**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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**News Brief**

The cabinet has approved the draft of the Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution Act, 2018 with tougher provisions against violation of standard and testing rules. The approval was given in the weekly meeting of the cabinet held at PMO yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The cabinet has also approved the National Jute Policy-2018 revising the policy framed in 2011.

President Md. Abdul Hamid has stressed promoting non-communal spirit among the new generation to keep them away from superstition, communalism, narcotics, terrorism and militancy. The President made the urge while addressing the Shilpakala Padak-2017 distribution ceremony at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka yesterday. The President has also underscored the need for presenting the country’s own culture in the global arena.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hosted an Iftar party in honour of the leaders of various professional organisations at Ganobhaban yesterday. Vice-chancellors and teachers of different public and private universities, editors and journalists, physicians, engineers, lawyers, businessmen, intellectuals, litterateurs, poets, writers, singers and sports personalities attended the iftar party. Before the iftar, a special munajat seeking continued peace, progress and prosperity of the nation was offered.

Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand has arrived in Dhaka on a four-day royal visit to Bangladesh. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam received her at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday. The Princess is leading an 11-member high-profile Thai government delegation. During her visit, the Princess is scheduled to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The Princess is also scheduled to visit various ongoing royal projects in Bangladesh, under the Royal Chaipattana Foundation.

The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is being observed in the country today. Different programmes have been taken to observe the day. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the eve of the day and greeted the members of the UN peacekeepers.

Finance Minister A M A Muhith has underscored the need for increasing the implementation rate of the budget to achieve the development goals, including Vision-2021 and Vision-2041 as well as the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The Finance Minister was addressing a pre-budget meeting titled 'Budget to Materialize the Dreams' at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu has asked journalists to be sensitive and objective while reporting on conflicts situations. They should refrain from provocation at all costs, particularly in such situations, he added. The Minister was addressing a seminar in Dhaka on Sunday.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid has claimed, Bangladesh Technical Education Board has seen a significant 13 percent rise in students in the last ten years. The Minister was addressing the launching program of Skills 21, a joint initiative of Bangladesh government, ILO, and the EU, organized at a hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

The number of internet subscribers and mobile internet base reached 85.91 million and 80.15 million, respectively in April against 84.54 million and 78.78 million in March.

Overall investment proposals with the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority rose by 17.08 per cent during the July-March period of the current fiscal compared to the same period of the previous fiscal. During this July-March period, BIDA received an overall investment proposals worth Taka 1829.28 billion compared to Taka 1562.36 billion during the July-March period of the previous fiscal.

The Bangladesh national cricket team leaves for India today to take part in the three-match T20 series against Afghanistan scheduled to be held on June 3-7.

DSEX, the prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, settled yesterday at 5,417 points.

**Kamrun Nahar**

Principal Information Officer

 Ph-02-9546091