**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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**News Brief**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reached London yesterday on her way back home wrapping up her 16-day official visit to the United States. Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Nazmul Qaunine received her at the airport. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has digitally cleared 61 urgent files during her official visit to the United States. The ruling Awami League will accord a mass reception to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her return home on October 7 for her bold speech about Rohingya issue at the United Nations General Assembly.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader hassaid**,** talks with Myanmar is underway on the basis of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's five point proposals placed in the UN general assembly. He said this at a press conference held in Dhaka yesterday. He also said**,** the global pressure forced Myanmar to hold talks on the Rohingya issue with Bangladesh in the face of the government's successful diplomatic efforts.

## Ambassadors of 20 mostly western countries based in Myanmar after visiting Rakhine state yesterday said, they saw Rohingya villages were burned to the ground with residents fleeing elsewhere. They also found the scene of the violent military crackdown.

## The Swiss government, highly lauding Bangladesh's efforts over Rohingya issue, has said the best solution to such a large scale displacement is their return to their homeland with safety and dignity. Head of Swiss Humanitarian Aid Ambassador Manuel Bessler said this to the media in an interview yesterday. Ambassador Bessler, also Deputy Director General of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), visited a number of Rohingya settlements in Cox's Bazar on October 1-3 as part of his three-day visit to obtain a firsthand impression of the latest influx of the displaced Rohingya population into Cox's Bazar and the related humanitarian crisis.

## The United Nations has called for full implementation of the recommendations made by Kofi Annan Commission to ensure safe return of the displaced Rohingya to their homeland Myanmar. UN representatives made the call while speaking at a press conference in Cox’s Bazar yesterday. UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock and UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake spoke at the press conference after visiting Rohingya refugee camps.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has offered profound condolences at the tragic deaths of 59 people in a mindless and deadly mass shooting in Las Vegas, the USA on Sunday night. In a message of condolence to US President Donald J Trump shortly after the dastardly incident, the Prime Minister conveyed her heartfelt sympathy to the President, to the American people, and particularly to the members of the bereaved families.

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury had a meeting with Indian Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan in Colombo on Monday as they are staying there to join the '8th Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians'. During the meeting, they discussed the bilateral issues of the two countries, including different aspects of the 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) to be held in Dhaka from November 1 to 8, 2017. Shirin Sharmin, also Chairperson of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), informed Sumitra that the preparatory work for organizing the conference is progressing on.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed has sought more Indian investments in Bangladesh to reduce trade deficit saying that Indian investments and diversifying export products of Bangladesh can help reduce this trade gap. He said this as he was speaking at 'Bangladesh India Business Meeting' organized by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) in Dhaka yesterday. Speaking at the meeting visiting Indian Finance Minister Arun Jaitely said, his country can cooperate Bangladesh in bridging trade gap between the two neighboring countries.

## Process of deactivating the illegal mobile handsets in the country would begin soon, State Minister for Posts and Telecommunications Tarana Halim said this while talking to the newly elected office bearers of the Telecom Reporters Network at her office yesterday.

The government has taken initiatives to send more women workers to different countries including Japan, Russia, Mauritius, Maldives and Hong Kong. Besides, several developed countries expressed keen interest in taking skilled and semi-skilled women housemaids from Bangladesh. As many as 82,510 female workers went to overseas till August this year. Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry Acting Secretary Dr Nomita Halder said this to the media yesterday.

A high powered three-member delegation of the United Nations (UN) paid a courtesy call on Bangladesh Chief of Army Staff General Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiul Huq at Army Headquarters at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday. The delegation led by Assistant Secretary-General at the Department of Field Support Lisa M Buttenheim during the meet exchanged greetings and discussed Bangladesh’s contribution to the UN missions, activities and training. They highly praised Bangladesh Army’s professionalism in the UN missions.

The key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSEX, soared 0.66 per cent or 40.27 points to finish at 6,133.22 points after gaining 13 points in the previous two sessions.

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