**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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**News Brief**

 The Cabinet has approved the drafts of the proposals for constituting two separate laws for formation of metropolitan police in Gazipur and Rangpur cities of the country. The cabinet also approved a proposal for ratification of an agreement signed between Bangladesh and Bhutan for avoiding double taxation and tax evasion. Meanwhile, the PM has received "ASOCIO-2017 Digital Government Award". State Minister for Post and Telecommunications Tarana Halim handed over the award to the Premier at the beginning of the regular cabinet meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

 The Jatiya Sangsad passed the "Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Science and Technology University Bill- 2017" for massive expansion of science education and world-class technology in the country yesterday. The Education Ministry has undertaken the initiative for establishing a university in Jamalpur district as part of the Prime Minister’s announcement for expansion of higher education on science and world-class technology.

 Foreign Ministers of the 13th Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) has called for immediate cessation of hostilities, halting of outflow, early and safe return of externally displaced Rohingyas from Bangladesh and implementation of recommendations of the Kofi Annan Commission for durable solution. They made the call at an informal briefing on Rakhine issue for the Foreign Ministers of Myanmar, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Estonia, Germany, Malta, Russia, Luxemburg, France, Thailand, Hungary, Finland, Sweden and the High Representative of the EU in Myanmar capital Nay Pyi Taw. Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali is leading a four-member Bangladesh delegation at the two-day 13th ASEM that began yesterday. At the first day, Bangladesh FM attended two plenary sessions, "Synergizing Peace and Sustainable Development" and "3rd Decade of ASEM: Making ASEM Partnership more Dynamic and connected." In the sideliners of the event, Mr. Mahmood Ali held bilateral meetings with his counterparts of Switzerland, Hungary, Estonia, Finland and the United Kingdom. They discussed bilateral matters and exchanged views on Rohingya crisis particularly early return of displaced Rohingyas and imperative of an inclusive and durable solution of the protracted problem.

 National Implementation Committee for Administrative Reform (NICAR) has approved proposals to upgrade Shaestagonj thana of Habiganj district as an Upazila and constitute eight more police stations in Rajshahi city and one in Dhaka. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has presided over the meeting. Eight police stations would be set up under Rajshahi Metropolitan Police and one to cover the Hatirjeel area under Dhaka Metropolitan Police. In another major decision the NICAR turned down a proposal for expanding Mymensing Pourasabha area and instead asked authorities concerned to bring a proposal to elevate the status of the city of heritage as a city corporation.

 Newly appointed Spanish Ambassador Alvaro de Salas Gimenez de Azcarate has congratulated the Speaker Jatiya Sangsad Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury for holding the 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference successfully. The Ambassador congratulated the Speaker when he called on her at latter's office yesterday. Lauding successes of Bangladesh in different social and economic indicators, the Spanish Ambassador said, Bangladesh has made a good progress in different areas of development for its sincere efforts.

 Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu has called upon the media to build awareness about all crimes against women saying all crimes against women are not reported. He blamed social stigma for the issue. He also called for an end to child marriages and appealed to all non-government organizations to raise their voice about it. The Minister said this while he was speaking at a seminar on the role of the media in containing violence against women at the National Press Club yesterday.

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed deep shock at the death of India's veteran Congress leader and former Federal Minister Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi. In a condolence message, the Premier prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed profound sympathy to the bereaved family.

 President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have greeted members of the Armed Forces on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day-2017 which is being observed today. They wished success of all the programmes taken on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day-2017.

 The key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSEX, increased 0.19 per cent or 12.17 points to close at 6,319.12 points yesterday, stretching the record-breaking run to third day. DSEX gained 83 points in the last three consecutive sessions.

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