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News Brief

The cabinet has approved the draft of the Ridesharing Service Policy for legalizing the app-based transport services in major cities with the approval of BRTA. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina chaired the meeting at the PMO yesterday. The policy has been framed to regulate the app-based transport services with private cars, motor cycles, jeeps, minibuses and ambulances. Under the policy the fare of the ridesharing vehicles would not be more than the fare mentioned in the Taxicab Service Guideline. The policy also suggested that a ridesharing company must take enlistment certificate from the BRTA and must have VAT and TIN certificates and in case of private and public limited company it must follow the rules of the Company Act. The PM informed the meeting that Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company has discovered a new reserve of a significant amount of natural gas in Bhola. The new gas reserve is found in Bheduria union of Bhola district. It is estimated to have 600 billion cubic feet (bcf) natural gas in the reserve.

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed the 'Rajshahi Development Authority Bill, 2018' unanimously for building the city in a planned manner. Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain moved the Bill in the House aimed at planning, developing, renovating and expanding of Rajshahi town and its adjacent areas. Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam informed the house that Bangladesh has set a new record in overseas employment by sending more than 10 lakh workers in 2017. Bangladesh has been sending workers to 165 countries in the world and around 10,08,525 workers have already sent to different countries in 2017.

Former Indian President Pranab Mukherjee highly praised Bangladesh's stunning socioeconomic development under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina saying, Bangladesh is an attractive place for investment. Pranab Mukherjee's appreciation came when he met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Ganabhaban yesterday. During the call on the Prime Minister also highlighted Bangladesh's socioeconomic development mentioning that poverty rate has been brought down to 22 percent for various pragmatic steps taken by her government. Former Indian President Pranab Mukherjee also joined International Bangla Literature Conference at the premises of Bangla Academy in Dhaka as chief guest. In his address Mr Pranab appreciated Bangladesh as the protector of Bengali language through the historic Language Movement and achievement of its international recognition. He said, the people of the then East Bengal (now Bangladesh) gave their lives and blood to establish the rights of their mother tongue in the 1952 Language.

Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal has said, Bangladesh would soon set an example in the global economy if the present trend of advancement continues under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The Minister expressed such optimism when the Country Director of the Asian Development Bank Manmohan Parkash met him at his office yesterday. The ADB Country Director praised the fast progress of Bangladesh in different sectors and assured the expansion of the operations of ADB further in Bangladesh in the coming days.

Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam has urged the Mauritius government to recruit more workers from Bangladesh. He made the request when Labour, Industry and Employment and Training Affairs Minister Hon Soodesh Satkam Callichurn met him at his office yesterday. The Minister hoped that Bangladeshi workers will make good contribution to the economy of Mauritius if they are recruited. Hon Soodesh said, at present the highest number of 23,263 overseas workers in Mauritius are from Bangladesh.

Bangladesh beat Zimbabwe by eight wickets in the first ODI of the tri-nation series yesterday at Sher-e- Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka. Meanwhile, two youngsters of Bangladesh-Towhid Hridoy and Afif Hossain produced extraordinary performance as the Bangladesh U-19 Cricket Team outplayed Canada by 66 runs in their Group-C match of the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup at Bert Sutcliffe Oval in New Zealand yesterday.

DSEX, the core index of the Dhaka Stocks Exchange, settled yesterday at 6,059 points.

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