**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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| **MOST URGENT** FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONSMSG: 34/2017 **Date: Sunday, 20 August 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**

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits the flood-ravaged Kurigram and Dinajpur districts today to see for herself the devastations caused by the ongoing flood fury. During the day-long tour, Prime Minister will visit some flood-affected areas in the two districts and distribute relief materials among flood victims. The PM will first fly to Dinajpur and distribute relief items among flood-hit people at a flood shelter at Dinajpur. Later, she will go to Kurigram and distribute relief materials among the flood-hit people. Meanwhile, The overall flood situation in the country's northern region has improved further with a slight drop in the water level of the major rivers. The flood affected an estimated 50 lakh people and damaged crops on over 618,000 hectares of land. Law Minister Anisul Huq has said the government is working to formulate a law to confiscate properties of the convicts, who have already been executed, of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder trial. "We don't need to formulate a separate law to confiscate the properties of fugitive convicts in the case. An order has already come from the court in this regard and properties of a couple of convicts have been confiscated." Anisul Huq said. The Minister came up with the observations while addressing a seminar at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in Dhaka yesterday. He said that the government will find out all the convicted fugitive killers of Bangabandhu by any means and bring them back to the country to face the justice.

 A Dhaka court is set to deliver today its verdict over an assassination attempt on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina 17 years ago. On July 20 of 2000, police found two 76-kilogram bombs in a school field at Kotalipara where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, on her first term as Prime Minister, was scheduled to address an election campaign rally. Besides, the proceedings of the case lodged over brutal grenade attack at the rally of the then opposition leader and incumbent Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka's Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21of 2004, is nearing its end. "We are expecting the case to be wrapped up soon as the court has already completed examining all 225 prosecution witnesses in the case" said Syed Rezaur Rahman, Chief Prosecutor.

 Bangladesh and Thailand will sign an agreement to simplify trade between the two countries later this month."We will sign an agreement with Thailand on the simplification of bilateral trade on August 29 in Bangkok," Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed said. His announcement came at a seminar on "Bangladesh in Regional Trade and Connectivity: A Politico-Economic Assessment" in Dhaka yesterday.

 Queen Elizabeth II has appointed Akhlaq Ur Rahman Chowdhury QC, a UK citizen of Bangladesh origin, a judge of the High Court in the UK. The UK's Courts & Tribunals Judiciary announced that the Queen has approved the appointment of Akhlaq with effect from October 2, 2017.

 Four state-owned banks Sonali, Agrani, Janata and Rupali are planning to invest Tk 20,000 crore in a government-approved project for generating electricity for further development of the country. The Cabinet Committee recently approved the new electricity project.

 The government will distribute 35 crore 13 lac textbooks free of cost among the primary and secondary level students in the academic year of 2018. The free textbooks would be distributed among 4 crore, 37 lac pre-primary, primary, secondary, ibtedayi, dakhil, dakhil vocational and SSC vocational students across the country.

 The Bangladesh Food Safety Conference 2017 will begin in Dhaka on August 23 with the slogan "Protecting Consumers: A Shared Responsibility". Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu will inaugurate the two-day conference which will be the first of its kind in the country.

 The key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSEX, declined 0.69 percent, or 40.36 points, over the week to close at 5,861.12 points on Thursday.

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