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News Brief

The Cabinet approved that there will be no quota system in public services for 8th grade and above. According to the existing circular, there is no quota system for class-I and class-II jobs in the civil services. The approval came at the weekly Cabinet meeting held with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at the PMO in Dhaka yesterday. The Cabinet approved the draft of “The Air Transport (The Montreal Convention, 1999) Bill, 2020” raising compensation to Tk 1,17, 62, 334 from Tk 20, 37, 600 for one’s death and injury caused by an air accident. The Cabinet approved in principle draft of “The Bangladesh Travel Agencies (Registration and Control) (Amendment), Act, 2020, for smoothening the travel agency businesses. Iodised Salt Act, 2020 aiming to ensuring proportionate mixture of iodine in salts and Chattogram Port Authority Act, 2020 were also approved in the cabinet meeting. The meeting approved a proposal of the Youth and Sports Ministry to celebrate National Sports Day on 6th of April every year simultaneously with International Sports Day. At the outset of the Cabinet meeting, State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak handed over to the Premier three awards given by international organizations for Bangladesh’s outstanding success in the ICT sector. The awards are WITSA Global ICT Excellence Awards 2019, DCD APAC Award-2019 and GovInsider Innovation Award-2019.

After long 32 years of the gruesome killing of 24 people attending Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina's rally in Chittagong in 1988, a court in Chattogram yesterday sentenced five people to death in a case over the killing. On January 24, 1988, police opened fire on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina who was proceeding with a motorcade procession to attend a grand rally at city’s Lal Dighi Maidan that left 24 people dead and over 200 injured. Meanwhile, a court in Dhaka yesterday sentenced 10 people to death in a case filed over the bomb blast at a CPB rally in Paltan area in 2001.

President Md. Abdul Hamid has asked the scouts to intensify scouting activities to provide humanitarian service. The Head of the State made the call while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the ‘Ninth National Cub Camporee-2020’ at the National Scout Training Centre at Mouchak in Gazipur yesterday. The President advised scouts to create mass awareness against narcotics, terrorism, militancy, child marriage and fanaticism. On the occasion, the President handed over the ‘President’s Rover Scout Award’ to four university students and ‘President’s Scout Award’ to 48 students for their outstanding performance in scout movement.

Photograph, digital signature, image of iris and finger print of President Md. Abdul Hamid were taken by the Department of Immigration and Passport Authority at Bangabhaban in Dhaka yesterday for issuing e-passport that will be introduced from January 22. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to launch the e-passport system at a programme at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on the day.

Newly-appointed Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Naoki Ito has said, his country is ready to extend any kind of assistance to Bangladesh for solving the protracted Rohingya crisis. The Japanese Envoy said this when he paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Office in Dhaka yesterday. Sheikh Hasina appreciated Japan for its engagement in different development projects in Bangladesh, saying as many as 310 Japanese companies are now working in the country. She said, the golden jubilee of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Japan will be celebrated in 2022.

Chief Executive Officer of International Cricket Council Manu Sawhney has sought Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s support over the arrangement of various championships and events of the ICC. The ICC Chief Executive Officer sought the cooperation when a

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delegation of the cricket world body led by him paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the latter's Jatiya Sangsad office in Dhaka yesterday. During the meeting, the ICC team apprised the Prime Minister of different ICC events to be arranged from 2024 to 2031.

Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury administered the oath-taking of Moslem Uddin Ahmed, newly elected Member of Parliament from Chattogram-8 constituency at Jatiya Sangsad in the capital yesterday.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud has said, there are 3241 public and private media, including print and electronic, in the country, according to the estimate till December 2019. He informed this while replying to a question in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday. There are a total of 34 electronic media, including four state-owned and 30 private Television channels, 42 radio stations, including one state-owned Bangladesh Betar, 23 commercial FMs and 18 community radios, and 3165 print media. He also said, Bangladesh Betar is operating broadcasting programmes from 14 regional centers across the country. The Information Minister yesterday also attended the 1st publication anniversary of the Bangla daily Desh Rupantor in Dhaka yesterday.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, BNP is the most failed opposition party in the history of Bangladesh's politics. He came up with the remarks at a press conference at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. About the recent arrest warrant issued against the Daily Prothom Alo editor and nine others, Quader said it is a matter of the court and the government did not interfere in it.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R Miller has expressed the hope that the elections to the two Dhaka city corporations will be 'festive, free, credible and participatory' ones. He said this while speaking with the reporters after his meeting with Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda at the EC Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday.

A total of 53.66 lakh new voters were enlisted in the country after the 2018 general election, according to the draft updated electoral rolls revealed by the Election Commission yesterday. The number of voters stood at 10,96,06,187, including 5,53,25,292 men, 5,42,80,542 women and 353 transgender.

Two MoUs were signed between Bangladesh and Cambodia at a function in Dhaka yesterday with an aim to develop and flourish the country's ICT sector. Among them, a MoU was signed between Startup Bangladesh-iDEA Project, ICT Division and Colombia's National Institute of Post, Telecommunication and ICT while another one was inked between Digital Security Agency of Bangladesh and Computer Emergency Response Team of Colombia.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has paid tributes to former Awami League lawmaker from Bogura Abdul Mannan by placing a wreath on his coffin at the South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday. Tributes were also paid to the late MP on behalf of President Md. Abdul Hamid. Earlier, a namaz-e-janaza of Abdul Mannan was held at the South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Ministers, the Deputy Speaker, the Chief Whip, whips, Parliament members and the leaders of different political parties attended the janaza.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed deep shock at the death of Magura district unit of Awami League President and valiant Freedom Fighter Tanzel Hossain Khan who passed away at a hospital in Magura yesterday at his 73.

The government has appointed 97 new assistant judges to the subordinate courts. The Law Ministry issued a gazette notification in this regard on Sunday. In the notification, the ministry directed the new assistant judges to join offices on January 28.


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