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News Brief

The Cabinet yesterday approved a proposal for the ratification of the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) signed among eight Muslim countries of the D-8 alliance, including Bangladesh. The approval was given at the regular weekly Cabinet meeting held at Bangladesh Secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

President Md. Abdul Hamid yesterday stressed taking effective measures to protect the local varieties of fish from extinction and ensuring a strict surveillance against any possible harm to the country's potential fisheries sector. "These days, it is seen in newspapers that harmful chemicals are used in fish feed production. Strict surveillance must be ensured so that nobody can cause harm to the potential fisheries sector," he said. The President was addressing a function at the Darbar Hall of Bangabhaban on the occasion of the National Fisheries Week-2017.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called on the filmmakers to produce quality movies by upholding the country's history, culture and tradition, and assured that her government will do whatever is necessary for it. "We want those who make movies in Bangladesh to produce films that would contain the country's history, culture and heritage and earn international accolades," she said while distributing the National Film Awards-2015 held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC).

On the same occasion, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked those involved in the country's film industry not to exert any influence on the process to select nominees for the National Film Award. "Please don't exert your influence, make it sure the real artistes are recognized," she said.

The first Hajj flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying 418 Bangladeshi pilgrims took off from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 7:55am and reached an airport in Jeddah around 11:13 am (local time).

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday urged the developed countries to remove tariff and nontariff barriers for promoting Bangladesh's export products. "Due to different tariff and nontariff barriers, Bangladesh's exports to different countries in the world are not growing at expected level," he said while having a meeting with Secretary General of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Kunio Mikuriya at secretariat.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque has said the government is trying to get international recognition with approval from the United Nations (UN) to observe March 25 as International Genocide Day. The Minister said the government has already declared March 25 as Genocide Day, marking the widespread killings by Pakistani Army on the unarmed Bengalis on the black night of March 25, 1971. He was addressing the 'Bangladesh Liberation Festival' organized by the Treasure 1971 in Toronto, Canada on Sunday.

Information minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday told the Cabinet that the Section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act was aimed to contain cyber crimes and it was not against the freedom of the press. He said the cases filed under Section 57 were against allegations of committing cyber crimes and journalists facing such allegations should be treated as individual citizens here.

Norwegian Ambassador in Dhaka Sidsel Bleken yesterday lauded the tremendous progress of Bangladesh in poverty alleviation and improvement of life standard of Bangladeshi people. "Bangladesh has come a long way in fighting child marriage and ensuring gender equality. Stopping child marriage is a must for the holistic advancement of any society," she said. The ambassador showered Bangladesh with praise while visiting the office of East West Media Group Ltd in Dhaka.

An investment forum, China-Bangladesh Investment Forum, focusing on Bangladesh will take place in the Chinese capital Beijing on August 21, 2017 expecting enormous Chinese investment in the country. The forum will focus on the investment and bilateral trade opportunities between China and Bangladesh and the growing opportunities resulting from China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative. At the same time, the forum will provide a platform for discussion on many important topics like infrastructure, FDI, financial and capital markets.

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Annisul Huq yesterday said the government has adopted a plan to introduce 4,500 new buses in the capital to ease the existing transport sufferings of the city dwellers. "Government is going to replace aged and unfit fleet of buses from the city road with these new ones. It is also mulling the idea of deploying air-conditioned buses for women. Sufferings of women, school going children and office goers will be reduced significantly once these new buses come to the streets," the DNCC mayor said. He came up with observations while addressing a special general meeting of Dhaka Sarak Paribahan Malik Samity at DNCC Market in capital's Mohakhali area.

DSEX, the prime index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) settled yesterday at 5,798.12 points.

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