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Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
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Newsbrief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked the authorities concerned to promote the domestic sports of the country side by side other games. The Prime Minister said, whenever she came in the power, she tried to encourage children more in sports. "Because, sports provide physical and mental strength to human beings as well as teach discipline, obedience and patriotism," she added. The Premier was addressing the prize distribution ceremony of Bangabandhu Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament-2023 and Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament-2023 at the Army Stadium in the capital yesterday.

Speaker of Parliament Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said, there will be a time when women will be elected to direct seats and not to reserved seats. Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury also said, the current government is women friendly. Women are moving forward and it is visible in different parts of the state due to the right decision of the Prime Minister. Speaker said this in the "National Aparajita Conference", organized by Aparajita Network, which was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday.

Awami League (AL) General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, their party will keep stopped holding conferences and forming committees at all levels during the upcoming upazila parishad elections. The Minister also said, the close relatives of the Ministers and party lawmakers who want to take part in polls in future have also been asked to stay away from polls. The Minister said this in a press conference at AL President's Dhanmondi political office in the capital yesterday.

Foreign Minister also Joint General Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League (AL) Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, BNP is claiming that the jailed criminals and those who are being arrested everyday for terror acts are their workers. Police and law-enforcing agencies are arresting only those, who are accused of specific criminal charges that include arson terrorism, grenade attack, firearms smuggling and corruption, he added. Dr. Hasan said this to the reporters after inaugurating the month-long 14th International Women's SME Expo-2024, organized by Chattogram Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry at city's Railway Pologround in Chattogram yesterday.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Muhammad Faruk Khan directed Biman Bangladesh Airlines to make an immediate contact with Boeing, as a former engineer of the US aircraft maker recently urged to ground all Boeing 787 model planes fearing manufacturing fault. Minister gave the directive over telephone to Shafiul Azim, managing director and CEO of Biman that has four Boeing 787-8 and two 787-9 in its fleet, a press release said in the capital yesterday.

Religious Affairs Minister Md Faridul Haque Khan said, the government has reduced the cost of general hajj package compared to the last year despite the high price of dollar. The Minister also said, the government is working so that the pilgrims can perform the hajj at a fair cost. The government is also working to ease the official works of pilgrims and it (government) is determined to provide best service to them. The Minister said this while inaugurating 'Hajj pilgrims training 2024' at Osmani Smriti Auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Samanta Lal Sen said, the government will fix diagnostic test fees at all private hospitals by formulating the Health Protection Act. Minister said this while visiting Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Memorial KPJ Specialized Hospital in Gazipur city yesterday, local media reported. It will be activated further to ensure that the common people can access enhanced services, he added.

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mohammad Ali Arafat said, the government wants to create a space for journalists to allow them to work in a free, fair and congenial environment. The State Minister also said, the fair journalism practices will actually benefit the pro-liberation forces to fight against extremism, militancy and communal politics as well as falsehood and disinformation upon which the politics

of anti-liberation forces is based on. He said this at the 'Meet the Reporters' programme, organized by the Dhaka Reporters' Unity at its Nasrul Hamid Auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid said, coordination between the power transmission and distribution systems is being made rapidly to ensure uninterrupted supply. The State Minister said this while visiting Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd (APSCL) in Ashuganj yesterday. Nasrul Hamid also said, the government is determined to provide uninterrupted power even if the demand increases.

The government signed a US\$71 million loan agreement titled "Loan 4440-BAN: Climate-Resilient Integrated Southwest Project for Water Resources Management" with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for ensuring climate resilient water resources management. The Project will be implemented by Bangladesh Water Development Board under the Ministry of Water Resources, said an ERD press release in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh reported no more COVID-19 related deaths while there are 12 fresh cases in the past 24 hours till Saturday morning, Directorate General of Health Services reported in a press release yesterday.

Bangladesh reported no more Dengue related deaths and 17 fresh cases in the past 24 hours till Saturday morning, Directorate General of Health Services said in a press release yesterday.



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