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### News Brief

The Cabinet has approved in principle the draft of 'The Mongla Port Authority Act, 2019' enhancing fine and jail term for environment pollution. The approval was given at a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at PMO yesterday. The Cabinet also approved the draft of the National School Meal Policy, 2019 setting a target to bring 1.5 crore students of 66,000 government primary schools across the country under universal midday meal coverage by 2023. The Cabinet also approved two separate proposals to form a company titled 'Start Up Bangladesh Limited' to create more entrepreneurs in the country's ICT sector and a joint venture company titled 'Bangladesh Power Equipment Manufacturing Company Limited' in partnership with the state-run Rural Power Company Limited and Chinese private company Shenzhen Star Instrument Company Ltd. The Cabinet also approved the draft of 'The Chandpur Science and Technology University Act', 2019, Neuro-Developmental Disabilities Related Integrated/Special Education Policy 2019, and Non Neuro-Developmental Disabilities Related Integrated/Special Education Policy 2019. At the beginning of the meeting, the Prime Minister unveiled a book of poetry titled 'Swapno Panshi' written by Science and Technology Minister Yafes Osman. The Prime Minister will inaugurate third Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner 'Gangchil' on August 22.

The visiting Indian External Affairs Minister will visit the Bangabandhu Museum at Dhanmondi this morning to pay respect to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and will hold a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen today. He is scheduled to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today. Earlier, Dr. S Jaishankar arrived in Dhaka yesterday. The Bangladesh Foreign Minister received his Indian counterpart at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

As the repatriation of the forcibly displaced Rohingya people staying in Cox's Bazar begins on August 22, ten teams comprising representatives of the UNHCR and the Bangladesh government have started counselling the selected 3,399 Rohingyas in their respective camps asking them to express their voluntariness for returning to Myanmar.

Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal while addressing 'Global Programming Conference' being organised by Global Climate Fund from 19-23 August at Songdo, Incheon city of South Korea has called for involving stakeholders from initial stages of the climate projects for effective output. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal who is now visiting South Korea, at a views exchanging meeting with Bangladeshi expatriates in Seoul on Sunday said, the government will introduce e-passport in time. The government is considering to extend more facilities to remittance senders through proper channel, the Minister added.

DNCC will start its combing operation this morning to destroy Aedes mosquito and its breeding grounds while the DSCC strengthened the cleanliness drive from yesterday. DGHS said, some 88 per cent dengue patients have gone home from hospitals after recovering from dengue fever as the number of new cases registered a fall. The information was based on their data suggesting that 48,024 dengue patients were released from hospitals across the country till August 19. DGHS also said, 1,615 new dengue patients were admitted to different hospitals in the past 24 hours from 8:00 am on Sunday till 8:00 am on Monday. Among them, 757 were infected in Dhaka.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while distributing relief materials among the fire affected people Of Chalandika slum at Mirpur in Dhaka yesterday said, the government will provide all support along with relief materials until completion of rehabilitation of the fire affected people.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud at a press briefing at Prime Minister's political office in Dhanmondi yesterday said, the government is investigating the matter to find out anybody guilty for price fall of rawhide. The Minister also said, the number of sacrificial animals has been increased two to three times now as people's economic condition became better over the last ten years. But, due to restriction of compliance executed by the government for environmental protection, the number of tanneries was not increased.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq while addressing a programme marking 44th martyrdom anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the National Mourning Day at Tejgaon in Dhaka said, the government in principle agreed to form a commission to identify the perpetrators behind the killing of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

NBR issued a work order on Sunday to collect 10,000 Electronic Fiscal Device (EFD) to check VAT evasion at the retail and wholesale levels as part of the plan to collect one lac EFDs. The EFDs will be installed at 25 types of businesses.

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