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**FROM: PIO, PID, DHAKA**  
Fax: 9540553/9540026  
E-mail: piddhaka@gmail.com  
piddhaka@yahoo.com  
Web: www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd

**News Brief**

Saudi Ambassador in Dhaka Abdullah HM Al-Mutairi said, his country will continue to stay beside Bangladesh in addressing the Rohingya crisis while he paid a courtesy call on to the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the PM's Jatiya Sangsad office yesterday. The Saudi Ambassador handed over a letter to the PM from the custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. In response, the Premier conveyed her best wishes to the Saudi King and hoped to have a more strengthened mutual relations between the two countries. The visiting Canadian Minister of International Development Marie-Claude also paid a courtesy call on to the PM at her Jatiya Sangsad office yesterday while the Canadian Minister said, her country would continue political and humanitarian support to Bangladesh on Rohingya issue and highly appreciated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for giving shelter to the tens of thousands of Rohingya people in Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, she has been trying to run the country with utmost honesty and working for changing the lot of the people as well as ensuring their socioeconomic development. The PM said this when a Parliamentarian raised a supplementary to greet her as the PM has been chosen as one of the top honest leaders of the world. The PM secured 3rd position in the list of the honest leaders of 173 countries. She also said, the government is working to repatriate all the Myanmar citizens adding, bilateral talks with Myanmar have begun. The Home Minister visited Myanmar while the Foreign Minister is still there to discuss the issue. All the world leaders are playing special role by mounting pressure on Myanmar and stand beside Bangladesh, she added. The Premier again said, her government has ruled out major shortfall of foodgrain production in the country though this year's flood caused damage to crops. She said, her government has taken various programmes to assist the affected farmers. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said this in a question- answer session at the House yesterday.

Bangladesh and Myanmar are expected to sign an 'Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State' in Nay Pyi Taw today. Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali said this to the media after a meeting with Myanmar's Minister for State Counselor at the counselor's office at Kyauw Tint Swe. The two Ministers led their respective sides at the meeting.

Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Harsh Vardhan Shringla paid a courtesy call to the Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury at her office yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed various bilateral issues while the Speaker hoped, the ties between Bangladesh-India would reach to a new height in future. Earlier, Australian Senator Clarie Moore called on the Speaker at her office yesterday where the Senator lauded Bangladesh's progress in social index and sustainable development.

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Decep Akdad has urged the global community to put pressure on the Myanmar government to take back their citizens from Bangladesh at an earliest. He said, Bangladesh has set a rare example by sheltering over 10 lakh Rohingyas and the country deserves special appreciation for showing such extraordinary humanity. The Deputy Prime Minister said this to the media in Ankara on Tuesday after holding a meeting with Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya.

Eastern Command Headquarters in Kolkata of India will give reception to 30 freedom fighters (FF) and six army officials of Bangladesh from December 14 to December 18. Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain will lead the 30-member delegation of freedom fighters. Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Harsh Vardhan Shringla invited the Minister to lead the delegation when he called on the Minister at his office yesterday.

The government has signed agreements with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for US\$300 million in loans to help upgrade the Dhaka-Northwest international trade corridor in Bangladesh. Economic Relations Division (ERD) and ADB Country Director signed the loan agreements yesterday. This project will help boost trade and strengthen the regional connectivity.

The key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSEX, edged up by 0.56 per cent, or 7.45 points, to close at 6,289.33 points yesterday after losing 37.25 points in the previous session.

**Mohammad Ishtaque Hossain**  
Principal Information Officer  
Ph-02- 9546091