

PM reaches Brussels

October 25, 2023

Online Desk: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reached Brussels on Tuesday night to attend the “Global Gateway Forum” to be held on October 25-26 at the invitation of the European Commission (EC) President Ursula von der Leyen.

A commercial flight (BG 207) of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying the prime minister and her entourage members landed at the Brussels Zaventem Airport, Belgium at 6.30 pm (Brussels time), reports BSS.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Belgium Mahbub Hassan Saleh received the prime minister at the airport.

On her way to Brussels, the Prime Minister went round every nook and corner of the flight and exchanged pleasantries with the passengers and Biman crews.

While roaming the flight, she had taken a one-year-old baby boy Yeasin on her lap and spent some time playing with him. The child at one stage took away her spectacles.

Many passengers were seen taking picture and selfies, while women were hugging with the premier.

Earlier, the flight departed from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA), Dhaka at 11:10 am (BD time).

During the visit, the prime minister will have a number of meetings with leaders of European countries on the sidelines of the forum.

In the morning on October 25, she will have a bilateral meeting with Executive Vice President of the EC and European Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis.

Later, the Bangladesh premier will have a bilateral meeting with the EC President Ursula von der Leyen.

After this bilateral meeting, a loan support agreement of 350 million Euros on the renewable energy sector will be signed between the Bangladesh government’s Economic Relations Department (ERD) and European Investment Bank.

A grant agreement of 45 million Euros for Bangladesh’s renewable energy sector will be signed between the European Commission and European Investment Bank.

And a 12 million Euros grant agreement between the Bangladesh government and EC will also be signed for Bangladesh’s renewable energy sector.

During this visit, the Bangladesh government and EC will sign five different grant agreements of 70 million Euros on Bangladesh’s Social sectors.

On the same day, Sheikh Hasina will attend the Global Gateway Forum’s opening plenary session and deliver her speech.

In the afternoon, European Investment Bank President Dr. Werner Hoyer will hold a meeting with the premier.

EC Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarcic and EC Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen will pay a courtesy call on the Bangladesh premier.

In the evening, the prime minister will attend a dinner hosted by Ursula von der Leyen in honor of the heads of state and government participating in the Global Gateway Forum.

On October 26, she will hold a bilateral meeting with her Belgian counterpart Alexander De Croo.

The premier will also hold a bilateral meeting with Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel.

In the afternoon on the same day, Sheikh Hasina will attend a reception accorded to her by Bangladeshi expatriates living in Belgium.

TV channel EURONEWS and POLITICO are scheduled to take interview of the Bangladesh prime minister.

She is scheduled to return home on October 27.