**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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| MOST URGENT  FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONS  MSG: 159/2018  Date: Wednesday, 14 February 2018 | 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.gov.bd](http://www.pressinform.gov.bd) |

**News Brief**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, enhanced investment in rural economy under a global partnership is a key factor to fight poverty. She called upon the development partners to be a little more generous to eliminate poverty and hunger. The PM made the call as she was delivering key-note address at the council meeting of IFAD in Rome yesterday. Sheikh Hasina said, "We believe that in order to ensure resilience, investment in rural economy is a key factor. This cannot be achieved without global partnership and cooperation." The Premier sought their effective support to help realize Bangladesh's goal to be a middle income nation by 2021 and developed one by 2041. She also appreciated IFAD role for boosting Bangladesh's agriculture saying since its inception the specialized UN agency invested in 31 projects involving US$ 680 million.

Bangladesh and IFAD yesterday signed a loan agreement involving 92.03 million US dollars for the uplift of the vulnerable people of the rural areas. The deal was inked in the presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the IFAD Headquarters in Rome yesterday. ERD Secretary Kazi Shafiqul Azam and IFAD President Gilbert F. Houngbo signed the deal on behalf of their respective sides. Under the agreement, a project titled 'the Promoting Resilience of the Vulnerable thru' Access to Infrastructure Improve Skills and Information' will be implemented in six northeastern districts of the country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has requested the international community to continue putting pressure on Myanmar in solving Rohingya crisis. The PM made the request while World Food Programme Executive Director David Beasley met her at her hotel suite in Rome on Monday. The Executive Director informed the PM that the interest of the donor agencies to feed the Rohingyas is decreasing and the WFP is trying to keep the interest alive among the donor agencies under the UN system.

The honorary consuls of Bangladesh in Rome called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her hotel suite in Rome. While exchanging views, the PM urged them to work sincerely to protect the interests of the Bangladeshis living in Italy.

President Md. Abdul Hamid has urged the students to stand against terrorism and militancy aiming to build a 'Sonar Bangla' envisioned by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The President made the call while addressing the convocation of Bangladesh University of Business and Technology in Dhaka yesterday. The President stressed the need for making university curriculum and teaching method time-befitting ensuring international standard.

Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Bir Bikram informed the Parliament that the construction works of 220 multipurpose cyclone shelters is going on. Some 100 multipurpose cyclone shelters have already been constructed, he said. Replying to a question, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed said, the government has set a target to produce 140 million kilogram tea in 2025 for fulfilling local demand and increasing export volume. He said, the tea production was increased to 78.95 million kg in 2017.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed highlighting the country's investment friendly policy and environment has said, all facilities will be ensured if the Singaporean entrepreneurs invest in Bangladesh. The Minister was speaking at a seminar in Singapore yesterday.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu has said, the role of the mass media is not to create sympathy for criminals but to expose them. The mass media have to remain vigilant against criminals so that they stay outside of politics and power. The Minister said this as he was addressing a programme marking the World Radio Day at Jatiya Betar Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday.

The government has collected Taka 5,268 crore by selling 15.6 Megahertz of spectrum to Grameenphone and Banglalink through auction as well as conversion fee for technology neutrality.

The DSEX in the country's main bourse stood at 6,082 points decreasing 11 points.

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