**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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**News Brief**

The Cabinet has approved the draft of 'The National Agriculture Policy 2018' incorporating the facilities of using nano-technology in the agriculture sector to control diseases of the crops and determine generic nutrition. The approval was given at the Cabinet meeting held at the Secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday. The meeting also endorsed the drafts of the 'Bangladesh Shishu Academy Act, 2018’, ‘The Health Development Surcharge Management Policy, 2018’ and the draft of ‘Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons’.

The Jatiya Sangsad has passed the Wage Earners’ Welfare Board Bill, 2018 aimed at providing services and ensuring welfare to expatriates abroad and their family members living in the country. Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam B.Sc moved the bill in the House yesterday.

A 14-memebr delegation of the World Buddhist Mission met Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury at her office in Dhaka yesterday. The delegation apprised the Speaker of their activities being carried out in 35 countries across the world. The Speaker thanked the Buddhist community for continuing their work for the welfare of the poor and underprivileged people.

Religious Affairs Minister Matior Rahman has said, the pilgrims would be able to perform the Hajj in better way than last year. He said this to the reporters after a meeting on the preparation of this year’s Hajj management held at the Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday. This year, a total of 126,798 Bangladeshi pilgrims will perform the Hajj.

Police Chief of Myanmar Police Brigadier General Myo Than called on Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal at his Secretariat office in Dhaka yesterday. They discussed issues of Rohingyas and smuggling of Yaba tablets into Bangladesh. The Myanmar Police Chief is leading a four-member delegation who came on a four-day visit to join a joint meeting of Bangladesh Border Guard and Border Guard Police of Myanmar. The meeting began at BGB Headquaters at Peelkhana in Dhaka yesterday.

Canadian Prime Minister’s Special Envoy to Myanmar Bob Rae has called for more international engagements for the safe repatriation of Rohingyas saying that Myanmar’s Rakhine state is their homeland and described the crisis as a ‘too bigger’ problem for Bangladesh. He was talking to the journalists in Dhaka yesterday. Bob Rae said, Rohingyas must return to Myanmar with condition of safety, security and dignity as well as their political rights.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu has said, general election would be held amidst the battle against militancy and drugs. The Minister was speaking at a public meeting at Mirpur in Dhaka yesterday.

The joint bilateral working technical committee meeting between the governments of Bangladesh and Malaysian will be held this month to discuss manpower issue, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam BSc informed the media yesterday.

A business delegation of Singapore has expressed their interest to invest in the Bangladesh’s economic zones. The interest was shown at a meeting between the Singapore Business Federation and Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority at BEZA office in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh exports to the United States rose by 2.60 per cent to US$ crossed 4.92 billion in the first 10 months (July-April) of the last fiscal year compared to same period in the previous FY.

DSEX, the benchmark index of the DSE, settled yesterday at 5,341points.

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