**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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**News Brief**

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reaffirmed Bangladesh’s firm commitment to remain engaged with the UN in its efforts towards preventing conflict and establishing peace in the world. The PM expressed the views as visiting UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean Pierre Lacroix called on her at her office yesterday. Mr. Lacroix highly praised the Bangladesh government for giving shelter to over one million forcibly displaced Rohingyas.

Visiting UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix has lauded Bangladesh steadfast engagement in global peacekeeping. The appreciation came as the UN Under-Secretary-General met Foreign Minister A H Mahmood Ali in Dhaka yesterday. Mr. Lacroix said, the UN is extremely grateful and respectful for the services the peacekeeper of Bangladesh is providing worldwide.

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has stressed a stronger regional connectivity referring to Bangladesh steps to reopen closed rail routes with India as newly appointed Nepalese Ambassador Dr Chop Lal Bhusal called on her at her office yesterday. Mr. Bhusal expressed gratitude to Bangladesh for providing food and medical support to Nepal after devastating earthquake in Katmandu in 2015.

Chief of Army Staff General Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiul Huq made a farewell call on President Md. Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban yesterday. During the meeting, the Army Chief expressed his gratitude to the President for extending necessary guidance and cooperation in discharging his duties. Earlier, the outgoing Army Chief called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and expressed his gratitude for extending all support for the development of army.

Lawmakers participating in the national budget discussion in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday said, Bangladesh is no more a poor country now and the main target of the proposed national budget for 2018-19 fiscal is to propel economic growth. They said, the proposed budget after passage would contribute to turn the country into a middle income one by 2021 under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Water Resource Minister Anwar Hossain Monju has said, the government has taken an initiative to make the Buriganga river pollution free through increasing its water flow. The Minister informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, the project is now going on and implementation of the project will be ended by June 2020.

 Planning Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal has said, the government has made such a growth and employment oriented budget to maintain the present trend of development. The Minister said this while speaking at a dialogue in Dhaka yesterday.

The government has initiated a move to implement a Taka 2,868.17 crore pipeline project for transporting petroleum from Chattogram to Dhaka and Chandpur in a fair and uninterrupted way. Bangladesh Army is the executing agency for the project on behalf of Padma Oil Company Limited.

All types of electoral campaign of Gazipur City Corporation polls ended last night as the election is scheduled to be held tomorrow. The government has already declared general holiday in the Gazipur City Corporation area tomorrow for voting.

 DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, gained 1.47 per cent or 80.24 points, to close at 5,521.99 points yesterday.

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