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News brief

The Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that the government has undertaken a plan to construct two new airports apart from modernization of the existing Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. The Prime Minister said, Nippon Koei Co. Ltd. is conducting the feasibility study of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib International Airport at Madaripur while land acquisition is going on for Khan Jahan Ali Airport at Bagerhat.

The Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told the young generation to learn the history of the Language Movement. She said this at a discussion at Krishibid Institution of Bangladesh in Dhaka. The Prime Minister recalled the contributions of the martyrs with deep respect. She called on the students to learn Bangla first then other languages for their better careers.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said there will be no crisis of gas in the country after 2018. The Finance Minister said this in the opening session of the 50 years celebration program of Sylhet Chamber. The Minister said the present government has been establishing an IT city in Sylhet's Companyganj.

Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu yesterday said the government has taken steps to improve the working environment in the ship recycling sector to ensure workers' safety. The Minister was speaking at the closing session of a workshop arranged by the Industries Ministry at a city hotel on its Safe and Environmentally Sound Ship Recycling/SENSREC Project. In another occasion, at the inaugural session of a conference jointly organized by MIST and BUET, Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu yesterday said the present government is patronizing setting up of environment friendly and energy saving industries.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday said, the government is sincere in facilitating the efforts for making housing affordable for the general public. He said this while addressing an award-giving ceremony for journalists at CIRDAP auditorium in the capital. The Minister also said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had declared a project titled 'One family, One house by 2021'.

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday told Parliament that Dhaka South City Corporation plans to arrange overseas jobs for hawkers as part of their rehabilitation. The Minister said, the city corporation has also decided to help hawkers if anyone is interested to join any government and private organisations as a class four worker.

Information Minister Hasanul Huq Inu yesterday said, reforms in education, showing equal honor to all irrespective of creed and color, shunning bribes in economy and practicing democracy within the parties will take the country forward and fill the cultural dearth. He said this while speaking at a mass lecture on 'Cultural Dearth and Darkness in Progression' at National Museum auditorium in the city.

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan yesterday said maritime sector is playing an important role in country's economic development. He said this while speaking as the chief guest at the passing out ceremony of the 6th batch of pre-sea cadets at International Maritime Academy at Pubail. The Shipping Minister said as per the directive of the Prime Minister, the marine academies are taking 20 female cadets for every batch since 2012.

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) in its Review Economic Situation in Bangladesh (October-December 2016 period) said all major economic indicators have been showing steady improvements. It said the agriculture sector performed well, but continuous government support with inputs and finance will be needed to sustain the sector's growth.

The country's stock markets continued uptrend yesterday on higher transactions of large cap securities. The broader price index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) finished yesterday at 5625.84 points.

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