**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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**News Brief**

## President Md. Abdul Hamid sought enhanced trade ties with Sweden and Canada by availing existing potentials as the newly appointed envoys of the two countries presented their credentials to him at Bangabhaban yesterday. The President also stressed exchanging high-level visits at government and private sectors for consolidating the existing relations. Ambassador-designate of Sweden Cahrlotta Schlyter and High Commissioner-designate of Canada Benoit Prefontaine presented their credentials in two subsequent ceremonies after they were ceremonially welcomed to the presidential palace.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will return home tomorrow wrapping up her two-week visit to the United States and the United Kingdom. Bangladesh Awami League will accord a mass reception to the Prime Minister and the Party President on her return.

Private tour operators involved in various irregularities in hajj operations this year will have to face the music as a parliamentary body yesterday recommended taking tough actions against them for causing sufferings to pilgrims in Dhaka and Saudi Arabia. The actions suggested by the parliamentary standing committee on the Religious Affairs Ministry included cancellation of the agencies' licenses and not allowing them to send hajis to Saudi Arabia for a year.

The government has allocated 1,000 acres land more at Kutupalong in Ukhia of Cox's Bazar for Rohingyas. Relief and Disaster Management Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya said this to the media at his secretariat office yesterday. He also said his ministry is working to accommodate all Rohingya refugees in one area expanded to 3,000 acres of land.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith left Dhaka for the USA yesterday to attend World Bank (WB) meetings in Washington D.C. He will seek WB assistance to ensure shelter, food and healthcare for the Rohingya refugees.

New Delhi has reiterated its support for its next door neighbour Bangladesh in resolving Rohingya crisis. Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque said this to the media after a meeting with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar in New Delhi yesterday.

## The UK government's Department for International Development in collaboration with IOM, the UN Migration Agency, has organised a major airlift of relief items to help Rohingya refugees.

## Counterterrorism practitioners from Southeast Asia have agreed on concrete steps to tighten regional cooperation and build capabilities to defeat global terrorists. The issues came up for discussion at a regional workshop on counterterrorism attended by a number of countries including Bangladesh in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on October 3-4.

The World Bank on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with four professional institutions to set up a Centre of Excellence for Urban Development. The institutions are Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP), Institute of Architects of Bangladesh (IAB), Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) and the Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB). Rajashree Paralkar, Acting World Bank Country Director was present at the MoU signing ceremony.

Applicants for Indian tourist visa can walk-in and submit their applications to Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) in Mirpur Road without a prior appointment from October 10 onwards. The Indian High Commission said this in a statement yesterday.

A Bangladeshi trader was charged at a Malaysian magistrate’s court on Wednesday with the murder of another Bangladeshi at a flat in Shah Alam in Malaysia, said a report of the country’s national news agency BERNAMA.

Bangladesh’s foreign exchange reserves have crossed $33 billion again, according to a Bangladesh Bank statistics yesterday.

The key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSEX, finished at 6,202.31 points, adding 0.68 points or 42.35 points yesterday.

## Fazle Rabbi

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