**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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| **MOST URGENT** FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONSMSG: 117/2017 **Date: Thursday, 15 June 2017**  |  **FROM: PIO, PID, DHAKA**Fax: 9540553/9540026E-mail: piddhaka@gmail.com piddhaka@yahoo.comWeb: [www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd](http://www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd) |

**News Brief**

 Describing Bangladesh as a role model for development, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the Bangladeshi expatriates living in the UK not to do anything that might tarnish the country's image. 'Bangladesh's progress in all sectors is just like magic to many foreign leaders, but it's not magic to us. It's our sincerity to serve people. So you should not do anything that goes against the nation's image.' The Prime Minister was addressing leaders of the Bangladesh community at Stroke Park in London yesterday. She was in London on her way to Sweden on a three day official visit. About terrorism and militancy, she said her government has taken a 'zero-tolerance' stance against the vices to make Bangladesh as the most peaceful country in South Asia. Earlier, newly elected Labour Party members in House of Commons Tulip Rizwana Siddiq and Rushanara Ali made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her hotel. The Prime Minister discussed various issues relating to mutual interests with them.

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday enquired about the rescue and rehabilitation operation in the districts which experienced a series of landslides leaving over a hundred people dead and many injured. Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury yesterday visited the affected areas of Rangamati and informed the Prime Minister of the latest situation and received directions.

 The death toll in the massive landslides that struck three hill districts-Rangamati, Bandarban and Chittagong early Tuesday rose to 149 Disaster Ministry confirmed the death figure yesterday. Meanwhile, heavy rain continues across the hill region obstructing the through search and rescue operations. However,members of Bangladesh Army and Fire Service intensified their rescue operations following the massive landslides.

 Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader visited the affected areas in Rangamati and Bandarban yesterday and distributed relief materials among the victims. He also assured victims that the government would provide all the necessary relief to the affected people. Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya also visited the affected areas in Rangamati and Chittagong.

 International community has expressed deep shock at the loss of lives and properties in Tuesday's landslides in Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts and offered to provide support. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a twitter message yesterday morning said, "India stands shoulder to shoulder with Bangladesh. We stand ready to support local search and rescue efforts if required." The EU ambassador, High Commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh, Charge d'Affairs of US Embassy Joel Reifman expressed their heart-felt sorrow and solidarity for the loss of lives and property caused by landslides.

 Bangladesh has unanimously been elected chair of the upcoming 6th session of the Conference of the Parties for the convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions to be held in Paris on June 12-15. The UNESCO headquarters conveyed the decision to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

 For the fourth consecutive year, Bangladesh has won the world's most prestigious award for excellence in information technology- the "World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)" award - for innovative initiatives of Access to Information (a2i) Programme of the Prime Minister's Office. A2i's innovation projects titled "Multimedia Talking Book", has received the prize. Three other projects have received the WSIS Champions Prize-2017, including "Nothi (e-filing system)", "Use of social media in Public Service Delivery" and the "Rural Entrepreneurship Model based Telemedicine Project".

 Christin Hunter, the outgoing country representative of United Nations (UN) Women Bangladesh, made a farewell call on Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury at her parliament office in the city on Wednesday. During the meeting, issues relating to women empowerment, socio-economic development, activities of parliament, social security and labour right in Bangladesh were discussed. The UN Women representative lauded the massive development in various sectors in Bangladesh, especially in women empowerment.

 The government will import 0.25 million tonnes of rice from Vietnam on government-to-government basis. The cabinet committee on public procurement gave approval for the rice import in a meeting held at the Bangladesh Secretariat Wednesday with finance minister AMA Muhith in the chair.

 At the end of the yesterday's session, the DSEX closed at 5459.72 points with a rise of 0.09 per cent or 4.93 points.

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