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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, the government ensures equal opportunities for the womenfolk in various sectors to empower them. The Premier was speaking at a function arranged by Ministry of Women and Children Affairs on the occasion of International Women's Day, 2019 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday. The PM in her address referred to the government initiatives to empower women in politics and said, one-third seats have been reserved for women in the local body elections such as unions, upazilas and municipalities.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has said, there is no alternative to developing skilled manpower to face the growing global challenges. The Speaker said this while speaking International Skills Conference-2019 arranged by Education Ministry at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen speaking at the function mentioned that Bangladesh has more than five million expatriate workers with sending about 16 billion US Dollars as remittance every year.

Ailing Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, who is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Singapore, can talk to his family members and doctors as his health condition has improved further. Doctors said, Obaidul Quader would be shifted to a cabin from the ICU within one or two days once he overcomes his physical weakness.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, Bangladesh with having no liability is one of the worst affected countries and an innocent victim of the climate change. The Minister said this at the '2nd International Conference on Climate Finance 2019' in Dhaka yesterday.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal reiterated that the government is firm to eradicate drug abuse at any cost. The Minister said this at an anti-narcotics rally at BG Press field of Tejgaon in the capital yesterday. Referring to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's zero tolerance policy against drug abuse, the Minister stressed the need for increasing mass awareness against narcotics.

Housing and Public Works Minister S M Rezaul Karim has said, the government is taking various initiatives to build Purbachal as a modern city. The Minister said this to the journalists after visiting different projects of Purbachal in the capital yesterday.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi has said, fair prices of essential commodities would be ensured by establishing competition in the market. The Minister said this while addressing a seminar on the role of Bangladesh Competition Commission at CIRDAP Auditorium in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister said, the government would not give any scope to any syndicate to increase the prices of essential commodities by hoarding rather it would ensure the demand and supply chain ratio for fair price.

The 5th Upazila Parishad Elections begins in the country today with balloting in 80 upazilas in 12 districts under four divisions in the first phase. The polling is being held from 8 am to 4 pm without any break. General holiday has been announced for today in the respective upazilas on the occasion of the election.

The World Bank has approved a US\$165 million grant to help Bangladesh provide basic services and build social resilience for the Rohingyas. The grant to be provided through the 'Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response Project' would also help build and rehabilitate basic infrastructure.

National Board of Revenue has decided to make easier the process of cash refund of income tax up to Tk 25,000 to enhance the confidence of small taxpayers. The step was taken following recommendations by a committee of NBR to simplify the procedures so that taxpayers can easily get back excess tax deposited by them.

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