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### Newsbrief

President Mohammed Shahabuddin asked the Information Commission Bangladesh (ICB) to be more active so that no one is subjected to any harassment to get information. The President came up with the directive as a four-member ICB delegation handed over the "Information Commission's Annual Report 2023" to him at the Bangabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The four-member delegation led by Chief Information Commissioner Dr. Abdul Malek submitted the "Information Commission Annual Report 2023" to the President.

Meanwhile, The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), handed over its 'Annual Report 2023' to President Mohammed Shahabuddin at Bangabhaban yesterday. A 10-member delegation led by NHRC Chairman Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed handed over the report to the President. The other delegation members include Md. Selim Reza, Md. Aminul Islam, Kongjari Chowdhury, Dr. Biswajit Chandra, Dr. Tania Haque and Advocate Kawsar Ahmed. Later, President's Secretary Md. Joynal Abedin briefed the journalists.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sought further robust support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to expedite Bangladesh's endeavor for its people's socioeconomic development as ADB Vice President Fatima Yasmin called on her at her official residence Ganabhaban yesterday. The Prime called upon the ADB Vice President to take up more people-centric projects so that a large number of people could get benefit. Fatima Yasmin said, Bangladesh is a top priority country for the ADB and since 2009 to 2023 and ADB support to Bangladesh has increased by five times to US\$ 3.4 billion.

Later, Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina yesterday greeted Leader of the Opposition GM Quader, Deputy Leader Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud and former Leader of the Opposition Begum Raushan Ershad on the occasion of the forthcoming holy Eid-ul-Fitr and Bangla New Year-1431. PM's protocol officer-2 Md. Abu Zafar Raju handed over the cards to Private Secretaries to the leaders.

Liberation War Affairs Minister and Chairman of Cabinet Committee on Law and Order AKM Mozammel Haque said, the government may temporarily suspend services of social media giants including Facebook and YouTube if they don't obey government instructions to spread 'disinformation'. The Minister disclosed the matter to the media after holding a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order at the Secretariat yesterday.

Awami League (AL) General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, the government is watching whether BUET is being made a hub of ill politics and militants. The AL leader said this while addressing a view exchange meeting with party leaders of Chattogram division at the AL district office in capital's Tejgaon area yesterday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is showing 'zero tolerance' against all irregularities, injustice and corruption and the government is marching ahead following the policy. No one was spared for the killing of Abrar while the verdict has been pronounced over the Biswajit killing, the Minister added.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Professor Dr. Samanta Lal Sen said, UNICEF wants to extend its cooperation for improving healthcare of children. The Minister made the comments when Chief of Health of UNICEF Bangladesh Maya Vandenant and UNICEF Representative Sheldon Yett paid courtesy call on Health and Family Welfare Minister Professor Dr. Samanta Lal Sen officials at the Health Ministry yesterday. UNICEF also will focus on maternal health for improving child health in Bangladesh, the Health Minister added.

Finance Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali said, the shortage of foreign currency has eradicated a lot in the country due to the high flow of inward remittances alongside increasing of export earnings. The Minister said this while talking at a pre-budget meeting with the members of the Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF) at the Finance Ministry at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday.

The Cabinet Committee on Law and Order recommended extending the Eid-ul-Fitr holiday by one day to make the journey of homebound people smooth. After holding a meeting in the conference room of the Ministry of Home Affairs at the secretariat yesterday, Minister for Liberation War Affairs and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order AKM Mozammel Haque told media that the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order has recommended one more holiday on April 9. The Minister said, this recommendation will be presented in today's cabinet meeting to decide whether the holiday can be extended by one day or not.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury said, 20-year old buses, which have exceeded their economic life, should be withdrawn from the city streets aiming to check air pollution. The Minister told at a view-exchange meeting with Transport Owners Association at his Ministry at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday. The budget allocation for pollution control in government development projects should be spent to implement the pollution control activities, the Minister added.

Land Minister Narayan Chandra Chanda called for working together to prevent corruption in land service by building a social movement against corruption and taking coordinated initiatives. The Minister said this while addressing as the chief guest at a view exchange meeting with stakeholders, aimed at establishing good governance in land services, at Gopalganj Zila Parishad auditorium yesterday.

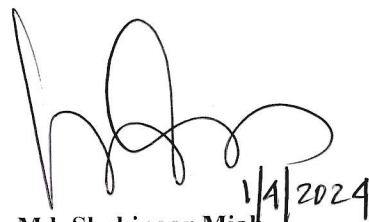
State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mohammad Ali Arafat, now on a visit to Bhutan at the invitation of Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, attended the unveiling ceremony of Bangabandhu's book 'Unfinished Memories' translated into Bhutanese language Dzongkha. The book 'Unfinished Memories' written by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Bangla has been translated into Dzongkha language under the initiative of Bangladesh Embassy in Thimphu and under the leadership of Commissioner of Bhutan's research institution Center for Bhutan Studies (CBS) and renowned Bhutanese writer Dasho Karma Ura. Thimphu's PT Printing published the translated book, according to press release yesterday.

State Minister for Commerce Ahsanul Islam Titu said, currently import of sugar from India is not needed as the essential item has a good supply in the local markets. The State Minister said this speaking this at a press conference after a meeting with the stakeholders of the task force committee on prices of essential commodities held at the Ministry of Commerce yesterday.

Diesel and kerosene will now be sold at Taka 106 per litre down by Taka 2.25 from the previous rate of Taka 108.25 as the government set the automated retail prices of gasoline for the month of April yesterday. However, the prices of octane and petrol will remain unchanged. The Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) issued a gazette notification in this regard yesterday.

The 80th birth anniversary of veteran freedom fighter, first elected Mayor of undivided Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and former President of Dhaka City Awami League Mohammad Hanif will be observed today in a befitting manner. Marking the day, Mayor Mohammad Hanif Memorial Foundation will organise a doa and milad mahfil and offer ziarat at the grave of Hanif.

DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), went up by 51.37 points or 0.89 per cent to settle at 5,829.70 yesterday.



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