**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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| **MOST URGENT**  FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONS  MSG:84/2017  **Date: Tuesday, 25 April 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**

## The Cabinet yesterday approved in principle a draft bill having a provision of two years' jail or fine for the import of harmful, banned fish, fry and fish products, aiming to control the spread of diseases and microbes in fish. The bill, 'The Fisheries Quarantine Bill, 2017', was approved at the regular weekly meeting of the Cabinet held at the Secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities concerned to further expedite relief operations in the flood-affected haor areas to minimize human sufferings. She also advised ensuring broader publicity measures so people of the country can be made aware of the ongoing relief works in the haor areas. The PM made the directives at the Cabinet's weekly meeting at the Bangladesh Secretariat.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities concerned to introduce welfare association-type bodies for workers in export processing zones (EPZs) following the structures of European Union countries or other developed nation. The Premier gave the directive while discussing the EPZ law during a regular weekly Cabinet meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat.

## PayPal, a global online payment system, is likely to start its operations in Bangladesh soon, paving the way for hassle-free electronic money transfer and increasing access to foreign consumers as well as easing the collection of money for the freelancers of the country. The information came from the weekly Cabinet meeting held in the cabinet room of the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is looking to invest US $1bn in Bangladesh, a portion of which it wishes to invest in agriculture, said Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith. The Minister told the newsmen of the IFC’s decision following a meeting with IFC Executive Vice President and CEO Philippe Le Houérou on the last day of the IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings on Sunday.

## Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday postponed agriculture credit recovery from haor areas across the country due to huge damages in the area by flashfloods.  BB also asked the banks to provide facilities for re-scheduling the credit through relaxation of down payment or easy installment. BB also instructed the scheduled banks to provide new credits in different crops including planted aman and fisheries considering the real situation of the area.

Bangladesh will start bandwidth export to Bhutan from May, as the landlocked Eastern Himalayan country is looking for a third international connectivity to strengthen its internet services. The country would initially take 2.5 gbps bandwidth from Bangladesh.

The construction work of two 660 megawatt units of a coal-based power plant in Rampal near the Sundarbans begins today.

DSEX, the prime index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), settled yesterday at 5,435.63 points.

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