**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

###  DHAKA

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| **MOST URGENT** FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONSMSG: 240/2016 **Date: Wednesday, 21 December 2016**  |  **FROM: PIO, PID, DHAKA**Fax: 9540553/9540026E-mail: piddhaka@gmail.compiddhaka@yahoo.comWeb: [www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd](http://www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd) |

**News brief**

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has praised the efforts of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and said they have brought down the number of deaths of Bangladeshi citizens living in border areas. The prime minister was speaking at an event celebrating BGB Day at Pilkhana yesterday. "The death of innocent Bangladeshis in border areas is a matter of grave concern to us," she said. "But, in recent years, your (BGB's) efforts to strengthen friendly ties to India's BSF have reduced the number of deaths in border regions." She also applauded the BGB's vigilance for curbing smuggling and the trafficking of drugs, women and children across the border.

 British company DP Rail yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bangladesh Railway (BR) to design, finance, build, operate and maintain the planned 240-kilometer Dhaka-Payra rail line. Under the MoU, the British firm will invest in the new railways around Taka 60 thousand crore, which will be the biggest ever Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for Bangladesh. The MoU was signed at a program at the Ministry of Railways in Dhaka.

 The British Prime Minister's Trade Envoy for Bangladesh Rushnara Ali yesterday assured the businessmen of Bangladesh the Brexit would not hamper the trade relations between Bangladesh and the United Kingdom. She said this during a meeting with a delegation of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) led by its President Abdul Matlub Ahmad.

 The President's Office yesterday invited six more political parties for the second phase of talks with President Abdul Hamid on formation of the new Election Commission (EC). President Abdul Hamid will hold talks with Worker's Party, Bangladesh Nationalist Front, Islami Oikya Jote , Jatiya Party (Manju), Bangladesh Tarikat Federation and Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) . He also held a meeting with Jatiya Party yesterday.

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been invited to attend the 20th founding anniversary of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) to be held in Indonesia in March, 2017.Visiting Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno LP Marsudi handed over an invitation letter of Indonesian President Joko Widodo to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to this end when she called on the premier at Ganobhaban yesterday.

 Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal yesterday expressed the hope of attaining 7.5 percent GDP growth in the current fiscal year 2016-17 as Bangladesh is moving forward with all economic indicators in positive trend. The minister was talking to journalists at a 'meet the press' program at the NEC conference room in the city. "Nothing can be expected without investment," he added.

 National carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines made a profit of Tk 276 crore in the last fiscal year.This was disclosed at the Biman's Annual General Meeting at its headquarters in the city last night. The airline has been making a profit for two consecutive years after suffering huge loss for several years in a row.

 A business delegation from Uzbekistan yesterday met Textile and Jute Minister Muhammad Imaj Uddin Pramanik at the ministry. During their courtesy meeting, they discussed issues related to bilateral trade and investment along with matters on textile and jute sectors and their progress.

 The Public Private Partnership (PPP) Authority under the Prime Minister’s Office, and Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK), signed an agreement with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), World Bank Group, for providing PPP Transaction Advisory Services in developing a water supply and sewerage network, drainage and solid waste management system in the Purbachal new town area through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model yesterday.

 Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammed Nasim yesterday called upon the nurses to serve patients as their family members for upholding professional commitment. He told this to the a newly appointed nurses at different hospitals at Krishibid Institution.

 The government has decided to start official pre-registration of the pilgrims to perform Hajj next year from January 15, 2017.Religious Affairs Minister Matiur Rahman yesterday gave the announcement while inaugurating a training programme for the government officials regarding pre-registration process.

 Food Minister Qamrul Islam yesterday said information on food collections and preservations will be available online from March-April next. He said people will have access online to all information about food grains and related activities. The Food Minister was addressing in a view exchanging meeting with the divisional officers under the food ministry on 'Collection of Aman Rice, Food Grains friendly Programme' held in Chittagong.

 The government has increased financial powers of the ministries and divisions for speedier implementation of development projects. Increased powers would enable the ministries and divisions to approve civil works and purchase deals worth up to Tk 100 crore without going to cabinet committee on national purchases. A finance ministry directive issued on December 16 brought the changes delegating the increased financial powers to the ministries and divisions.

 DSEX, the prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, settled yesterday at 4,931.17 points.

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