loans' to farmers who were affected by the cyclone, the Minister informed. Cyclone Bulbul badly affected standing crops on 2.89 lakh hectares of land and homesteads in 16 coastal districts causing a total loss of 263 crore 5 lakh taka according to initial reports, the Minister added.

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Dr Md Enamur Rahman while addressing a discussion at Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday said, as residents of coastal areas are reluctant to leave their homesteads prior to any natural disaster, the government is planning to build durable and disaster-tolerant multi story high-rise buildings in the coastal areas for their safety and security. The durable multistoried buildings will ensure their safety and security during the disasters, and they will not have to leave their residences anymore, the state Minister added.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud has said, more senior leaders of BNP will quit their party as it has indulged in 'negative and ill' politics. The Minister talking to reporters at a press briefing at his Ministry yesterday also said, Gambia on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation has sued Myanmar for committing genocide against its minority Rohingya population. Bangladesh and Gambia are both OIC member states while all the three countries including Myanmar are signatories to the 1948 Genocide Convention, he mentioned. Replying to another question, Dr Hasan Mahmud said, the speech of Jatiya Party Secretary General Mashiur Rahman Ranga over Shaheed Nur Hossain is regrettable and unacceptable.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam has said, Bangladesh believes the USA's Indo Pacific strategy and Chinese Belt and Road Initiative are not conflicting but complementary to each other. The State Minister was speaking at a session titled "Connecting the Indo-Pacific: Infrastructure and Influence" on the second day of "Dhaka Global Dialogue 2019" at Hotel InterContinental in Dhaka yesterday. The State Minister laid stress on utilizing the full potential of BIMSTEC that bridges South and South East Asia to strengthen further connectivity among the indo pacific region.


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Surath Kumar Sarker
Principal Information Officer
Phone -9546091