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**News Brief**

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will leave Dhaka this afternoon for Dalian of China to attend the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum to be held there. During the five day long visit, the Bangladesh Premier will hold bilateral talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang in Beijing. Repatriation of Rohingyas is expected to be highlighted in the talks.

 The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed the Tk 5,23,190 crore national budget for the fiscal year 2019-20, themed as ‘Bangladesh on a Pathway to Prosperity: Time is Ours, Time for Bangladesh’. Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal moved the Appropriations Bill, 2019 seeking a budgetary allocation of Tk 6,42,478.27 crore which was passed by voice vote.

 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joined a post-budget dinner hosted by Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka last evening. The Prime Minister exchanged pleasantries with the guests which included Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, cabinet members, MPs and other noted personalities.

 Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni while taking part in the cut-motion on allocation for fund under the appropriation bill of 2019-20 fiscal laid emphasis on quality assessment of the MPO-listed non-government educational institutions. Meanwhile, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq responding to a question in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday said, the government will modernise all the offices of sub-registrars across the country.

 Japan will provide Bangladesh with Taka 11,000 crore for the Matarbari Ultra Super Critical Coal-Fired Power Project at Moheshkhali in Cox’s Bazaar. Economic Relations Division Secretary Monowar Ahmed signed Exchange of Notes and loan agreement to this end with Japan Ambassador to Bangladesh Hiroyasu Izmi and JICA Chief Representative Hitoshi Hirata at ERD in Dhaka yesterday.

 Japanese Minister of State for Environment Minoru Kiuchi called on State Minister for Water Resources Zaheed Farooque at his office in Dhaka yesterday. While exchanging views, they agreed to work closely to ensure an efficient water management system sharing expertise.

 Chief of Army Staff General Aziz Ahmed who was visiting Central African Republic to see Bangladesh's engagement in the UN Peacekeeping Mission there paid a courtesy call on the country's Defence Adviser Thomas Theophile Tchimangoua and Army Chief Mamadou Zephirin on Saturday. During the meeting, the Defence Adviser and the Army Chief of Central African Republic requested the Bangladesh Army Chief to extend training cooperation to newly formed army of the country. The Bangladesh Army Chief cordially accepted the proposal.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl Robert Miller leading a 6- member delegation visited Baluchali-Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar yesterday. During the visit, the US Envoy talked to the Rohingya leaders.

 World Bank’s new Country Director for Bangladesh Mercy Miyang Tembon is going to join Dhaka Office today.In a statement on the occasion, the new Country Director has appreciated progress achieved in various sectors in Bangladesh.

 Bangladesh is likely to improve its position significantly in the World Bank’s global Ease of Doing Business Index in 2020 as the government has made impressive progress in most of the indicators in recent days. BIDA made the prediction saying Bangladseh has made a commendable progress in 8 indicators out of 10 by April this year. Bangladesh is currently ranked 176th among 190 countries in the World Bank’s Doing Business Report 2019, BIDA added.

 The University of Dhaka is going to celebrate its 98th founding day today. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the eve of the day.

 The Forest Department has imposed a 65-day ban on fishing in all canals in the Sundarbans from July 1 to August 31 to ensure safe breeding and preservation of fish and other aquatic animals.

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