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**News Brief**

President Md. Abdul Hamid yesterday gave consent to 11 bills passed in the 22nd session of the Jatiya Sangsad. The bills assented by the President are: Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation Bill 2018, Barind Multipurpose Development Authority Bill 2018, Textile Bill 2018, Sylhet Medical University Bill 2018, Dowry Prohibition Bill 2018, Fertilizer (Management) (Amendment) Bill 2018, National Academy for Planning and Development Bill 2018, Hindu Religious Welfare Trust Bill 2018, Bangladesh Employees Welfare Board (Amendment) Bill 2018, Agricultural Marketing Bill 2018 and National Skill Development Authority Bill 2018.

Thai outgoing Ambassador to Bangladesh Panpimon Suwannapongse paid a farewell call on President Md. Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban yesterday. The President while exchanging views hoped that the existing excellent bilateral trade and investment relations with Thailand would be strengthened in the days to come. Praising rapid progress of Bangladesh in its different socio-economic sectors the envoy said, Thailand always gives importance to its relations with Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged her party leaders to work together to help win of the candidates in all constituencies in the upcoming polls. The PM made the call while addressing the party leaders and workers as they gathered her official residence Ganabhaban to greet her on return home from New York after joining the 73rd UN General Assembly.

The 4th Development Fair will begin across the country on October 4 aiming at highlighting the development activities of the government. The main aim of the fair is to portray the government's development activities and achievements made so far in its journey towards making Bangladesh a middle-income country by 2021 and a developed one by 2041. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the three-day fair through a video conference from Ganabhaban in Dhaka on Thursday morning.

Finance Minister A M A Muhith has said, the government has taken all sorts of preparation to conduct the election in a free and fair manner. The Minister said this while exchanging views with government officials at the Sylhet Deputy Commissioner Office yesterday.

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader has said, if any party wants to create anarchy in the name of political programme, law enforcement agencies will take necessary measures. The Minister said this while inaugurating a weeklong mass-contact programme of the party ahead of the parliamentary election in Dhaka yesterday.

Australia has supported a resolution to pursue accountability for serious international crimes committed against the Rohingyas in the Rakhine state of Myanmar last year. During the 39th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva on Friday, Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne delivered a strong statement condemning the atrocities committed in Rakhine.

Indian Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has assured Bangladesh of help in resolving the Rohingya issue at the earliest. Mr. Jaitley came up with the assurance when Bangladesh Planning Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal met him at his office in New Delhi yesterday.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid has laid emphasis on skill-based education to build an economically advanced Bangladesh. The Minister said this at a function at the Institution of Diploma Engineers in Dhaka yesterday. The government has set a target of 30 per cent enrolment in technical education by 2030 aiming to transform Bangladesh into a prosperous country, he added.

Bangladesh beat Laos by 1-0 goal in their opening match in the Bangabandhu International Gold Cup Tournament in Sylhet yesterday.

DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, added 0.01 per cent, or 0.95 points, to close at 5,369.91 points yesterday.

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