**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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| **MOST URGENT** FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONSMSG: 28/2017 **Date: Tuesday, 08 August 2017**  |  **FROM: PIO, PID, DHAKA**Fax: 9540553/9540026E-mail: piddhaka@gmail.com piddhaka@yahoo.comWeb: [www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd](http://www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd) |

**News Brief**

 The government has decided to soon open seven new diplomatic missions in India, Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, Romania, Sudan and Sierra Leone. The Cabinet approved the decision yesterday in its regular weekly meeting at the Secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The decision was taken considering the potential for expanding its export market and the service needs of the growing number of Bangladeshi expatriates. The Cabinet also approved a draft proposal for ratifying a 'framework agreement on facilitation of cross border paperless trade in Asia and the Pacific region' to start online business among the regional countries. At the beginning of the meeting, the Cabinet adopted a felicitation motion congratulating Saima Wazed Hossain as she was awarded the International Champion Award from Shema Kolainu, a New York-based School and Centre for Children with Autism, for her relentless and innovative works for the wellbeing of the persons with autism.

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said Bangladesh could be a strategic partner of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in various ways such as extensive training cooperation, capacity building, military infrastructure construction, shipbuilding and export of military equipment from here. She said this when the visiting Saudi Chief of General Staff Gen Abdul Rahman Al-Bunaiyan met her at Gono Bhaban yesterday. The Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces General Surapong Suwanaadth also called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka yesterday. During the call on, the PM underscored the need for further boosting trade and business between Bangladesh and Thailand for mutual benefits of the two countries. "There is a huge potentiality for further raising trade and business between the two countries," she said.

 President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have called on the young generation to follow the ideology of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, wife of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as she had played a pivotal role in building the nation staying beside the Father of the Nation. The President and Prime Minister made the call in separate messages on the eve of the 87th birth anniversary of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib.

 Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali yesterday reaffirmed Bangladesh’s commitment to peace and various security issues- curbing terrorism, illegal migration and climate change. He stated this while he was attending the 24th Asean Regional Forum (ARF) in Manila that discussed various issues of regional and global security.

 Bangladesh and Vietnam have agreed to work closely for achieving the target of enhancing bilateral trade volume to USD 1.0 billion. The agreement was reached during the first ever Foreign Office Consultations held between the two countries at the state guest house Meghna in Dhaka on Sunday.

 The fourth meeting of the Joint Trade Committee (JTC) between Bangladesh and Thailand begins in Dhaka tomorrow aiming to boost bilateral trade and investments. Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed will lead the Bangladesh side at the two-day meeting, while his Thai counterpart Apiradi Tantraporn will head the Thai team.

 The government has reduced the income tax at source on export earnings to 0.7 percent from the existing 1 percent for the current fiscal year 2017-18 following demands of exporters. The National Board of Revenue on Saturday issued a Statutory Regulatory Order lowering the tax, known as export tax, for all sectors except jute and jute goods with retrospective effect from July 1.

 After Jamdani sari, hilsa gets recognition of geographical indication (GI) product of Bangladesh. With this recognition, hilsa, national fish of Bangladesh, would be registered internationally as a fish of Bangladesh.

 The prime index of Dhaka Stocks Exchange closed yesterday at 5,913points.

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