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**News Brief**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has ruled out any possibility to move to include Rakhine State of Myanmar in Bangladesh terming the proposal of a US Congressman 'flagitious and unjust.' The PM made the remark while responding to a question at a press briefing at Ganabhaban yesterday about the outcomes of her just-concluded China visit. The Premier expressed her firm belief that her just-concluded China visit will take the bilateral relations between the two countries to a newer height. During the visit, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Li Keqiang and other Chinese leaders assured of extending cooperation to resolve the Rohingya crisis, the Premier added. Responding to a question on price hike of gas, the PM said, people should accept the recent hike in gas prices for the sake of the country’s economic development as the government is providing huge subsidy. The PM also issued a strong warning against crimes like rape, saying that her government will do whatever necessary to contain such offences.

Meanwhile, inaugurating the four-day 'Regional Seminar on Financial Literacy and Investor Protection' in Dhaka yesterday Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, the government has been working to build a strong and stable capital market giving necessary financial education and all possible protection to investors. The seminar is being jointly organized by Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission and the Asian Development Bank.

Meeting of Global Commission on Adaptation begins in the city today. To attend the meeting, Marshall Islands President Dr. Hilda Heine and former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon arrive in Dhaka today. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to inaugurate the key part of the two-day meeting tomorrow in Dhaka. Meanwhile, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development, Dutch Queen Maxima arrives in Dhaka today on a four-day official visit to see various development activities in the country. Queen Maxima will have a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban office at 7pm tomorrow.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has emphasised on enhancing the use of Information Communication Technology to fulfill the government's commitment to attain the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The Speaker was addressing an orientation programme of Members of the Parliament and participants at the Oath Room of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder while replying to a question in the Parliament yesterday said, the government procured nearly 16 lac metric tonnes of food grains in the last fiscal 2018-19. In reply to another question, the Minister said, the government decided to procure four lac metric tonnes of paddy directly from farmers during the current boro season, fixing the price of per tonne paddy at Tk 26,000.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud while addressing a public rally organized by Belgium unit of AL at the auditorium of Bridge University of Brussels on Saturday evening marking the 70th founding anniversary of AL, urged expatriate Bangladeshis to work in unison sinking all differences to contribute to the country’s march towards progress.

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson has emphasized on more unified approach in the UN Security Council, saying it is really urgent to work together globally to find a solution to the Rohingya crisis. His country will continue duty-free and quota-free access to its market for Bangladeshi products once the UK leaves the European Union, the Envoy said as he was speaking at a DCAB Talk organized by the Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh in Dhaka yesterday.

Belarus will supply 450,000 tonnes of potash fertilisers to Bangladesh. It was decided at a meeting between Agriculture Secretary Md. Nasiruzzaman and Chairman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus for cooperation with Bangladesh Mikhail Myasnikovich in Minsk yesterday.

The government will introduce insurance coverage by July 31 for migrant workers with benefits in cases of their death or disability. The Jibon Bima Corporation will take necessary steps to introduce the insurance with one-stop service through automation. The decisions came at an inter-ministerial meeting on Sunday last, with State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Imran Ahmad in the chair.

The country's export earnings reached an all-time high of US$ 40.53 billion in the just concluded fiscal year 2018-19, registering a 10.55 per cent growth over that of the previous fiscal.

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