

### Staff Reporter

A high-powered delegation, led by Indian Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan, will arrive here today on a five-day visit to attend the 32nd meeting of the Health Ministers of WHO South-East Asia Region and 67th Session of WHO Regional Conference. This is the first visit of the Health Minister of India to Bangladesh and the third visit to Bangladesh by a member of the Cabinet of the government which assumed office on May 26, 2014, said an official on Sunday.

Health Secretary Lov Verma, Secretary of Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) Nilanjan Sanyal, Director General (Health Services) Jagdish Prasad and Director General, Central Council for Research in Ayurveda Dr Abhimanyu Kumar will accompany the Indian Health Minister.

During his visit, Indian Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan will meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and will also hold discussions with his Bangladesh counterpart Mohammed Nasim on furthering bilateral health sector cooperation.

The two sides will also sign a MoU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

Dr Vardhan, himself a medical doctor, has significant contributions to India's health sector. As Health Minister of Delhi, his efforts in 1996 to eradicate Polio were a success which won widespread appreciation. In March 2014, India was declared polio-free by the WHO, as there had been no reported cases for three years.

Dr Vardhan has won several national and international awards including two of Rotary International, WHO Director General's Commendation Medal 1998, and 'Doctor of the last Decade' by Indian Medical Association, 2002.