**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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**News Brief**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina referring to the next parliamentary elections has said, there is no provision of a supportive government in the Constitution. She said, the small sized government during the election time will carry out routine works and will not take any policy decision. The PM said this while addressing at her question- answer session in parliament yesterday. The PM said, 41 women and children repression prevention tribunals are being set up for quick disposal of cases filed for torturing women and children. She said, according to Global Gender Gap report published in 2015, Bangladesh ranked 6th in the world in terms of political empowerment of women. She also informed the House that her government has no plan right now to raise the retirement age in the government service. The more the age bar will be raised, the more the scope for entering government jobs will be declined, she added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reiterated her government's steadfast stance against corruption and misuse of public money, adding any irregularities or dishonesty in this regard won't be tolerated. The PM made the caution while addressing a function marking the inauguration of the newly constructed building of Supreme Audit Institution at Kakrail in Dhaka yesterday. The PM said, there should be an effective audit system to ensure good governance and curtail corruption in the public financial system.

Bangladesh Awami League today nominated incumbent President Md. Abdul Hamid to contest the presidential election to be held in parliament on February 18. Awami League Parliamentary Board with party President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair in a meeting at Ganabhaban finalized the nomination yesterday.

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has adorned the newly appointed Inspector General of Police (IGP) Mohammad Javed Patwary with IGP rank badge at Ganabhaban yesterday. The Premier said, police perform many tough responsibilities to keep up peaceful environment and continue country's development.

The month-long Amar Ekushey Book Fair- 2018 begins today on the Bangla Academy premises in the capital. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the traditional month-long Book Fair. The Premier will also launch the two-day International Literature Conference 2018.

The Election Commission yesterday published the final voter lists with a total of 10,41,42,381 voters across the country. A total of 27,01,780 people were registered as new voters ahead of the next general polls.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed has said, the government will take all necessary steps to continue the progress of country's plastic industry. The Commerce Minister said this while addressing the inaugural session of the 13th Bangladesh International Plastic Packaging and Printing Industrial Fair-2018. Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association organised the four-day fair at BICC in Dhaka. Referring to Bangladesh's emergence as the second largest RMG exporting nation, the Minister expressed willingness to pull up country's plastic industry ahead.

The SSC and equivalent examinations under the country's 10 education boards began today across the country. A total of 20,31,899 students are set to sit for the examinations from 28,551 educational institutions this year. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said, strict measures have been taken to prevent cheating in the examinations adding stern actions will be taken if anyone tries to leak question papers of the exams. The Minister said this at a press briefing at his Ministry yesterday.

Newly appointed Head of EU Delegation to Dhaka Ambassador Rensje Teerink has said, the EU is ready to extend all sorts of assistance to Bangladesh regarding Rohingya crisis and their repatriation to Myanmar. The new envoy said this while making a call on Foreign Minister A H Mahmood Ali at Foreign Ministry yesterday.

DSEX, prime index of Dhaka Stocks Exchange, settled yesterday at 6,039points.

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 **Kamrun Nahar**

 Principal Information Officer

 Ph-02- 9546091