**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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**News Brief**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has laid the foundation of the 1200 MW Matarbari plant at Moheshkhali, Cox's Bazar. The Tk 36,000-crore coal fired power plant would be installed with Japan government's financial and technical cooperation. The Premier laid the foundation through a video conference. Speaking on the occasion, the PM said, the government itself constructed several power plants and imported electricity from neighbouring India to meet the growing electricity demands. The government also gave due attention to enhance the transmission and distribution capacity to ensure uninterrupted power supply, she added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reiterated her government's keen interest to intensify trade, economic and regional peace and security partnerships with the ASEAN countries. The PM expressed the desire as the visiting Indonesian President Joko Widodo met her at her office in Dhaka yesterday. Sheikh Hasina sought Indonesia's support in strengthening Bangladesh’s relation with the ASEAN countries. The visiting Indonesian President Joko Widodo welcomed Bangladesh's desire in this regard and encouraged Bangladesh for a more active engagement with ASEAN. Later in the official talks, the Indonesian President called for a peaceful and quick solution to the protracted Rohingya crisis. Bangladesh and Indonesia agreed to launch a negotiation on signing a preferential trade agreement. The two countries agreed to work together in the field of marine resources. The Indonesian President visited Rohingya camps at Ukhiya,Cox’s Bazar in the afternoon.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, the government has taken all measure to give security to all foreign nationals including Japanese working in Bangladesh. The PM made the assurance when Japanese Prime Minister's special advisor Kentaro Sonoura met her at Ganobhaban yesterday. During the meeting, advisor Sonoura reaffirmed Tokyo's keenness to be Bangladesh's comprehensive development partner. The PM welcomed Japanese investment in Bangladesh saying it would immensely help to achieve the development goals for economic prosperity. Mr Sonoura thanked the PM for the security measures taken by the government for protection of the Japanese and other foreign nationals working in Bangladesh.

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed the ‘Sheikh Hasina University Bill, 2018’. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid moved the bill in the House. Under the proposed bill, the Education Ministry will take an initiative to establish a university at Netrokona district in light with the announcement made by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain informed the House, the government has allotted 254 plots of different sizes among freedom fighters during the current tenure.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith has strongly advocated for developing a permanent system for operations and maintenance of the development facilities and infrastructures in the country. The Minister was speaking at the closing session of the two-day International Conference on Climate Finance held at BICC in Dhaka yesterday. Speaking at the event arranged on the occasion of the ‘Rupali Bank Annual Business Conference-2018’, the Minister asked the bankers to be more cautious as the flow of money supply is likely to increase in 2018 because of the national election.

State Minister for Information Tarana Halim has said, a number of development projects including establishment of a weaver's village would be implemented soon in Tangail for the upliftment of the region. The State Minister said this as she was talking to the local leaders, officials and common people in Tangail through video conference on ‘Sheikh Hasina's ten initiatives and the development of Tangail district’ from the Information Ministry yesterday. Tarana Halim, in her speech also referred to the introduction of fast commuter trains connecting Tangail with Dhaka and setting up a specialized economic zone in the district.

Bangladesh U-19 recorded a five-wicket victory over England U-19 team in the Playoff match of ICC U19 Cricket World Cup yesterday at Queenstown of New Zealand.

DSEX, core index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, settled yesterday at 6,144 points.

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