

**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA**

MOST URGENT
FOR: BANGLADOOT, ALL MISSIONS
MSG: 121/2017
Date: Monday, 19 June 2017

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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has asked the Information Commission to ease its procedures so that general people can easily have information applying the Right to Information Act 2009. The President said this when a three-member delegation of the Commission, led by Chief Information Commissioner Prof Dr Md Golam Rahman, submitted its Annual Report-2016 to him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the decision on the proposed excise duty on the bank deposits would be changed when the budget will be passed in the Jatiya Sangsad. "The National Budget has been proposed. When the proposed budget will be passed, many things will change. Excise duty on bank deposits will also be changed," he told the journalists while addressing Annual Performance Agreement (APA) signing ceremony with state run-banks and financial institutions at Finance Ministry.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday termed the rice price hike an "artificial and temporary crisis" and claimed there is an adequate rice stock in the country. He said while addressing a post-budget seminar organised by Bangladesh Krishi Orthonithibid Samiti at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh. He, however, said the government has decided to import 2.5 lakh metric tonnes of rice to keep the rice market stable and a tender is being floated to import another consignment of 6 lakh metric tonnes of rice.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan has informed that garment workers will go on Eid holidays from June 22 in phases to avoid traffic jams on highways. The decision was taken at a meeting on law and order during the upcoming Eid holidays at the Home Ministry. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan chaired the meeting. He said the garment owners have agreed to pay arrears and Eid bonus by June 22-25.

The Ministry of Public Administration has proposed six days for Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha respectively. The summary of the proposal has been sent to the Prime Minister's office for approval.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammed Nasim yesterday said the existing drug act is being amended keeping some provisions of harsher punishments and major penalties to discourage all sorts of irregularities in this sector. The Minister said this while responding to a tabled question in the House yesterday.

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan yesterday said the government has taken programmes to re-excavate the unusable rivers of the country to revive their navigability. "The capital dredging of all 53 river routes of the country would be done," he said after inaugurating the dredging work of Hazratpur-Zabra route of the Dhaleshwari and Kaliganga rivers on Jamsha bridge side in Manikganj district.

Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) has prepared the largest ever digital database of over 2 lakh 53 thousand identified criminals, including a large number of militants. The database contains 150 types of information such as photographs, biometric finger prints, irises and previous criminal records and punishments in criminal offences.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Md Asaduzzaman Miah yesterday donated cheques of Taka 36 lakh to family members of 12 police, who were killed and injured on-duty. The DMP police chief handed over the cheque from the Prime Minister announced fund at a function held at its headquarters in the capital.

At least five people, including two siblings, were killed in landslides triggered by heavy downpour in Khagrachhari and Moulvibazar districts yesterday.

According to Bangladesh Bank data, Farm and non-farm credit disbursement witnessed a massive 107.89 percent growth in the 11 months of fiscal year 2016-17 (FY17) as banks in public and private sectors, including the specialized and foreign ones, disbursed about Taka 18,900 crore till May against their total target of Taka 17,550 crore during the period.

The prime index of Dhaka stock Exchange (DSE) settled yesterday at 5,461.63 points.

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