**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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| **MOST URGENT**  FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONS  MSG: 79/2017  **Date: Thursday, 19 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**

Nine influential US senators have applauded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's strong leadership for providing assistance to more than half a million Rohingya people fleeing horrific violence in Myanmar. They said this in a letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday. They welcomed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's remarks in the UN General Assembly on September 22 urging a cessation of the violence in Myanmar and support for the full implementation of the Kofi Annan Commission report.

Highly appreciating Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's humanitarian role in facing Rohingya crisis, US Ambassador in Dhaka Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat said the USA will stand beside Bangladesh on Rohingya issue. She said this during a meeting with the President of BGMEA Md Siddiqur Rahman at his office in Dhaka yesterday. During the meeting the BGMEA president drew the attention of Bernicat of Bangladesh's RMG export to the USA market.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali said the Rohingya issue has now become an important agenda before the international community following hectic diplomatic efforts by Bangladesh. The FM said, the present position of Russia and China on Rohingya issue is a major policy shift since they want peaceful repatriation of Rohingyas. He said this to the media in Dhaka yesterday.

## Jatiya Sanshad Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has urged United Nations and international community to take necessary measures to make bilateral discussion between Bangladesh and Myanmar a success to reach a settlement on the Rohingya issue. She made the urge at a meeting with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres at UN Headquarters in New York on Tuesday. Dr Shirin stressed on political solution to solve Rohingya crisis alongside the humanitarian assistance.

The global parliamentary community has condemned the 'ethnic cleansing' of Myanmar's Rohingyas seeking concerted steps of parliaments across the world against the atrocities as the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) adopted a resolution in its 137th Assembly in Russia yesterday. IPU's incumbent President Saber Hossain Chowdhury of Bangladesh announced this at the assembly in Russia's St Petersburg city.

## The European Union has said it wants to see Myanmar's reply before taking any toughest measures like imposing economic embargo or other restrictive measures against the country. EU Ambassador in Dhaka Rensje Teerink said this to the media in Dhaka yesterday.

The UK-based Amnesty International revealed a report on atrocities in Myanmar accusing the country of committing 'crimes against humanity' by killing Rohingyas. It said this in an 'evidence-based' report incorporating testimonies from 120 Rohingyas.

A senior UN official on Tuesday returned empty-handed from five days of talks in Myanmar where he appealed for the safe return of Rohingyas who are staying in Bangladesh. Jeffrey Feltman, the UN Under-Secretary-General for political affairs, met with Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi and military Commander-in-Chief General Min Aung Hlaing. UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said this to the media.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has said the United States held Myanmar’s military leadership responsible for its harsh crackdown on the Rohingyas. He stopped short of saying whether the United States would take any action against Myanmar’s military leaders over an offensive that has driven more than 500,000 Rohingyas out of the country yesterday, reports Reuters.

UN Migration Director General William Lacy Swing has said there are ‘still gaps’ in the response capacity on the ground and additional services are required to ensure adequate and lifesaving assistance to Rohingyas. Swing made the remark as he completed a three-day visit to Bangladesh yesterday.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid has said the Sweden government would invest $ 1.0 billion to introduce the new technology and digitalize the grid for making the system more reliable and efficient. He said this while witnessing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Dhaka yesterday. Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh Charlotta Schlyter also spoke at the MoU signing ceremony.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam reached Istanbul yesterday to attend the ninth Summit of the D-8, an organisation for economic cooperation, scheduled to be held on October 20. Prior to the summit, the State Minister will attend the ministerial meeting of D-8 today in Istanbul. He is leading a six-member delegation including Director- General (International Organisations) of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Turkey and Consul General of Bangladesh to Istanbul.

## President Md Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have mourned the death of AM Nurul Islam Anu, who was private secretary to Father of Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman yesterday. In a condolence message, they expressed deep shock at the death of Anu and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

The key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSEX, finished at 6025.27 points, shedding 0.10 per cent or 6.46 points after gaining 22.78 points yesterday.

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