**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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| **MOST URGENT**  FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONS  MSG: 78/2017  **Date: Wednesday, 18 October 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 Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) has approved 10 projects with estimated cost of Tk 5,783 crore. The approval came at the ECNEC meeting held at the NEC conference room with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday. The approved projects include-modernization of BTCL, erosion protection of Kirtonkhula River in Barisal, vegetable and spice cultivation and research on floating bed, building 10 secondary government high schools in Dhaka city, Islamic Arabic University, three new regional offices for the National University, Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge in Kacha River and Gingira-Keraniganj-Nawabagnj-Dohar-Sreenagar highway development.

President Md Abdul Hamid hasurged the European Union to extend its continued support to put pressure on the Myanmar government to repatriate the displaced Rohingya***s.*** The President came upwith the call as the newly appointed Ambassador of European Union (EU) Rensje Teerink presented her credential at Bangabhabanyesterday. ThePresident lauded the steps taken by EU to resolve the Rohingya issuesaying the European Union is one of the significant development partners of Bangladesh***.*** Newly appointed Japanese Ambassadorto Bangladesh Hiroyasu Izumi alsopresented credential to the President at Bangabhabanyesterday. Welcoming the envoy, thePresident sought more Japanese investment in the country***.*** Meanwhile***,*** Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Kono is likely to arrive in Dhaka on a two-day visit on November 18. The Bangladesh FM will discuss with him the issues of mutual interest, including the Rohingya crisis, during the visit.

Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has urged the international community to play an effective and sustainable role in resolving the Rohingya crisis which created a humanitarian crisis in Bangladesh. She was speaking at a briefing organized by UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock at UN Headquarters in New York yesterday.

## Bangladesh has briefed the Russian side about the Rohingya crisis and cleared misconceptions developed due to false propaganda by the Myanmar government. Deputy Speaker Md Fazle Rabbi Miah and Chief Whip ASM Feroze held a meeting with the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Russian Upper House Konstantin Kosachev and Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of State Duma Andrei Klimov on the sidelines of the 137th assembly of IPU in St. Petersburg yesterday and discussed the matter in details. At the meeting, the Bangladesh delegation cleared misconceptions of the Russian side on the root cause of the Rohingya crisis. Meanwhile, Prof Dr Md Habibe Millat, MP was elected President of the IPU Health Committee. The 137th IPU Health Conference in the St. Petersburg elected Prof Millat, President of the Committee.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali will visit Myanmar next month to attend the 13th ASEM. The ASEM Foreign Ministerial Meeting will be held in Naypyidaw on November 20-21 where Rohingya issue will come up for discussion.

IOM has assured the government of providing all sorts of assistance in shifting Rohingyas to Bhasan Char in Noakhali***.*** Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya said this at a joint briefing after a meeting with IOM Director General William Lacy Swing in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister said Bangladesh Navy is working at Bhasan Char to accommodate Rohingyas as per the Prime Minister's directive.

Senior UN officials have urged the international community to come together in support of a pledging conference to send a strong message to Rohingyas and their generous hosts in Bangladesh that the world is there for them in their greatest time of need. The ministerial-level pledging conference, co-hosted by the European Union and the government of Kuwait, and co-organised by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), will be held in Geneva on October 23. It aims to raise the necessary resources to enable the humanitarian community to meet the most urgent needs of Rohingya refugees***.***

UNICEF hassaid it will not be able to continue providing lifesaving aid and protection to the Rohingya children in Bangladesh without immediate additional funding. UNICEF spokesperson Marixie Mercado said this to the media in Geneva.

## The key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSEX, increased 0.29 per cent or 17.89 points, to finish at 6,031.74 points after gaining 4.89 points in the previous session.

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