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News Brief

The Cabinet has okayed in principle the draft of 'The Air Transport (The Montreal Convention, 1999) Act, 2019,' to ensure air passenger rights that include compensation of US dollar 1.60 lakh for one's death in an accident. The approval was given in a meeting held at the PMO yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The Cabinet also approved in principle the draft of 'The Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation Act, 2019' with enhanced penalties for giving false information while seeking house building loan. The draft law seeks to increase the punishment to five years of imprisonment from two years and the fine to Taka five lakh from Taka 2,000 for the offence. The Cabinet approved the 'Leather and Leather Goods Development Policy, 2019' giving emphasis on attracting foreign investment as Bangladesh has set a target to earn five billion US dollars from export in this sector by 2024. The Cabinet approved a pact signed between Bangladesh and Czech Republic to avoid dual taxation and stop dodges of revenue and also a proposal of Bangladesh's accession to Patent Corporation Treaty.

Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury while addressing a discussion meeting marking the 44th martyrdom anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Parliament Complex in Dhaka yesterday urged all to uphold the ideology, patriotism and bravery of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from generation to generation. Liberation War Affairs Minister A K M Mozammel Haque addressing a function marking the National Mourning Day at Rupnagar Duyaripara in the capital yesterday said, the government will provide digital identity cards to the freedom fighters before the next Victory Day and about 22,000 freedom fighters will get a house each in Mujib Year. Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal speaking at a similar function at his ministry yesterday urged all to give their utmost efforts to build a non-communal, hunger and poverty-free Bangladesh imbued with the spirit and devotion of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

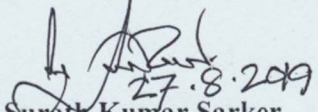
Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen while talking to media after attending a function marking the National Mourning Day at Shahbag in the capital yesterday said, the government would take appropriate steps in consultation with all stakeholders to deal with the situation like recently held mass rally by Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar. Road, Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader speaking at a similar function at Krishibid Institution Auditorium in Dhaka yesterday said, the whole world is applauding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's role on Rohingya issue but a political party of our country is behaving like Myanmar, which is provoking the issue for a long time. The government is not lagging behind in diplomacy. The pressure on Myanmar to repatriate Rohingyas to their country has increased, the Minister added. Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud talking to journalists at his ministry yesterday said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave shelter to the Rohingyas on the humanitarian ground. So, the government can't force them to go back their country Myanmar. The Bangladesh government is pursuing diplomatic efforts and the international communities are keeping pressure on Myanmar continuously in this issue, the Minister added.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud while exchanging views with a delegation of Bangladesh Chalachitra Sangbadik Samity led by its President Falguni Hamid at his ministry yesterday said, the government has taken different initiatives to regain the golden days of film industry. Bangabandhu Film City has been constructed at Gazipur and a project worth around Taka 350 crore has been taken to construct multipurpose building at FDC. The Minister also said, the government is talking with different stakeholders as the cinema hall owners could take loan from banks to reopen their halls. Besides, the ministry has proposed to construct a hall in every Tathya Bhaban (information building) which will be built at district levels.

Bangladesh now considers exporting power to neighbouring India to utilise the unused electricity. The Joint Steering Committee of the two countries participated by Power secretary Ahmed Kaikus and his Indian counterpart Subhash Chandra Garg held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Dhaka yesterday discussed the issue. Talking to the reporters after the meeting, Power secretary Ahmed Kaikus said, Bangladesh will consider exporting surplus electricity since the country's overall electricity generation sometimes exceeds demands.

The DNCC and DSCC yesterday conducted drives in different areas in the capital for detection of mosquito larvae. DSCC's six mobile courts inspected at least 206 houses in the city in search of mosquito breeding grounds. According to the Director General for Health Services, the overall situation of the outbreak of the mosquito-borne disease is also improving thanks to the cleanliness and awareness campaign of the government. At present, a total of 5,562 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals and clinics across the country. Around 1,251 new dengue patients got admitted to different hospitals in the last 24 hours across the country.

Bangladesh Civil Aviation Authority Chairman Air Vice Marshal Md. Mafidur Rahman has been elected as vice Chairman of the 56th Conference of the Director General of Civil Aviation of Asia Pacific region held on 19-24 August in Kathmandu of Nepal.


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