**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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| **MOST URGENT**  FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONS  MSG: 65/2017  **Date: Sunday, 01 October 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**

President Md. Abdul Hamid has urged all to stand beside helpless and destitute people following religious customs. The President made the urge during a reception for Hindu community on the occasion of Durga Puja at Bangabhaban yesterday. The President mentioned, communal harmony is the tradition of the people of Bangladesh and this tradition must continue.Hestressed the need for taking a united effort to prevent religious extremism in the country.

The biggest project in the country's physical infrastructure sector, Padma Multipurpose Bridge, is now a visible reality as the first span (superstructure) of the bridge was placed on pillars yesterday. The 150-metre long span was installed on the pillar nos. 37 and 38. "Through the installation of first span, the Padma Bridge is now a visible reality, removing all uncertainties", said Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader. The construction work is going on in full swing to implement the project on time, said Quader. The project was initiated in 1998 when the Awami League was in power, but it went into limbo when the party lost the general election in 2001. When the AL returned to power in 2009, it revived the initiative. Though the World Bank proposed funding much of the project, it withdrew the funding raising the allegation of fictitious corruption. The government of Sheikh Hasina, however, decided to go ahead with the project using Bangladesh's own resources.

A Myanmar delegation is coming to Dhaka tonight to discuss repatriation of the refugees who have fled to Bangladesh to escape violence in Rakhine State. The delegation led by a minister of Myanmar's State Counsellor Office U Kyaw Tint Swe would hold a meeting with Bangladesh Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali tomorrow.

A leading daily newspaper of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has highly appreciated Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her humane approach in the Rohingya issue, dubbing her as the 'New Star of The East'. "The Bangladesh Prime Minister is the New Star of The East ... for her compassion and empathy in opening the border to save thousands of fleeing Rohingya," noted journalist Allan Jacob wrote yesterday in an article titled "Sheikh Hasina knows the art of compassion" in the Khaleej Times, the longest running English language newspaper published in the UAE.

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith has urged Myanmar to take back its nationals from Bangladesh. The minister made the call while distributing relief goods among Rohingyas at Ukhia in Cox's Bazar. He also urged the world community to create a safe zone in Rakhine state under the supervision of the United Nations.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, now in the United States after attending the UNGA, will return home on October 7 via London, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim informed the media.

Holy Ashura, commemorating the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), is being observed across the country today with due religious fervour and solemnity. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages on the occasion.

Bangladeshi expatriates will get priority in availing of National Identity (NID)-related services seeking corrections in wrong information, changing voting addresses and recollecting the NID card if the first one is lost or damaged. The Election Commission has issued a directive to its field-level officials asking them to render NID services to expatriates within the quickest logical time giving them priority.

The International Finance Corporation yesterday signed an agreement with the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association to implement the second Partnership for Cleaner Textile (PaCT) in the garment and textile sector. Under the programme, which was launched in 2013, garment and textile makers are to adopt modern technologies in their factories in the next four years.

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