**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **MOST URGENT**  FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONS  MSG: 97/2017  **Date: Tuesday, 14 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**

The Cabinet has approved a draft bill which will repeal the existing “Sugar Road Development Cess Ordinance,” aiming to relieve the sugarcane growers from paying taxes for development of roads in sugar mill catchment areas. The decision was taken at the regular weekly meeting of the Cabinet took place at Prime Minister’s Office with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday. At the outset of the cabinet meeting, NBR chairman Md Nojibur Rahman handed over to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina her Income Tax Card as a regular taxpayer. Notably, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has set up a replicable example by paying income tax regularly since 1982-83. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled an analytical publication on Bangabandhu's historic 7th March speech, its e-book edition and mobile application at the cabinet meeting.

The Jatiya Sangsad has passed the “Bangladesh Wheat and Maize Research Institute Bill, 2017” unanimously aimed at increasing wheat and maize production, and setting up research institute for conducting research and training activities. Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque informed the House, the government has set a target to construct a total of 2,971 households for rehabilitating landless and insolvent freedom fighters, the valiant sons of the soil. The government is implementing the household project at each upazilas of 64 districts across the country under the project. About 8,000 freedom fighters across the country would be benefited under the project.

President Md. Abdul Hamid has asked physicians to attach priority to different research activities alongwith providing advanced treatment of the patients. He said this to a delegation of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) that called on him at Bangabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. Noting that the BSMMU is a specialized institution of the country, the President stressed the need for physicians’ sufficient knowledge about the latest medical technologies. The President urged the university authorities to undertake awareness campaign about different diseases and treatment facilities. BSMMU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan led the eight-member delegation.

The World Diabetes Day is being observed today in the country as elsewhere in the world in a befitting manner. This year's theme of the Day is "All pregnancies should be planned."On the eve of the World Diabetes Day, President Md Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages urging all concerned to work together for creating awareness among people about diabetes. In his message, President Abdul Hamid said the number of diabetic patients is increasing in Bangladesh like other countries of the world because of changes in lifestyle and food habit and lack of physical labour.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed seeking more Singaporean investments in Bangladesh's Economic Zones (EZ), has said, the government allows hundred percent foreign investments in EZs. Mr. Tofail said this to the High Commissioner of Singapore in Dhaka Derek Loh when he called on him at his secretariat office in Dhaka yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed matters related to development of bilateral trade. The High Commissioner requested the Commerce Minister for renewal of double tax related matters of the Singaporean investors. The Minister said, Bangladesh imports goods worth US$2.5 billion from Singapore against its export of US$325 million. He urged the high commissioner to play a role in bringing down duty/tariff to zero for boosting bilateral trade.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain left Dhaka for Spain last night to join Smart City Expo and World Congress 2017 in Barcelona. The fair will be held from November 14 to 15, which will see presentations on different models of modern, livable, hygienic and sustainable cities. The Minister will return home on November 21.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith leaves Dhaka today for India to attend the "7th Bangladesh Book Fair-2017" at Kolkata. Academic and Creative Publishers Association of Bangladesh is organising the nine-day fair in collaboration with the Export Promotion Bureau under the supervision of Bangladesh deputy high commission in Kolkata. The Finance Minister will attend the inaugural session as the chief guest of the fair on the Nandan Chattar of Kolkata on November 15. Mr. Muhith is scheduled to return home on November 16.

The key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSEX, edged down by 0.11 per cent or 7.16 points to close at 6,216.61 points yesterday after 151-points gain in the previous five sessions.

**Mohammad Ishtaque Hossain**

Principal Information Officer

Ph-02- 9546091