**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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| **MOST URGENT** FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONSMSG:76/2017 **Date: Thursday, 13 April 2017**  |  **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 said that there is no connection between the celebrations of Bangla New Year and the religion. Terming the festival as part of cultural tradition, she called upon people to stay alert about misinformation regarding the festival. Sheikh Hasina, after the oath-taking ceremony of newly-elected Narsingdi Zilla Parishad Chairman Abdul Matin Bhuiyan at her office said this. Later, Sheikh Hasina said BNP Chairperson is blindly opposing the success of the government achieved from her recent visit to India.Replying to a question on the remarks of Khaleda Zia, the premier said she didn't visit India to beg anything but strengthening ties as a friendly neighbor and boosting ties in the areas of economy, communication, infrastructure and other areas.

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina once again showed her love and affection for children with disabilities, as she selected their paintings to prepare the Pahela Baishakh greeting cards for Bangla New Year 1424. She first started sending greeting cards containing the paintings of disabled children during Eid-ul-Azha in 2010.

 President M Abdul Hamid yesterday said scouting can play a very significant role in saving the new generation from fanaticism, communalism, terrorism and militancy. The President was addressing ‘President’s Scout Award’ distribution programme at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city. Stressing the need for expanding the welfare activities of scouts, he said, “We have to make the scouting activities more visible and popular everywhere.”

 Bangladeshi readymade garment (RMG) export to China saw more than 27 per cent increases while 8 per cent decrease to India in the July-March period of the current financial year 2016-17. According to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data, country's exports to China in the nine months of FY17 fetched $736.92 million, which is 32.06 per cent higher than the earnings of $558.01 million in the same period of FY16.

 Russia has called Bangladesh "an old and reliable partner in South Asia" ahead of the first foreign minister level official meeting in 45 years of diplomatic ties. Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali left Dhaka for Moscow yesterday at the invitation of his counterpart Sergey Lavrov. The meeting will take place today in the backdrop of deepening relations between the two countries.

 The government yesterday signed separate power purchase agreement (PPA) and implementation agreement (IA) for construction of 149MW Kodda dual fuel power project, aiming to reduce electricity crisis at industrial zone in Gazipur. Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) will purchase electricity between Tk 7.15 and Tk 10.15 a unit (kilowatt per hour) from the plant for a 15-year period, considering HFO prices here.

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday greeted Opposition Leader Raushon Ershad and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad on the eve of Pahela Baishakh.

 The government will form a 'high-powered' committee to review and identify the location where a dam can be built after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina rejected as 'suicidal' the design for the Ganges barrage at Pangsha point in Rajbari. Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud revealed the plan while speaking to the media after a meeting with a six-member Chinese delegation headed by the country's Water Resources Minister Chen Lei yesterday.

 Harkat-ul-Jihad (Huji) Chief Mufti Abdul Hannan and his associates Delwar alias Ripon and Sharif Shahedul Alam alias Bipul were hanged last night over the 2004 grenade attack on former British envoy Anwar Choudhury in Sylhet.

 DSEX, The prime index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) settled yesterday at 5,646.37 points.

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