**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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**News Brief**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who is now on a visit to France, received a static guard of honour on her arrival at Elysee Palace yesterday. French President Emmanuel Macron received the Prime Minister. They had a bilateral meeting later. French President assured Bangladesh of his country’s humanitarian support and playing a due role in the UN and other international forums for a permanent solution to the Rohingya crisis. Both the Bangladesh Prime Minister and the French President agreed to form a Joint Economic Commission to explore the trade and investment potential between the two countries. The Prime Minister delivered a speech at the One Planet Summit at the La Seine Musicale in Seguin Island in Paris yesterday. In her speech the PM urged the developed nations to fulfill their commitments in ensuring climate justice and meeting the historical responsibility to protect the world.“I would like to urge the developed countries to fulfill their commitments in bringing climate justice and meeting historical responsibility. We can secure the world only through shared responsibility,” she said. The Premier ending her visit will leave Paris for home this evening.

President Md. Abdul Hamid reached Istanbul yesterday to attend the 6th Extraordinary Islamic Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to be held today. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called for the OIC special conference to discuss the repercussions of the US recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the Bangladesh President is expected to deliver his speech highlighting Bangladesh's position over the issue. The President landed at the Istanbul Ataturk Airport at around 3:55 am local time yesterday. He was welcomed by Bangladesh Ambassador to Turkey M Allama Siddiki. President Md. Abdul Hamid visited the historic Topkapi Palace (museum). Later, the President visited Blue Mosque, an ancient mosque in the Istanbul.

The government yesterday celebrated the first ever National Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Day to make its Digital Bangladesh concept a memorable one. On the occasion, National Information and Communication Technology Award-2017 was given to 15 persons in 12 categories for their contribution to expanding ICT sector in the country. Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury addressed the function as the Chief Guest. The Speaker said Digital Bangladesh concept does not remain as merely a dream rather it has been turned into reality as the country has achieved a remarkable progress in the information and communication technology (ICT) that has been praised in home and aboard.

Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy yesterday inaugurated the national emergency service '999' aimed at providing emergency assistance to people across the country."The Awami League government always thinks about the future of the country where people will not face any type of hurdle," he said while inaugurating the national emergency service-999 at a function held in Dhaka's National Control and Command Centre commonly known as police control room at Abdul Gani Road. With the inauguration of the service, people from every corner of the country will get 24/7 emergency services from police, ambulance and fire service by just dialing 999 over both mobile phone and telephone. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan speaking at the function said, the government will introduce electronic passport (e-passport) and electronic gate (e-gate) at international airports in line with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s vision for Digital Bangladesh.

Bangladesh denounced the attack on New York City’s subway system, said a statement issued by its Washington DC mission on Monday. The statement said the government is committed to its declared policy of zero tolerance for terrorism and condemns violent extremism in all forms anywhere in the world. “A terrorist is a terrorist irrespective of his or her ethnicity or religion, and must be brought to justice,” it said. Mentionable, a man detonated an improvised explosive device in an underground passageway at a major commuter hub in New York City Monday morning. New York Police suspects, Akayed Ullah (27), a Bangladeshi migrant, for the incident.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed has said WTO's initiative for expanding multidimensional trade system needs to be strengthened for the betterment of least developed countries (LDCs).The Minister made the remark at the plenary session of the 11th ministerial conference (MC) of WTO in Argentine's capital Buenos Aires on Monday. He also urged WTO to move forward for implementing the decision regarding relaxing trade policies which include rules of origin and product service sector.

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam yesterday said a total of 9,59,354 Bangladeshi workers have been employed in foreign countries this year, highest in country's history. The Minister disclosed the information at a meet the press programme at Expatriates' Welfare Bhaban in Eskaton in Dhaka yesterday.

DSEX, the prime index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) settled yesterday at 6,251.75 points.

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