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News Brief

The Cabinet yesterday approved the draft of Family Court Act, 2022 aiming to replace an ordinance of the military regime with some minor changes. The approval came from the regular meeting of the Cabinet held at meeting room of the Cabinet Division. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina chaired the meeting, joining virtually from her official residence Ganabhaban. The draft law was placed in the meeting in order to replace the Family Court Ordinance, 1985 as per the directives of the High Court. As per the proposed law, the government can consider not only the court of district judges but also the courts of other judges equivalent to the district judges as appellate courts for such cases. Besides, the draft of Bangladesh Dairy Development Board Act, 2022 was placed in the meeting with a view to ensuring the quality of dairy milks through providing technical support and cooling storage facilities to the farmers for proper preservation of improved feeds for the animals. The draft law was sent back with some observations to assess whether there is any duplication of other related laws through consultation of all stakeholders within the next two months. The Cabinet also cleared a proposed agreement to be signed between Bangladesh and Brazil immediately so that the diplomats and officials of the two countries can visit each other's country with just on-arrival visas.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said, her government would materialise the electoral pledges and thus give the people an improved and better life, urging all to work together to build a prosperous and developed country maintaining continuation of ongoing development. She said this while addressing a function at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka to mark signing of the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) for FY 2022-23 by the ministries and divisions. She joined the function virtually from her official Ganabhaban residence. The PM said, the government has transformed Bangladesh into a developing country in 2021 while the nation celebrated twin mega events, birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and 50 years of the country's Liberation War, in accordance with the Awami League's election manifesto of 2008. She said, her government is now working tirelessly to change the fate of the countrymen after giving them an improved and better life by making Bangladesh into a developed and prosperous country free from poverty and hunger by 2041. The government has been implementing a perspective plan for 2021-2041 to pursue the target, she added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her gratitude to the countrymen for standing beside her in building the Padma Multipurpose Bridge, saying all credit goes to the people of Bangladesh for its construction. The Premier said this while speaking at the beginning of the Cabinet meeting held at the Secretariat. She chaired the meeting virtually from her official residence Ganabhaban. The PM said, the construction of Padma Multipurpose Bridge, which opened for traffic on June 25, is a huge milestone in changing the destiny of the people of Bangladesh. She also mentioned that the construction of the Padma Bridge is a history. She said, those who were involved here, especially the finance minister, finance secretary and others, none was stingy, rather they made it easier in accumulating money to build the bridge by own. Regarding the construction of the bridge, the Premier said, the war started in 2012 and it is not possible to say how much slander, how many things have been done against it (to stop the construction of the Padma Bridge). The PM recalled the time when she announced that the Padma Bridge will be constructed with own money without taking it from anyone.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday issued a directive, saying that no cattle market will be allowed on roads and highways ahead of the upcoming Eid-ul-Adha. He issued the directive while virtually addressing a preparatory meeting at the conference room of Road Transport and Highways Division in the Secretariat, marking the upcoming Eid-ul-Adha to be celebrated in the country on July 10. Cattle markets of sacrificial animals on roads and highways and transportation of the animals by unfit vehicles will not be allowed in any way, he said. Mr. Quader instructed the concerned people to take necessary steps so that no one can transport the sacrificial animals in unfit vehicles and said it should be strictly monitored at the boarding points and every district administration and highway police should remain alert in this regard. He said, toll booths at the Toll Plazas of expressway, Padma Bridge, Bangabandhu Bridge, Meghna Bridge and Gomti Bridge should be increased, considering the extra pressure on the roads and bridges as many vehicles will carry sacrificial animals through the roads and the bridges. Noting that rains would be a challenge for this Eid, he said all stakeholders should work in coordination to overcome the challenges like slow-speed vehicles, transporting animals in unfit vehicles, roadside cattle markets and corona infections.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday said, the people get annoyed with BNP for different reasons as the party doesn't do politics over public issues. He said this to the media while replying to journalists at his ministry's meeting room at the Secretariat. BNP doesn't speak for people. They only talk about Khaleda Zia's health condition and Tarique Rahman's punishment. They hurl petrol bombs on people. As a politician I get hurt witnessing such acts of BNP, he said. Earlier, the minister joined a discussion with Bangladesh Editors Forum.

