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**News Brief**

The holy month of Ramadan began in the country today as the new moon was sighted yesterday evening. The decision was taken at the moon sighting committee meeting with State Minister for Religious Affairs Sheikh Md. Abdullah in the chair in Dhaka last evening. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages greeting the countrymen and all Muslims across the world marking the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan.

Prime Minster Sheikh Hasina has asked the ministries concerned to work together in a coordinated way to rehabilitate the cyclone affected people.The Premier, who is now in London on an official visit, asked the ministries to work in unison in carrying out post-Fani rehabilitation activities. The ministries concerned held a meeting at Prime Minister Office in the capital yesterday to review the overall rehabilitation activities taken since the Fani hit the country following the order of the Prime Minister. Prime Minister’s Principal Secretary Md. Nojibur Rahman presided over the meeting.

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Dr. Md. Enamur Rahman has said, the government is building two lakh disaster proof houses for those who were affected by different calamities across the country. The State Minister said this while distributing relief materials among the disaster affected families at Lalpur upazilla in Natore yesterday.

The results of SSC and equivalent examinations-2019 under 10 education boards were published yesterday. Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni while announcing the results informed that pass rate of the examinations is 82.20 percent. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has greeted the students who succeeded in examinations. The Premier has also advised the students who failed in the examinations to take further preparation with patience and hard work as they could pass the next exams with good results.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal has said, the government adopted a zero tolerance policy against drugs. Illegal drugs traders who would surrender would be given chances, but stern action would be taken against the remaining drug traders, the Minister added. The Minister said this as he was addressing a function arranged to destroy illegal drugs seized by Border Guard Bangladesh in Chuadanga yesterday.

Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka Riva Ganguly Das has expressed her country’s keen interest to invest more in Bangladesh’s various sectors including power, energy and LNG. The new Indian High Commissioner expressed such interest when she paid a courtesy call on Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal at his ERD office in Dhaka yesterday.

Additional Inspector General of Police Rowshan Ara Begum has been killed in a road crash on a United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo yesterday. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have condoled the death of Rowshan Ara Begum.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen yesterday in a message to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov expressed his heartfelt condolences at the loss of lives at the Russian aircraft crash. The Minister also prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. Forty-one people died after a Russian passenger plane made an emergency landing resulting in a huge fire and black smoke at Moscow’s busiest airport on Sunday.

A total of 1,800 meters of the Padma Bridge became visible as its 12th span was installed yesterday. Quoting Padma Multipurpose Bridge sources media informed, the span was placed between the pillars 20 and 21 of the bridge at about 12 noon yesterday.

The High Court has banned broadcasting any kind of commercials in news segments of the television channels. A High Court division yesterday during hearing on a writ filed in this regard asked all the television channels to comply with the order from September 1.

Bangladesh will take on the West Indies to kick-off their tri-nation series campaign at the Castle Avenue in Dublin today.

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