**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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**News Brief**

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that cyclone Mora-affected people would not face any shortage of food. She said steps are being taken to reconstruct the houses damaged by the cyclone Mora.“There will be no crisis of food. Besides, measures are being taken to rebuild the houses,” she told parliament while responding to a supplementary question.

 Irked by the very slow pace of repatriation of Myanmar nationals Rohingya from Bangladesh, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought help from friendly countries to gear up the process."The visible progress on taking back the Rohingya people to Myanmar is very slow till today. I seek the cooperation of our friendly countries in this regard," she said. The Prime Minister made the request to Austrian Federal Chancellor Khristian Kern during their formal bilateral talks between the two leaders at the Federal Chancellery in Vienna on Tuesday.

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said activities have been underway for increasing power generation capacity to 24,000 MW by 2021, adding, "34 power plants having 11,363MW capacity are under construction and these plants would come into operation from 2017 to 2021."Awami League government has undertaken time befitting, realistic and sustainable plan for constructing new power plants aimed at ensuring power for all," she told this while replying to a question in parliament.

 Finance Minister Abul Mal Abdul Muhith is set to place the national budget for the coming 2017-18 financial year before the Parliament today.  The size of the budget is likely to be Tk 4.2 trillion with a projected GDP growth at 7.4 per cent.

 In a very quick response to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit, Austrian government is sending an official team to Dhaka next month to explore the areas of cooperation between the two countries. An Austrian official team will visit Bangladesh next month to initiate the Foreign Office Consultation aimed at boosting ties of the two countries in different areas, said Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque yesterday.

 The new gas price is going be effective from today as the Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed the High Court order that stayed for six months a government decision for raising gas prices for all consumers with effect from June 1.

 Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed left Dhaka for Russia to attend an international economic forum beginning today (Thursday).The minister is attending the three-day Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum at the invitation of Russian Federation Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Prikhodko.

 The government plans to start construction work on an elevated expressway from Dhaka airport to Export Processing Zone (EPZ) at Savar in December."...The construction work will begin in December with the financial support from China,” Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said while responding to a supplementary question at Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

 The government plans to build the country’s first mega solar power hub, having a generation capacity of about 600MW of electricity, on 2000 acres of land at Mirersharai Economic Zone in Chittagong.“We will float tender shortly inviting qualified firms to build the solar hub at the newly established Mirersharai Economic Zone,” Power Division Secretary Dr Ahmad Kaikaus said.

 Malaysian entrepreneurs are very keen to invest in various potential sectors in Bangladesh, said Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Nur Ashikin Mohd Taib in Dhaka yesterday."The Malaysian investors are keen to invest in various potential sectors in Bangladesh, including manufacturing, agriculture, food-processing and machineries," said Nur Ashikin Mohd Taib while she called on Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) at his office.

 One Stop Service' will be made operational within the next six months to ensure all necessary services for investors quickly, said BIDA Executive Chairman Kazi Md Aminul Islam. "Investors will get all necessary services from here . . . we'll ensure hassle-free services for investors," he told a seminar in Dhaka yesterday.

 The prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) settled yesterday at 5,403.11 points.

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