**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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**News Brief**

The Finance Bill 2018 was passed in Parliament with some changes, including lowering of VAT on internet services, continuation of VAT exemption on computer and its parts and increase the tariff of cigarettes. Finance Minister A M A Muhith moved the bill which was passed by voice vote in the House yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, the budget for the upcoming fiscal was placed thinking the welfare of the people. The PM while taking part in the discussion on budget for next fiscal yesterday evening said, the fate of the common people of Bangladesh has really changed as we have taken steps to give the people at all level a decent and economically prosperous life.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has emphasized on undertaking a far-reaching plan for improving the life and livelihood of the people of Bangladesh. The Premier expressed this views while addressing a function arranged for presenting the draft of ' Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100' at her office in Dhaka yesterday. The PM stressed the need for regular dredging of the rivers and reopening the previous river routes.

The average life expectancy of Bangladeshis has increased to 72 years from 71.6 years one year ago with women enjoying more lifetime than men. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics yesterday disclosed this while presenting a survey report. Planning Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal was present at the function.

 Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammed Nasim has said, the next general election will be held under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on time as per the country’s constitution. The Minister said this while addressing a function at CIRDAP in Dhaka yesterday.

 Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu has said, the aim of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s 10 initiatives is to attain economic emancipation as well as political and social peace. He said this while speaking at a workshop attended by media persons at PIB in Dhaka yesterday.

The naval forces of Bangladesh and India are set to conduct the first-ever joint patrol exercise with the participation of both the country’s navy ships and patrol aircraft in the Bay of Bengal. The exercise with a view to ensuring the security of the maritime boundaries of the two neighbouring countries begins today.

Bangladesh Awami League nominated candidate Jahangir Alam was unofficially announced as the elected Mayor of Gazipur City Corporation. The newly elected Mayor in an immediate reaction has sought cooperation of all for building a modern and planned Gazipur City.

UN Chamber Music Society of the UN staff recreation council held a concert in Manhattan, New York on Monday to mobilise funds for the Rohingyas staying in Bangladesh.

 DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, added 0.32 per cent, or 17.76 points, to close at 5,429.04 points yesterday.

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