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

**News Brief**

Newly-appointed Danish Ambassador in Dhaka Winnie Estrup Petersen has said, her country wants Myanmar to take back their Rohingya nationals as she called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at PMO yesterday. Miss. Estrup also highly appreciated Bangladesh's tremendous socioeconomic development under Sheikh Hasina's leadership.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought South Korean investment and cooperation in power sector and establishing ICT training centres in the country. The Premier made the call when the newly appointed South Korean Ambassador in Dhaka Hu Kang-il paid a call on her at PMO yesterday. The South Korean Ambassador highly appreciated the booming economy of Bangladesh.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have greeted the countrymen and the Muslims across the world on the occasion of the holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi, the anniversary of birth and demise of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). In separate messages on the eve of the day, they underscored the need for following the ideals of the Prophet for peace and prosperity.

The Armed Forces Day is being celebrated today marking the founding of army, navy and air force during the 1971 Liberation War. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages greeting the members of the armed forces on the occasion.

The Election Commission yesterday directed the returning officers to prevent electioneering in religious gatherings or waz mahfil ahead of the national election to be held on December 30 this year. The EC sent a letter to all the returning officers asking them to take necessary measures so that the local administration or police do not give any permission for any fresh religious gathering or waz mahfil before the election.

The Election Commission has asked three ministries and an organisation to refrain from announcing any donation or allocation and releasing fund against any individual, group or organisation ahead of the national election. It sent separate letters asking the directives to the Local Government Division, Relief and Disaster Management Ministry, Women and Children Affairs Ministry and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society yesterday.

Election Commission Secretary Helaluddin Ahmed yesterday urged the poll observers not to pass any comment to the media during the voting. He made the urge while briefing the representatives of local observer organizations at the Nirbachan Bhaban in Dhaka. The observers would not be allowed to enter the polling booth and use mobile phones and they will be barred from taking pictures, he added.

Bangladesh has been elected member of Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Executive Council for the tenure of 2019-2021. Member States of the OPCW elected Bangladesh as a member of the OPCW during its 23rd conference held in the Hague, Netherlands on Monday.

The government has issued a notification to stop immediately the airing of advertisements of locally produced goods on foreign television channels downlinked in Bangladesh. The notification issued recently by the Ministry of Information said as per the Bangladesh Cable Television Network Act-2006, no local advertisement can be aired on foreign channels.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken the responsibility for medical treatment of critically ill eminent film director Amjad Hossain. The Premier invited Amjad Hossain's sons to the PMO to know the latest physical condition of the film director who suffered a stroke at his residence on Sunday.

Bikalpadhara Bangladesh Chief A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury has met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after deciding to contest in the elections under the Awami League-led Grand Alliance. Badruddoza, who is also heading the Jukto Front alliance, held the meeting with the Premier at Ganabhaban yesterday.

DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, advanced by 0.79 per cent, or 41.72 points, to close at 5,298.83 points yesterday.

**Fazle Rabbi**  
Addl. Principal Information Officer  
Ph-02-9545096

