**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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**News Brief**

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, Bangladesh believes in maintaining good relations with the neighbouring countries. She said, there may exist disputes among neighbours but those need to be resolved through discussions. The Prime Minister said this when Pakistani High Commissioner in Dhaka Rafiuzzaman Siddiqui paid a call on her at her office in Dhaka yesterday. The PM said Bangladesh has solved land boundary and maritime disputes with India peacefully. She also mentioned resolving maritime dispute with Myanmar the same way. Terming poverty the main enemy of this region, she put emphasis on working together by all countries of the region to root out poverty. Highly lauding the development activities in Bangladesh, the High Commissioner said Bangladesh now totally has changed with rapid development.

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stood beside the family of Jharna Rani, who was killed in a militant attack at Sholakia in Kishoreganj last year, by giving her son a job in a private bank. The PM handed over the appointment letter to Basudeb, son of Jharna Rani, at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

 The two-day international water meet 'Dhaka Water Conference 2017' ended in Dhaka yesterday adopting the 12-point Dhaka Declaration on Water with a vow to work together to address the world’s growing water challenges and ensure universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water by 2030. LGRD Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, Sri Lankan Minister for Urban Development, Water Supply and Drainage Abdul Rauff Hibbathul Hakeem, and Water and Energy Minister of Afghanistan Ali Ahmad Osmani, among others, spoke on the occasion. The two-day water conference started on Saturday with the participation of 83 delegates from 23 countries.

 The government has fixed the country's target of earnings from merchandise export at US $37.5 billion for the current FY 2017-18. In addition, the government targets earnings worth $3.5 billion from the services sector. "The government has taken all initiatives to increase the country's export," said Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed while making the announcement of export earnings at a press conference at the ministry yesterday.

 The government has decided to formulate a time-bound strategy for the garment factories, inspected under a national initiative by the end of August. The strategy will aim at mending the flaws in remediated units. The government has already asked the BGMEA, BKMEA and the factory owners to complete remediation by the deadline. A Labour Ministry presentation made the disclosures at a meeting between top government officials and foreign diplomats held at the Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday. Foreign, Commerce and Labour Secretaries, head of the EU delegation to Bangladesh Pierre Mayaudon, US ambassador Marcia Bernicat, Canadian high commissioner Laramée, Dutch ambassador Leoni Cuelenaere, British high commissioner Alison Blake and ILO Bangladesh Country Director Srinivas B Reddy, among others, were present in the meeting.

 A Japanese consortium is starting the coal-fired power plant project in Matarbari area of Maheshkhali upazila under Cox's Bazar in August. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2024, The Japan International Cooperation Agency will cover the estimated 500 billion yen ($4.51 billion).

 Second phase of National Household Database (NHD) began yesterday to collect data from household in 25 districts of three divisions - Dhaka, Chittagong and Mymensingh. The government has set a target of collecting data from 3.5 crore households of the country for preparing NHD to identify economic status of the people aiming to eliminate poverty.

 A total of 22,687 hajj pilgrims have so far left Dhaka for Saudi Arabia in the first week of hajj flight operation that started on July 24.

 Successfully aortic valve replacement without open-heart surgery for the first time in the country has been accomplished. United Hospital Cardiac Centre in Dhaka, has conducted the first ever Trans-catheter Aortic Valve Implant procedure which is a minimally invasive non-surgical procedure done with local anesthesia under mild sedation.

 The prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange settled yesterday at 5,802 points.

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