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News Brief

The Cabinet with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually in the chair yesterday approved the draft of the Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Bill, incorporating the provision of capital punishment for rape. The Cabinet also took a decision to issue the bill as an ordinance as the parliament is not in session. The Premier particularly laid emphasis on completing rape trials within the stipulated timeframe. Meanwhile, Law Minister Anisul Huq has said, the Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Bill is expected to receive President Md. Abdul Hamid's assent by today to be promulgated as an ordinance.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the cover of a book on Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib titled 'Renu Theke Bangamata' authored by Human Rights Commission Chairman Nasima Begum, at Ganabhaban yesterday.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader terming Bangladesh and India ties as multidimensional has said, both countries are hopeful about solving the issues related to water sharing of interlinked rivers including Teesta. Positive development has already been made in this regard, he said to media after newly appointed Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Kumar Doraiswami called on him at his ministry yesterday. The Indian High Commissioner said, he is hopeful about resuming air operation between India and Bangladesh very quickly. He, however, said it would take more time to issue Indian tourist visa due to this pandemic. The Indian High Commissioner also called on Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder yesterday and discussed setting up of testing laboratories and ongoing construction of warehouses.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen gets unanimously appointed as the Chair of the seven-member Commonwealth Ministerial Group-CMG on Guyana. On appointment, he reaffirmed Bangabandhu's Foreign Policy on settlement of international disputes through peaceful dialogue.

The Foreign Minister while talking to reporters at his ministry yesterday said, during the upcoming visit of US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen E. Biegun from October 14-16, Dhaka will raise the Rohingya issue seeking stronger US support in commencing repatriation of the displaced Myanmar people from Bangladesh. The Minister further said, Dhaka would also propose the USA to invest in infrastructure development in Bangladesh under its Indo-Pacific Strategy-IPS. Dhaka will also seek duty free access of Bangladesh RMG products to the USA market for the next three years, the Minister added.

Bangladesh wants Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi to be present at a tripartite meeting in Beijing as proposed by China to discuss Rohingya repatriation issues. The Foreign Minister at his meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming on Sunday conveyed it to China.

Italy has agreed to include Bangladeshis in their Farm Workers programme responding to a request from Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, when meeting her counterpart in Rome, the Foreign Minister said. He further said, Italy will not allow Bangladeshi citizens in till December 31, as the Bangladeshi expatriates had frequently violated the quarantine rules of the Italian government and in fear of a possible second wave of Covid-19.

Air Arabia authorities have given an opportunity to 112 Bangladeshi expatriates, who were sent back from Abu Dhabi airport earlier, to fly back to the United Arab Emirates without paying any airfare. The Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad issued letters of appreciation yesterday to Air Arabia authority in this regard.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim has said, the 22-day ban on catching and selling hilsa is set to start from tomorrow and will continue till November 4 in a bid to protect mother fish during peak breeding season in the country that produced more than 80 per cent of the total hilsa in the world this year. The Fisheries Minister came up with the announcement at a press briefing at the ministry yesterday. The government will distribute 940 tons of rice among 47,000 extreme poor fishermen in Barishal district during the upcoming ban on catching fish where each of the fishermen will get 20 kg rice, he added.

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Dr. Md. Enamur Rahman on the occasion of International Disaster Mitigation Day-2020 said, those who do not have land will be given 2 decimals of the land and a house as the Prime Minister has announced that no person in Bangladesh will be homeless anymore. He said, funds have already been allocated for the construction of 59,000 houses. Noting that 220 cyclone shelters and 423 flood shelters have been set up in the current fiscal year, the State Minister said, construction of 550 Mujib forts is also underway.

State Minister for Information Dr. Md. Murad Hassan has said, the Cabinet's approval of the draft of the law prescribing death sentence as capital punishment for rape in the cabinet proved that the country's people feel safe and secure with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the state power. The State Minister made the remarks while addressing an anti-rape rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

The country yesterday recorded 31 more fatalities from the COVID-19, in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 5,555. At the same time recovery count rose to 2,94,391. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 1,472 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,79,738. DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam and his wife Dr. Shaila Shagufta Islam have been infected with Covid-19.


A joint study of IEDCR and icddr,b found that around 45 per cent of the Dhaka city dwellers have already been exposed to the coronavirus infection from April 18 to July 5 this year. The findings were disclosed during a function in Dhaka yesterday.

UNICEF commending Bangladesh's success in immunization said, new data shows that monthly immunization service uptake has surpassed pre-COVID-19 levels in Bangladesh despite the challenges during the pandemic. This is a remarkable achievement by the Government of Bangladesh, said Veera Mendonca, UNICEF Deputy Representative in Bangladesh yesterday.

The government has promoted 3 Additional Secretaries, BTV Director General SM Harun-ur-Rashid, Petrobangla Chairman A B M Abdul Fattah and Bangladesh Tourism Corporation Chairman Ram Chandra Das to the Grade-1 post. The government has appointed Engineer Dr. Golam Mostafa as the Chairman of Dhaka WASA Board.

Over 58 per cent construction work of much-awaited Bangabandhu Tunnel under Karnaphuli River has so far been completed, media quoting Project Director informed this yesterday.

Expelled Jubo Mohila League leader Shamima Nur Papia and her husband Mofizur Rahman have been sentenced to 27 years' rigorous imprisonment in an arms case by Special Tribunal-1 of Dhaka yesterday.


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