**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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| **MOST URGENT**  FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONS  MSG: 98/2017  **Date: Wednesday, 15 November 2017** | **FROM: PIO, PID, DHAKA**  Fax: 9540553/9540026  E-mail: [piddhaka@gmail.com](mailto:piddhaka@gmail.com)  [piddhaka@yahoo.com](mailto:piddhaka@yahoo.com)  Web: [www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd](http://www.pressinform.portal.gov.bd) |

**News Brief**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, Bangladesh's existence and history are involved with Bangabandhu's historic March 7 speech.  The PM said this as she was participating in a general discussion on the thanksgiving motion in the House yesterday on the inclusion of the historic 7th March speech of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the International Memory of the World Register as the World Documentary Heritage by the UNESCO. Lawmakers urged the government to declare the March 7 as the national day to show rich tribute to Bangabandhu. The MPs said, the March 71 Speech was once for only Bengalee nation but now it has become the global asset.

The Cantonment Bill, 2017 has been placed in the Jatiya Sangsad incorporating tougher punishment for violating the law including delaying construction of building and breaking traffic rules in cantonment areas. Keeping the provision of three to five years imprisonment along with maximum Taka 5 lakh financial penalty for illegal use of electricity, the Electricity Bill, 2017, was also placed in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday. Finance Minister Abul Mal Abdul Muhith informed the House, the remittance earned in the first four months from July to October in the current fiscal is 4,550 million US dollars, which is 6.9 per cent more compared to the remittance of the corresponding period in the last fiscal. The FM said, the government has a plan to open the branches of the Expatriate Welfare Bank at the upazila level. State Minister for Post and Telecommunication Tarana Halim informed the House, the state-run Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) has so far marketed 37,000 mobile phone sets and 800 tabs after manufacturing and assembling. She also said, currently the number of mobile phone subscribers in the country is 13 crore 59 lakh and 82 thousand.

The government has launched a project to establish "Sheikh Hasina Cantonment" at Lebukhali along the Payra River in Barisal involving an estimated cost of Taka 1,699 crore.  The ECNEC yesterday approved the project along with nine other projects in its meeting in Dhaka with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The approved projects include dredging of outer bar of the Mongla Port Channel involving an estimated cost of Taka 712.50 crore.

Foreign Minister A H Mahmood Ali has observed, the ASEAN, as a successful regional body, could play an important role in addressing the Rohingya crisis. He made the remark while new High Commissioner of Singapore to Bangladesh Derek LohEu-Tse met him at the Foreign Ministry yesterday. During the meeting, the Minister sought Singapore's support in the early repatriation of forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals from Bangladesh.

The United Nations Secretary General António Guterres has emphasised on safe and dignified returns of hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas from Bangladesh to their homes. The UN Secretary General made the emphasis as he was addressing the ninth ASEAN‑UN Summit in Manila, the Philippines, on Monday. The UN Chief called for addressing the root causes of the Rohingya crisis by implementing the recommendations of the Annan Commission.

A declaration regarding Denmark's support to the local communities in Cox's Bazar was signed in Dhaka yesterday. State Secretary of the Danish Development Cooperation Martin Bille Hermann and Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque signed the declaration. They also discussed the present Rohingya crisis.

International Air Transport Association (IATA) is keen to provide all kinds of cooperation in further development of Bangladesh aviation sector especially in the field of airport security, customer care and flight safety. This interest was showed while IATA's Regional Vice-President Conrad Fredrick James Clifford paid a call on Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon at his office in Dhaka yesterday.

The key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSEX, advanced 0.57 per cent or 35.52 points to close at 6,252.14 points yesterday after a marginal fall in the previous session.

**Mohammad Ishtaque Hossain**

Principal Information Officer

Ph-02- 9546091