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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has asked the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to take instant and effective measures against any human rights violation act anywhere in the country. The President came up with this directive as a six-member delegation of NHRC led by its Chairperson Nasima Begum paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. Noting that human right is people's fundamental right, the President said, the constitution of the republic of Bangladesh has given utmost priority to protect human rights.

The ECNEC approved 10 projects including a Tk 1762-crore one for conducting the population and household census 2021. The approval came from the weekly ECNEC meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday. The meeting also cleared a project for establishing four marine academies in Pabna, Barishal, Sylhet and Rangpur among the 10 approved projects costing Tk 11,467 crore. The Premier presiding over the meeting said, the government has a plan to set up another nuclear power plant in the southern part of the country along with the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Pabna.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, the participation of Bangladesh in the NAM Summit held in Azerbaijan's Baku has strengthened the country's position in the international community. The Premier made the observation yesterday while addressing a press conference at Ganabhaban in Dhaka on her recent Azerbaijan visit for attending the 18th NAM summit. The Premier in response to a question said, her government launched a massive anti-graft campaign ignoring the suspected culprits' background and urged the people to wait to see their fate, trashing BNP suspicions that it was 'eyewash'. It makes no difference whether one is close to the government or not and whoever is found corrupt is being caught, the PM added. In response to another question the Premier said, onion crisis is temporary and there is nothing to worry about it.

International Cricket Council (ICC) yesterday banned Bangladesh cricket captain Shakib Al Hasan for two years but the cricket legend may return to the field after 12 months as the second year of the tenure would be treated as pending suspension. ICC sources said, Shakib was approached by the bookies in 2010 and 2103 also but during that time he disclosed those facts to the ICC and the action was not taken. But this time when the bookies approached twice in 2018 Tri-series involving Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka and once in IPL 2018, Shakib did not inform this matter. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaking at a press conference at Ganabhaban in response to a query about cricketer Shakib Al Hasan's ban by ICC hours before the ICC action said, Bangladesh Cricket Board will stand by him if ICC decides to punish him.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has formally been invited to visit Italy by Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte for further strengthening the existing bilateral friendly relations between the two countries. The invitation was conveyed to Foreign Minister Dr A K Abdul Momen when he held a meeting with Manlio De Stefano Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Italy in Rome on Monday. The Bangladesh Foreign Minister who is now on a two-week Europe tour also met Executive Director of UN's World Food Programme David Beasley and its Executive Board President Ambassador Hisham Mohamed in Rome on the same day. While exchanging views, Dr Abdul Momen called upon international community including the United Nations to take urgent steps for mounting strong pressure on Myanmar to resolve the Rohingya crisis.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while addressing a press conference at AL president's political Dhanmondi office in Dhaka yesterday after a meeting on the upcoming council of the Sramik League urged the Jatiya Sramik League leaders to remain alert so that no controversial people can get portfolio in the upcoming committee. The AL General Secretary noted that the committee would be formed with the combination of young and old ones.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud has urged Bangladesh Betar to play a vital role in establishing social and human values among the country's people. The Minister made the call while addressing the inaugural session of a three-day ABU Radio Asia Conference and Radio Song Festival at Hotel Intercontinental in Dhaka yesterday. The present government is working to build a poverty- and corruption-free digital Bangladesh while Bangladesh Betar is playing a vital role in this regard, the Minister added. A total of 63 representatives from different countries are taking part in the radio meet, which is being held in Dhaka for the first time. With Information Secretary Abdul Malek in the chair, the inaugural function was also addressed by State Minister for Information Dr Murad Hasan.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque at a function at Health Directorate office in Dhaka yesterday distributed 15 jeeps among professors of medical colleges, five for mother and child care centers and five modernized ambulances for cardiac patients. The Minister speaking on the occasion said, the doctors should have the mentality to provide services at rural areas to ensure health care to the marginalized people.

Planning Minister M A Mannan has said, the practice of keeping block allocations for projects would be cancelled to check misuse of funds. The ministries and divisions used to keep block allocations for the projects to spend on entertainment and foreign trips, the Minister said this while briefing newsmen on the next national population and housing census project at the Planning Commission in Dhaka yesterday.

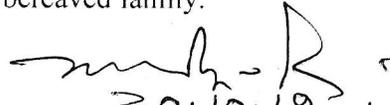
Russia has expressed interest to engage in launching country's second satellite Bangabandhu-2 and invest in telecommunication sector to keep on the digital Bangladesh campaign ahead. A five-member delegation led by Russian Ambassador Alexander I Ignatov showed their keenness as they met Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam at a meeting with D8 Secretary General Ambassador Jaafar Ku Shaari at foreign ministry in Dhaka yesterday said, Bangladesh would like to see a more effective and functional D8 for realising full potential of economic cooperation among its member states. The Secretary General briefed the State Minister about the preparation of upcoming 10th D8 Summit, scheduled to be held in Dhaka early next year.

Parliamentary Standing Committee Chairman on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs M Faruk Khan during his official visit to Bangkok yesterday met the President of the National Assembly of Thailand and the Speaker of the Thai House of Representatives Chuan Leekpai and sought support of the country for early, safe and sustainable repatriation of Rohingya people.

The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi, the anniversary of birth and demise of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (sm) will be observed on November 10 amid religious fervor and due solemnity across the country. The National Moon Sighting Committee came up with the decision at a meeting at Baitul Mukarram last evening.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of Alhaj Maqbul Ahmed, ex-labour affairs secretary of Dhaka City Awami League. In a condolence message, the Premier prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed profound sympathy to the bereaved family.


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