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News Brief

The Cabinet has approved in principle a draft law enhancing jail terms for adulterated fish production and marketing from three months to two years. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the beginning of the cabinet meeting held at PMO yesterday unveiled a book titled 'Bangla Bhashar Bangabandhu' on the contribution of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to the Language Movement and also flourish Bangla language.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the countrymen to stay alert so that the anti-liberation forces, killers, terrorists and militants never come to power. The PM made the call while addressing a discussion meeting organised by Bangladesh Awami League on the occasion of the 99th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the National Children's Day at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau yesterday phoned Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and expressed deep condolences at the loss of lives of 50 people including 5 Bangladeshis in terror attacks in New Zealand mosques. During the nearly 20-minute conversation, Sheikh Hasina and Justin Trudeau called upon the global community to act together to stamp out terrorism.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has said, Dhaka has rejected the recent country reports on Human Rights practices by US State Department over Bangladesh and also sent a protest letter to the Washington differing with the report findings. The Minister informed this at a press briefing at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal has said, the government would encourage banks to offer simple interest loans instead of compound interest ones from the next financial year. The Minister revealed this at a views-exchanging meeting with the directors of state-owned banks at the NEC conference room at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka yesterday.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi has said, Bangladesh would take initiative to increase export of readymade garments to the Indian market. The Minister said this at a meeting with newly-appointed Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das at his ministry yesterday.

The ninth and tenth span of the 6.15-kilometre long Padma Bridge would be installed at the Jajira end in Shariatpur district within this month. With the installation of the two spans, a total of 1,350 meters of the bridge will become visible at the Jajira point and 150 meters at the Mawa point.

Bangladesh is planning to start the distribution of digital passports, also known as e-Passports, as early as June this year to ease immigration activities. Media quoting the Department of Immigration and Passports said, data currently available in the Machine Readable Passport database will be transferred to e-Passports which have embedded electronic microprocessor chip containing biometric information used to authenticate the identity of the bearer.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah has said, the government is working sincerely for removing harassments of hajj pilgrims. The Minister said this at a function organised by Islamic Foundation in Gopalganj yesterday.

Bangabandhu corner, comprising with the books written on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was opened at Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy Library in the capital yesterday. More than 300 books, written by different writers and researchers on Bangabandhu, have been available in this corner.

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