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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for ensuring the availability of at least US\$ 100 billion a year to developing countries to save them from climate change impacts' as she was addressing the virtual Climate Vulnerable Forum-CVF leaders' event yesterday as the current President of the CVF, hosted by Bangladesh along with Global Centre on Adaptation-GCA. The Premier at the event placed a four-point proposal which could be summarized like, strict implementation of the Paris Agreement, establishing climate justice, ensuring finance by the major economies, Multilateral Development Bank and International Financial Institutions along with access to technology, taking bold actions to address and mainstream the issue of loss and damage. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, GCA Chair Ban Ki-moon, and heads of state and government of the CVF countries joined the event.

President Md. Abdul Hamid has urged the members of Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission-BJSC to recruit eligible candidates in the shortest possible time. The President made the call as a BJSC delegation led by its Chairman Justice Hasan Foez Siddique submitted its annual report 2019 to him at Bangabhaban last afternoon. Meanwhile, new Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Republic of Uzbekistan Md. Zahangir Alam called on the President at Bangabhaban last evening.

The Cabinet has approved in principle to declare the day of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's speech on March 7, 1971 as a "Historic Day". According to cabinet decision, there will be no holiday on this day, all the ministries, departments, offices, agencies will celebrate the day through their respective programmes. The day, to be celebrated nationally and internationally, would fall into 'A' category. The Cabinet with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually in the chair yesterday also approved in principle a draft of the "Iodized Salt Act, 2020" keeping provisions of one to three years of imprisonment or fine of Taka 50,000 to 15 lakh, if anyone imports, produces, markets or stocks salt without registration, aiming to make it mandatory for all edible salt to be iodized. The Cabinet also decided that Bangladesh will never accept any vaccine that the WHO does not recognize for the pandemic COVID-19 while the government has allocated Taka 600 crore in this regard.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the Braille version of the autobiography of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman –"Oshomapto Atmojiboni" (The Unfinished Memoirs) at a function from Ganabhaban last morning through a video conference. The Ministry of Social Welfare published the Braille version marking the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation. The Prime Minister got delighted as the visually impaired people would get chance to study the book and thus know the true history of the nation. The "Oshomapto Atmojiboni" has so far been published in 14 languages. She further said, the history of struggle for the liberation and the history of language movement had been distorted following assassination of the Father of the Nation in 1975. She added, "We will be relieved from the distortion to some extent upon publication of the book."

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to inaugurate the Itna-Mithamoin-Astagram all-weather road this morning through a video conference. The government has built the 47-kilometre high and 35-kilometre submersible road under the Road and Highways Department, involving Tk 1,268 crore.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while speaking at a meeting at the Roads and Highways Department yesterday said, all political and social organizations must remain uncompromised against the rapists. No political party should be a sanctuary for those rapists, he added. About BNP's allegation that there is no democracy in the country, the Minister said that if there is no democracy in the country, then how the BNP leaders including Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir are frequently spreading falsehood against the government every day. Meanwhile, the Law enforcers, so far, have arrested 10 people in the Noakhali woman molestation case.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud coming down heavily on BNP's attempts to give political shape to the recent heinous crimes of women repression said, the BNP-men raped women in Bangladesh under the party shelter. An eight-year-old baby was raped after the 2001 elections. They repressed and raped hundreds of women after blocking a village for voting for Awami League. So, the party does not have ethical right to talk on this issue, he added. The Minister talking to newsmen after a meeting with the leaders of Broadcast Journalists Center at his ministry yesterday also said, the Law ministry gave vetting to the proposed mass media employees' law. The government is going for making digitalization of cable operating system, he added.

Law Minister Anisul Haque while talking to media yesterday said, the government has been considering to introduce the death penalty for rapists. State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Fazilatun Nesa Indira at a function at her ministry said, the people convicted for raping should be sentenced to death.

Newly elected MP of Pabna-4 by-polls Nuruzzaman Biswas was sworn in yesterday by Jaitya Sangsad Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury at the Parliament in the capital. Senior Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat Zafar Ahmed Khan conducted the swearing-in ceremony.

This year's HSC or equivalent examinations will not be held due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Therefore, the results of HSC or equivalent examinations will be determined based on the average assessment of the JSC or equivalent and the SSC examinations and published within December, Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni told a virtual press conference yesterday.

Saudi government has extended the visa period till October 30 for the expatriate Bangladeshis stranded in the country due to coronavirus pandemic. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen said this while talking to media yesterday. The Foreign Minister pointing to the clashes between two rival Rohingya groups over establishing supremacy at the Cox's Bazar camps in last five days which took at least seven Rohingyas lives, expressed his fear that an uncertain situation could be created in this 'entire region' if the Rohingya crisis is not resolved.

The Civil Aviation ministry in a release said, it has been noticed recently that some dishonest agencies and individuals are conducting propaganda on social media or various platforms to re-issue tickets to Saudi Arabia in exchange for money. There is no opportunity to re-issue of Biman Bangladesh Airlines' tickets from anywhere other than Biman's own ticket center, it clarified.

Railways Minister Md. Nurul Islam Sujon while inspecting construction site at Kalurghat in Chattogram yesterday said, construction of a railway-cum-road bridge over the Karnaphuli River will begin early next year. The Minister further said, the design of the bridge has been finalised and the location has been fixed.

South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh LEE Jang-Keun called on Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury at his ministry yesterday. During the meeting, the Ambassador praised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's strong leadership for Bangladesh's rapid industrialization and development.

Fifty Japanese companies are expected to arrive in Bangladesh every year with investment plans due to the availability of favorable environment here, country representative of Japan External Trade Organization- JETRO Yuji Ando said while exchanging views with executive committee members of the Economic Reporters Forum yesterday. He said, some 310 Japanese companies are now in Bangladesh with the Japanese investment reaching around US \$ 3.0 billion.

The country yesterday recorded 35 more fatalities from the COVID-19, in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 5,440. At the same time recovery count rose to 2,86,631 after another 1,798 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 1,520 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,73,151.



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