**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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**News Brief**

 The Jatiya Sangsad has passed the “Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission Bill, 2017” unanimously aimed at facilitating peaceful use of nuclear power, its advancement and expansion, and carrying out research works in line with the international convention. According to the bill, the commission will work for the peaceful use of atomic power in the areas of food, agriculture, health, medicare, environment and industries.

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed her firm conviction that her government would be able to resolve the Rohingya crisis peacefully with the help of the international community despite many obstacles. She expressed the determination as she was speaking at the question-answer session in the House yesterday. The PM said, the government would take steps for rehabilitation of the local people of the Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas of the Cox's Bazar district who lost their livelihood due to the influx of huge number of Rohingyas in their localities. The government wants peaceful stay with neighbours and not allowing any quarter to use the land of Bangladesh against any country, she added.

 US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has said, he would not yet push for sanctions against Myanmar over the Rohingya refugee crisis, but he called for an independent investigation into the allegations of atrocities that soldiers are committing against the Muslim minority. Washington's top diplomat was speaking after a one-day stop in Naypyidaw yesterday. Rex Tillerson arrived in Myanmar yesterday to press civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi and the country's powerful army chief over violence-torn Rakhine state.

 State Minister for Women and Children affairs Meher Afroze Chumki has said, the government has been planning to extend the tenure of giving maternity allowance from the existing two years to four years. She said this while addressing a seminar on implementation of social safety strategy organized by Ministry of Women and Children Affairs at CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka yesterday. Each of the 8 lakh pregnant women is now getting Taka 500 every month in the country, she added.

 State Minister for Power and Energy Nasrul Hamid has sought Singapore's cooperation in developing waste management plant in power sector. He sought the cooperation as the Singapore‘s non-resident High Commissioner in Bangladesh Derek Loh met the state minister at his office in Dhaka yesterday. During the meeting Nasrul Hamid discussed different issues including ongoing projects in the country’s power and energy sector, regional cooperation, investment, Bangladesh’s entry into Singapore’s bond market and training of Bangladeshi manpower in power sector.

 Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu has said, the Nabanno (New Harvest) day is a day of enlightenment. The Minister said this at a Nabanno function at the RTV Media Center in Dhaka on the first day of the Bengali month of Agrahayan. He said, the Nabanno festival that is being celebrated in the country, particularly in the rural areas, is the recognition of the contribution of our farmers.

 State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam has urged the Bangladesh and Indian business communities to work pro-actively with respective governments for further expansion of bilateral trade volume. The State Minister made the urge in the inaugural ceremony of North East India-Bangladesh EXIM Conclave in Dhaka yesterday. Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Harsh Vardhan Shringla and CEO of North East Foundation (NEF) Bhanu Pratap Singh also spoke on the occasion. Shahriar said business communities of both the countries need to share ideas and contribute to across-the border flow of investments to take maximum advantage of the geographical contiguity. He suggested Bangladesh business community to organise similar events in North Eastern Indian cities in future for further expansion of business between the two countries.

 The country’s export earnings from the United States and European countries have registered a significant growth in the July–October quarter of FY 2017/18, marking a growth of around 7 per cent for the shipment of apparel, according to Export Promotion Bureau.

 The key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSEX, declined 0.26 per cent or 16.43 points to close at 6,235.71 points yesterday after hitting all time high with gaining 35.52 points in the previous session.

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