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**News Brief**

The 18th session of the Jatiya Sangsad begins at 4 pm today. Duration and proceedings of the 18th session will be finalized at a meeting of the business advisory committee with Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair today.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammed Nasim has lauded the tremendous successes of Dhaka Medical College in the development of medical science as well as health sector of the country. The Minister made the appreciation as he was speaking at the 72nd founding anniversary celebration programme of DMC in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister urged the physicians to be more devoted in providing services to the patients.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid has credited the effective diplomacy of Bangladesh for its successes in the UNESCO. The Minister was highlighting the country's role in the UNESCO as he was talking to media at the VIP lounge of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on his arrival in Dhaka yesterday after attending the UNESCO Conference in Paris. The Minister said, this year's UNESCO conference was very important and a glaring example of success for Bangladesh as the historic 7th March speech of the Father of the Nation has been included in the Memory of the World International Register of the UNESCO as a world documentary heritage.

The New-Delhi-based non-resident Ambassadors to Bangladesh have expressed willingness to visit Cox's Bazar to get a firsthand idea of the Rohingya crisis as Bangladesh High Commissioner to India briefed 76 envoys concurrently accredited to represent their countries in Dhaka. The Delhi-based envoys to Bangladesh said, their countries want quick solution of issue that creates humanitarian crisis in Bangladesh.

Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) and Business New Zealand (BusinessNZ) have signed a MOU to ease doing business. Under this MOU, BusinessNZ and BUILD will prepare the stage for productive public private dialogue to share and raise voice of the private sector. BusinessNZ will provide inputs to Bangladesh government for automation, trade facilitation and alignment with SDG goals.

Bangladesh government has initiated a move for constructing 39.24-km long Dhaka East-West Elevated Expressway involving \$ 2 billion to ease traffic congestion in and around the Dhaka. The project work is expected to kick off in January 2018 and end by December 2024. The East West Elevated Expressway Project will develop route between Dhaka-Chittagong Highway with connection to the Padma Bridge.

Bangladesh Awami League has nominated Sharfuddin Ahmed as its candidate to contest the upcoming Rangpur City Corporation election to be held on December 21 next. The nomination was given at a meeting of AL Local Government Nomination Board held in the last evening with AL chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at her official residence Ganobhaban. On October 31, the Election Commission announced the schedule for holding the second election to Rangpur City Corporation.

The government has launched a project to set up 520 'Rural Bazaars'(markets) in 491 upazilas across the country with a view to facilitate marketing of farm and non-farm products of marginal farmers. The project focuses on ensuring proper business environment at the rural level alongside creating short-term and long-term employment opportunities. Planning Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal, talking about the project approved by the ECNEC said, construction of the rural markets is essential to bring dynamism in the rural economy through the production of farm produces and their marketing.

Surendra Kumar Sinha has sent a letter of resignation to the President from abroad, stepping down from the post of Chief Justice, a day after his month-long leave on health grounds ended.

DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, advanced by 1.55 per cent, or 94.54 points, over the week to close at 6,193 points yesterday after gaining 80 points in the previous week.

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