Agriculture Minister Dr M Abdur Razzaque said, the mango festival has been organized here aiming to take Bangladeshi mangoes at the world market including Europe. Bangladeshi mangoes are very much tasty and having its huge export potentiality, said the minister while inaugurating mango festival at Bangladesh Pavilion Netherlands yesterday. Mango festival will make our mangoes popular and would create an export opportunity, he said. Earlier, the minister joined an international horticulture exhibition where Bangladesh day was observed through celebrating colourful programmes. The programme began through hoisting Bangladesh national flag and presenting national anthem yesterday.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen yesterday urged the authority of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) to take prompt steps for checking passengers' hassle through reducing the luggage handling time. The FM made the remark at the HSIA airport as he arrived after wrapping up his Europe tour. He said, the expatriate Bangladeshis have been contributing to the country's economy by their hard earning remittance, but they have to wait hours to get their luggage upon their arrival at the airport here. After arriving at the airport, the minister went to the luggage belts and found that passengers were waiting there for nearly two hours to get their baggage. After talking with the passengers, he called the HSIA director and directed him to take immediate measures to reduce luggage handling time. Similarly, he said steps need to be taken to reduce all kinds of hassles of the expatriate Bangladeshis at the country's international airports. Later, the FM made a phone call to State Minister for Aviation and Tourism M Mahub Ali while the junior minister assured him to take steps for further improving the airport services. He thanked the state minister for easing the luggage scanning system at the HSIA.

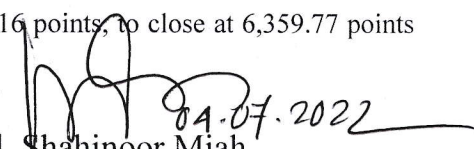
State Minister for Information and Communication Technology Junaid Ahmed Palak yesterday said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has not only ensured women's empowerment but also secured their financial prosperity. Palak said this at a tri-annual conference of the district branch of Bangladesh Juba Mahila League, Natore. He said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has made arrangements for direct election of women representatives in every Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad and Zila Parishad so that the elected representatives can play a role in empowering women in those areas. She has increased the number of reserved women MPs in the Parliament to 50, he added.

Sweden and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh will be continuing their partnership to create economic opportunities for ultra-poor rural women in the country. A cost-sharing agreement was signed to this end at the Swedish Embassy office in Dhaka yesterday to extend the Swedish embassy and UNDP Bangladesh's flagship project 'Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities (SWAPNO II)' until 2025. Sudipto Mukerjee, Resident Representative of UNDP Bangladesh; and Christine Johansson, Charg, d'Affaires, Embassy of Sweden in Dhaka; signed the cost-sharing agreement on behalf of their respective sides aiming to sustain their journey of empowering underprivileged women in Bangladesh. In the earlier phase, the project has aided economically disadvantaged women in developing their talents, linking them to services and the local market, and ensuring their financial inclusion. Realising the success, the Embassy of Sweden has come forward to uplift 10,000 extremely poor and vulnerable women from 10 poverty-prone and climate-vulnerable districts from poverty. According to the latest independent evaluation report of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), SWAPNO empowers women in a way that has far-reaching implications in terms of facilitating distressed women's active engagement in local development activities and offering social support and recognition.

Water levels at 57 river stations monitored by Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) have marked rise while 50 stations recorded fall. Among the 109 monitored river stations, two have been registered steady while water levels at five stations are flowing above the danger level, a bulletin issued by the FFWC said yesterday. The Surma at Kanaighat, the Kushiara at Amalshid and Sheola, the Old Surma at Derai, and the Someswari at Kalmakanda are flowing above the danger level by 47cm, 59 cm, 08cm, 06cm and 17 cm respectively.

Bangladesh yesterday reported two Covid-19 deaths while it recorded 1,902 coronavirus positive cases during the period. Bangladesh reported 15.53 percent Covid-19 positive cases as 12,246 samples were tested in the last 24 hours, a daily statement of Directorate General of Health Services said.

DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, lost 0.26 per cent, or 17.16 points, to close at 6,359.77 points yesterday after gaining 76 points in the previous four sessions.


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