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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid assented to an ordinance on the amendment of Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Ain (Women and Children Repression Prevention Act) yesterday. Immediately after the presidential order was signed, Law ministry issued a statement saying from now on the “death penalty” instead of “lifetime rigorous imprisonment” would be the maximum punishment for rape.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina terming the rapists as ‘beasts’ said, the government has inducted the provision of death sentence into the related law to protect the girls from these beasts. The Prime Minister said this while virtually addressing a function marking the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday. On the occasion, the PM inaugurated newly-built 17,005 disaster resilient houses and also unveiled the cover of ‘Standing Orders of Disaster’ book. Highlighting the government’s various measures taken for improving the disaster management system of the country, the Premier added, the government has already started to implement a long-term plan called Delta Plan 2100 to develop the country.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, the relation between Bangladesh and India is genuine, deep, multidimensional, incomparable and written in letters of blood as the newly appointed Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Kumar Doraiswami called on him at his ministry yesterday. Information Secretary Kamrun Nahar was present in the meeting. The meeting discussed on planning to complete the film on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s life directed by Shyam Benegal within Mujib Year and making the joint venture documentary on the Liberation War. They also talked about taking steps to telecast Bangladeshi private TV channels all over India and using Chattogram Port and Mongla Port for benefit of the two countries. Replying to a query from media on BNP’s negative comments over women and children repression issue, the Minister said, “BNP’s speech raised a question that ‘BNP didn’t like the amendment of the law’.

The Indian High Commissioner also met Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen at the latter's office yesterday. During the meeting both countries expressed optimism to hold a Joint Rivers Commission meeting this year to discuss water sharing of common rivers between the two countries.

Law Minister Anisul Huq while speaking at a webinar on E-Judicial conference to prevent human trafficking yesterday said, the country is currently implementing a comprehensive National Plan of Action for Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking (2018-2022).

US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen E. Beigun will arrive in Dhaka this afternoon on a three-day visit to reaffirm US-Bangladesh cooperation on COVID-19 response as well as to advance the common vision of two countries regarding Indo-Pacific Strategy-IPS. During his busy schedule, Beigun will meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina tomorrow after holding a meeting with Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen in the morning. Beigun will also pay homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by visiting the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi 32.

State Minister for Labour and Employment Mannujan Sufian while addressing a meeting of the National Child Labour Welfare Council yesterday said, Bangladesh will be a child labour free country within 2025 as per the target set under the SDGs designed to end poverty by 2030.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mohammad Mahbub Ali while inaugurating the "Full Scale Airport Emergency Exercise-2020" and the expanded section of the International Lounge at the Osmani International Airport in Sylhet yesterday said, security has been beefed up at all airports in the country. Bangladesh Biman will soon launch flights on Sylhet-Chattoqram-Cox's Bazar route, he continued.

South Korea has expressed interest to work with Bangladesh to ensure a digital economy and cyber security. South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Lee Jang-Keun expressed the interest during a meeting with State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak at his office yesterday.

The country yesterday recorded 22 more fatalities from the COVID-19, in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 5,577. At the same time recovery count rose to 2,95,873. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 1,537 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,81,275. Planning Minister M A Mannan has been diagnosed with Covid-19 and got admitted to Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka yesterday.

'Ekushey Padak' and 'Bangla Academy' winning litterateur Rashid Haider died last morning at the age of 79. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate condolence messages have expressed deep shock at his death.

Chief Election Commissioner K M Nurul Huda while talking to reporters yesterday said, action will be taken against Faridpur-4 MP Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury Nixon, as per law on the allegation that Nixon issued threats in public to the DC of Faridpur and the UNO of Charbhadrasan for deploying an "excessive" number of magistrates in the Upazila Chairman by-polls held on October 10. Meanwhile, Local Government Division has suspended Abdul Baten, the Mayor of Pabna's Bera Municipality, for assaulting Upazila Nirbahi Officer Asif Anam at the monthly meeting of the Upazila Parishad.

Teachers of government primary schools will get salary under grade 13 on the national pay scale regardless of their educational qualification, Primary and Mass Education ministry issued a circular in this regard yesterday.

The Ministry of Home Affairs yesterday issued a statement forbidding citizens, both at home and abroad, from spreading "false, fabricated, confusing, and inciting statements about the government, military officials, police officers and members of different law enforcing agencies" on social media. The government would take legal action against such people to maintain the stability, domestic security and public well-being, added the statement.

A virtual inter-ministerial meeting with Religious Affairs Secretary Md. Nurul Islam in the chair yesterday finalized the elaborate programmes marking the Eid-e-Miladunnabi to be observed across the country on October 30, subject to appearance of the moon.

The 51st 'World Standards Day' is being observed in the country today with the motto "Protecting the planet with standards". On the eve of the day, President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages.

The authorities of National University have suspended four students accused in the case filed over the gang rape of a woman at MC College in Sylhet.



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