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News Brief

The Cabinet has approved the draft of a revised cyber security law incorporating the provisions of protecting the Critical Information Infrastructure and containing the cyber crimes. The approval was given at a cabinet meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday. The cabinet also gave final approval to the draft of seventeenth amendment of constitution to extend 50 reserve seats for women in parliament for 25 years. The meeting gave nod to the draft of a MoU for trilateral cooperation among ROSATOM of Russia, Ministry of Science and Technology of Bangladesh and Department of Atomic Energy of India to implement the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project in Bangladesh. The meeting also approved the draft of the 'National Skill Development Authority Act, 2018'.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, Bangladesh is facing massive socioeconomic and demographic pressure due to the presence of a huge number of Rohingyas. The PM said this when newly-appointed Swedish Ambassador in Dhaka Charlotta Schlyter called on her at her Office yesterday. During the meeting, the PM spelled out her government's various initiatives for the welfare of the workers.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to visit Sylhet today. Her visit to Sylhet will begin through offering Ziarat at the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal in the city. She is expected to inaugurate 14 development projects and lay foundation stones of 24 others during her visit to Sylhet. She is expected to address a public rally there.

Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury has said, government has so far ensured livelihood of 38,010 families under Asrayan project at 171 upazilas in last eight years. The Minister said this while responding to a query at the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday. The coverage of safe drinking water in the rural area increased to 88 percent from the earlier 82 percent, LGRD Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossen informed the House. State Minister for Youth and Sports Dr Biren Sikder apprised the House that Bangladesh Cricket Board spent a total of Taka 1,207.3 crore from its own fund for holding cricket event in the country during the last eight fiscal years.

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith indicated that universal pension scheme would be included in the next national budget. The Minister told reporters this after a pre-budget dialogue in Dhaka yesterday.

The government yesterday constituted the 9th Wage Board headed by Justice Nizamul Huq to enhance salary of newsmen and employees in newspapers and news agencies. On the occasion, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu will brief media at PID at 2pm today.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan has said, collective efforts of all stakeholders are essentially needed to effectively fight militancy. He said this while launching an anti-militancy campaign at RAB media centre in Dhaka yesterday.

A Memorandum of Cooperation-MoC has been signed between Bangladesh and Japan on sending Bangladeshi technical interns in Tokyo. Acting Secretary of the Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry Dr Nomita Hawlader and her Japanese counterparts signed the MoC in Tokyo yesterday. Under the MoC, skilled and semi-skilled Bangladeshi technical interns will get opportunity to receive training in the fields of 77 professions in Japan.

Some 3.17 lakh new subscribers started using internet in December last pushing the total internet users of the country to 8.04 crore, BTRC said yesterday. The data showed that over half of the population is now using internet while mobile phone users are almost near cent percent.

Bangladesh Industrial and Technical Assistant Centre would develop 100 high-tech entrepreneurs by next five years for establishing knowledge-based industrial development. This was revealed at a seminar titled 'Technology for Sustainable Growth' held at the Ministry of Industries.

DSEX, benchmark index of Dhaka Stock Exchange settled yesterday at 6,176 points.

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