**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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| **MOST URGENT** FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONSMSG: 243/2016 **Date: Tuesday, 27 December 2016**  |  **FROM: PIO, PID, DHAKA**Fax: 9540553/9540026E-mail: piddhaka@gmail.compiddhaka@yahoo.comWeb: [www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd](http://www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd) |

**News brief**

 The Cabinet yesterday approved the draft of the second amendment to the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) incorporating Mongolia as the new member. The approval came at the regular weekly meeting of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Secretariat.

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday praised the role of law enforcing agencies in containing the militants and in freeing the country from militancy. The premier lauded the law enforcing agencies during an unscheduled discussion at the weekly cabinet meeting at the Secretariat.

 Underscoring the need for changing the mentality of men for establishing the rights of women in the society, President Abdul Hamid said joint efforts of men and women are needed for building Bangladesh as a prosperous country in the world. The president was speaking at the opening program of the two-day golden jubilee celebration of Lalmatia Mohila College yesterday.

 The first-ever Zila Parishad elections in the country will be held tomorrow. The Election Commission (EC) has already sent all necessary election materials, including the ballot papers, to all the districts concerned.

 The construction work of the JICA- supported Matarbari 1200MW ultra-super-critical plant will begin in the middle of 2017 as the Japanese bidders will return to the bidding process as the security concern caused by terror attack in Gulshan has now been diminished. Managing Director of Coal Power Generation Company Bangladesh Limited (CPGCBL) said this.

 Bangladesh witnesses increased production of three major food grains by 13 per cent in the past six years with rice yield showing a growth of 8.59 per cent to strengthen further the food security, according to the latest statistics.

 The foreign exchange (forex) reserve of Bangladesh has crossed the US$32 billion-mark following lower import payment pressure on the economy according to the central bank latest statistics.

 The government has prepared a roadmap for the tea sector involving Tk976 crore aiming to boost production, create 30,000 additional permanent jobs and improve the living standards of workers.

 Qatar has sought support from Bangladesh to elect its representative to the post of Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the 2017-2021 periods. Visiting Qatar Amir's adviser Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al Kuwari met Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor and sought Bangladesh's support.

 Finance Division (FD) of the Ministry of Finance has initiated to develop five lakh skilled manpower in the country for eliminating poverty and ensuring sustainable development. Speakers said this at a workshop held in Chittagong yesterday under Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP).

 Liberation War affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq said Bangladesh will prosecute 195 identified Pakistani war criminals for sure. He said this while inaugurating Muktijuddher Bijoy Mancha organized by Bangladesh Gano Ajadi League at the Liberation War Museum in Dhaka.

 Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin said that they will build houses for 50 insolvent Freedom Fighters (FFs) in phases. He said this while addressing at a programme organised for according reception to 150 FFs at Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Chittagong centre yesterday.

 The government has directed divisional commissioners to take programmes to rehabilitate beggars across the country. State minister for public administration ministry Ismat Ara Sadek has given the directive.

 DSEX, the prime index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) settled yesterday at 4,993.53 points.

**A K M Shameem Chowdhuri**

Principal Information Officer

Ph: 02-9546091