**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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| **MOST URGENT**  FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONS  MSG: 06/2017  **Date: Sunday, 08 January 2017** | **FROM: PIO, PID, DHAKA**  Fax: 9540553/9540026  E-mail: [piddhaka@gmail.com](mailto:piddhaka@gmail.com)  [piddhaka@yahoo.com](mailto:piddhaka@yahoo.com)  Web: [www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd](http://www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd) |

**NEWS BRIEF**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said Bangladesh Army is very much ready than ever before to foil any attempt of the evil force. The people's confidence on army had been strengthened as the force was equipped with vast resources of modern war machines and capable to operate those efficiently, she said at a maneuver exercise of Bangladesh Army at Swarna Dweep yesterday. Excellent maneuver is an example of modern and strong military force, she has said praising the attractive exercise of the 11 Infantry Division, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the local government bodies have been given enough power as those institutions are being strengthened to decentralize power. "The local government bodies would play a key role in the development of primary education side by side with solving various problems of the people," she said. The prime minister made the remarks when Mayor of Brent, London, Parvez Ahmed paid a courtesy call on the PM at her official Ganabhaban residence in the evening.

President Abdul Hamid said consensus among political parties is important apart from forming a strong Election Commission (EC) to hold elections in a free and fair manner.  The President made the comment yesterday while holding talks with Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) the President's press secretary told reporters after the meeting. JSD President ASM Abdur Rob led the party's 10-member delegation at the discussion held at Bangabhaban. During the meeting, the JSD placed a three-point proposal, including enactment of a law as a permanent solution to formation of EC.

President Abdul Hamid has called upon non-government bodies to preserve democratic and secular values and fight tribalism, prejudice, terrorism and militancy. Speaking at the 28th Mahbubullah Prize-giving ceremony at the capital yesterday, the president said: "The ideals of our Liberation War will always be our guide. "

The government would form a Probashi Kalyan Board soon as a draft law has already been made to set up a statutory organization. The government formed the draft law for taking opinion for ensuring wellbeing of over one crore migrant workers and their four crore family members.

The government is likely to take up a Tk 1600 crore project to explore marine resources in the Bay of Bengal and determine the commercial viability of the aquatic resources, Dr Md Nehal Uddin Ahmed, director general of Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB), said. He said the presence of abundant marine resources has been detected in the Bay of Bengal. “The project will help us determine the approach that would be commercially feasible”.

The government is seeking Tk. 7,514.54 crore in foreign assistance to implement infrastructure development for power evacuation facilities of the Rooppur nuclear power plant. The Power Division would like to implement the project from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2022 at a cost of Tk. 11,233.28 crore. The Russian government will provide USD 11.38 billion as credit for the main plant, with the remaining costs, worth USD 12.65 billion, to be met from Bangladesh's state-funded grants.

Gap in the service trade registered a record 33.6 per cent growth during the first five month of the current fiscal year (FY17). This brought the service trade deficit to $ 1.46 billion during the period.

Law Minister Anisul Huq has said law is not the only way to stop crime. " We need to explore other approaches to handle the problem," he said. The minister was speaking as the chief guest at an annual conference of the 'Bangladesh Institute of Crime and Justice Studies' at Bangla Academy in the capital.

The country has to lower fuel price and interest rate on national savings certificate and re-fix taka-dollar exchange rate as short-term fiscal management, CPD recommended on Saturday. CPD put stress on exploring local market. Referring to its recent study, CPD said the government’s food-friendly programme for the ultra poor had a positive impact in the society.

A Bangladeshi was tortured to death by members of Indian Border Security Force along Chakulia border in Damurhuda upazila in Chuadanga yesterday. A team of BSF chased them near main border pillar no 88 and caught Bakul, a cattle trader, while others managed to flee. Meanwhile, BSF troops picked up two Bangladeshi  nationals from Nitpur border in Porsha upazila of Naogaon district yesterday morning.

DSEX, the prime index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) settled yesterday at 5,182.25 points.

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