**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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| **MOST URGENT**  FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONS  MSG: 37/2017  **Date: Saturday, 18 February 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 reached in Munich yesterday on a three-day official visit to attend Munich Security Conference (MSC) and hold bilateral talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. On her arrival in Munich via Abu Dhabi by an Etihad Airways flight around 6am (local time), Bangladesh Ambassador to Germany Imtiaz Ahmed received her at the airport.

The 53rd Munich Security Conference kicked off Munich yesterday where over 500 decision-makers from across the globe gathered for discussions on major international security challenges. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with other world leaders attended the opening session.

The government has finally decided to build a complete elevated expressway over the existing Dhaka-Chittagong Highway shelving its previous plan to construct an at-grade six-lane expressway. The decision was finalised as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked the authorities concerned to go for the elevated expressway option considering its facilities, future benefits and judicious use of land, according to sources at Bangladesh Bridge Authority.

## The first container ship, 'MV Nou Kollan-1', arrived from Kolkata at Pangaon Inland Container Terminal in Keraniganj under the Coastal Shipping Agreement between Bangladesh and India which Indian calls a 'welcome development'. The agreement, signed during the visit of India Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Bangladesh in 2015, allows direct sea movement of ships between the two countries. It has helped 'greatly improved' the connectivity between India and Bangladesh by reducing shipping time from 30-40 days to 4-10 days. Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan were present there.

## The High Commission of India, in partnership with the Armed Forces Division, Prime Minister's Office, Government of Bangladesh, organised a special visa camp for family members of serving and retired Armed Forces personnel on 18 February at Sena Malancha in Dhaka Cantonment, said a press release of the High Commission of India. The camp was jointly inaugurated by the High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Harsh Vardhan Shringla and Lt Gen Mahfuzur Rahman, Principal Staff Officer, Armed Forces Division.

## The Indian High Commissioner Harsh Vardhan Shringla said the Dhaka-Delhi trade and commercial relations are growing at a ‘substantial pace’. Bangladesh is now India's biggest trade partner in South Asia. He said this on Thursday at the opening of the fourth Indo-Bangla trade fair. The India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI) organised the three-day show at the Pan Pacific Sonargoan Hotel in Dhaka where more than 60 companies from both the countries are showcasing their products.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has initiated a move to rehabilitate some 1,000 Rohingya people staying in Bangladesh to European and American countries for their proper treatment and other facilities. The UN refugee agency has selected 1,000 out of 34,000 registered Rohingya people, who are staying in different refugee camps in Bangladesh, for resettling in the USA, Canada and some other countries, the UNHCR Bangladesh chief has told the BBC Bangla in an interview. The UNHCR Bangladesh representative Shinju Kubu said they have already sought permission from the government of Bangladesh to this effect.

Dhaka is set to revive talks with Ankara regarding signing of a free trade area (FTA) deal. A Turkish delegation comprising officials from its ministry of economy is scheduled to visit Bangladesh next month to discuss signing of the proposed pact, officials said.

Saudi Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, announced on Wednesday a temporary ban on the import of live birds and hatching eggs from Bangladesh, according to a report by emirates247.com. This came following official reports by the World Organisation for Animal Health, OIE, confirming outbreak of bird flu in Bangladesh.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has moved to introduce automated trade licencing system from the last week of this month to get traders out of hassle-ridden service delivery system, officials said.

A delegation of Indian Border Security Force (BSF), led by its Director-General K.K Sharma, will arrive in Bangladesh later this month to raise the issue of smuggling of counterfeit Rs 2,000 notes from across the border, according to Indian media reports.

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