**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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| **MOST URGENT**  FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONS  MSG: 102/2017  **Date: Wednesday, 24 May 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 returned Dhaka early Wednesday after completing her four-day visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). Deputy Governor in Jeddah, Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh, Consul General of Bangladesh in Jeddah and representatives of Saudi government saw her off at the airport.  A Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight carrying the Prime Minister and members of her entourage left King Abdulaziz International Airport at 4:15pm.The Prime Minister left Dhaka on May 20 for Riyadh on a four-day official visit to Saudi Arabia to join the Arab Islamic-American (AIA) Summit at the invitation of Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina performed the holy "Umrah" in Makkah on Monday night.  
Sheikh Hasina first performed 'tawaf' around the holy Ka'aba Sharif and later walked and ran between Safa and Marwa. She also offered prayers seeking divine blessings for the countrymen as well as continued peace, progress and prosperity of the entire Muslim Ummah. Foreign Minister A H Mahmood Ali and other entourage members of the Prime Minister also performed "Umrah".

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed hinted that the government might set a flat 12 per cent VAT rate in the upcoming fiscal year 2017-18.“If the VAT rate is set at 12 per cent, the revenue generated from VAT will be reduced to Tk 24,000 crore,” Tofail told reporters after a meeting with Hajah Masurai Binti Haji Masri, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Bangladesh, at his office in the city on Tuesday.

The government has successfully stopped formalin abuse in fruits, but the bad practice will surely make a comeback if mobile courts are not conducted any more. Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu made the apprehension at a press briefing at the conference room of Industries Ministry on Tuesday.The briefing was organised to inform media about BSTI initiatives taken to keep essential food prices under control during the upcoming Ramadan.

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan on Tuesday left Dhaka for Kolkata to attend the 'Inland Water Transport and Coastal Shipping Summit' in the capital of the Indian state of West Bengal. The Minister is leading a six-member delegation to the two-day summit on May 24-25.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Tuesday said he feels very safe and secured in Bangladesh.“Terrorism is a global problem. But in Bangladesh I feel as safe as I feel in India,” he added. The High Commissioner made the statement while speaking at DCAB TALK at the VIP Lounge of the National Press Club in the capital. The Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) arranged the event.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has agreed to allow Bangladeshi migrant workers to switch jobs with a month's notice. The UAE employers will also be allowed to terminate foreign employees with one-month prior notice. The authorities concerned of the country have given their consent to the proposal during a visit of a high power Bangladeshi delegation led by Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam BSc and Expatriate Welfare Secretary Shamsun Naher. The UAE has also agreed to open its labour market for Bangladeshi migrants soon. Authorities concerned have already given positive report to its government after inspection of Bangladesh's overall preparation to send migrants in a free and fair procedure.

Stocks maintained upward trend on Tuesday as the major indices of both Dhaka and Chittagong Stock Exchanges were found upward with higher transactions of large-cap securities. The rising major sectors were banks, textile and engineering. A total of 125 securities of the large-cap group incurred gain due to higher activities. The broader DSEX index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) closed the day with 9.46 points up at 5394.82

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