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## Newsbrief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, her government will give special stimulus package for conducting medical research, asking physicians to pay more attention to research on the health sector. The Prime Minister made the remarks while distributing cheques of "Bangabandhu Science and Technology Fellowship," "National Science and Technology (NST) Fellowship" and special research donations among teachers, scientists, researchers and students of different universities. The Science and Technology Ministry organised the function at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in Dhaka yesterday.

Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, BNP would further become isolated if the party stages any political programme or movement instead of maintaining the sanctity of the holy Ramadan. The Minister told reporters after a meeting of Secretaries of the Awami League (AL) at its central office in the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday.

Bangladesh announced Offshore Bidding 2024 to accelerate oil and gas exploration. A press conference, organized by the Energy and Mineral Resources Division on "Oil and Natural Gas Exploration Under Bangladesh Offshore Bidding Round 2024", was held at Petrobangla Auditorium in Dhaka yesterday. Prime Minister's Advisor on Electricity, Energy and Mineral Resources, Taufiq-e-Ilahi Chowdhury was present at the press conference as the chief guest where State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid attended as the special guest.

Foreign Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud sought Belarush support in the process of making Bangladesh as the observer of Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) as well as for signing the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC). He made the appeal while visiting Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus Evgeny Shestakov paid a call on him at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka yesterday. During the meeting, the Bangladesh Foreign Minister also urged Belarusian businessmen and entrepreneurs to invest in the Economic Zones and Special Economic Zones and High-tech Parks of Bangladesh. Both side expressed satisfaction over the current status of bilateral relations between the two countries and expressed hope that in the coming day's bilateral relations will be further strengthened and deepened.

Finance Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali said, the next national budget for the FY25 would put higher emphasis on employment generation while efforts to carry out reforms in different fields are needed to be continued. The Minister was talking to reporters after holding a long pre-budget meeting for the FY25 with the country's renowned economists at the State Guest House Padma last night.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Press Secretary and former Managing Director and Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Ihsanul Karim. Anisul Huq in a message of condolence prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Samanta Lal Sen called for reaching health services to the marginalized people lessen the gradually mounting pressure on the hospitals. The Health Minister came up with the observation while talking to the newsmen after emerging from a meeting with administration, doctors and others concerned at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) in Rajshahi yesterday. Work of the medical college and hospital isn't only providing health services but also conducting academic and research activities, the Health Minister added.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Md. Abdur Rahman said, the government will take initiative to restrict manufacture of all illegal fishing nets including monofilament fishing net or current net aiming to increase fisheries output in the natural fisheries habitats across the country. The Minister came up with this remarks while inaugurating Jatka conservation week-2024 at Molehead of Sadar Upazila in Chandpur yesterday.

Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury stressed the need for effectively dealing with environment and forest related complaints, lodged by aggrieved persons. The Minister asked the authorities concerned to take proper steps to enhance the system and address complaints, received through the national hotline number 333-4. The Minister also called for regular monitoring of grievance redress system, ensuring swift resolution and subsequent evaluation of complainants' satisfaction.

The holy month of Ramadan of 1445 Hijri begins in the country today. The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee at the conference room of Islamic Foundation (IF) at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in Dhaka yesterday. Religious Affairs Minister and National Moon Sighting Committee President Faridul Haque Khan presided over the meeting.

Highlighting the ethnic history and cultural ties between Bangladesh and Thailand, Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun said, the two countries should work together to explore more bilateral business ventures. The Minister said this while holding a meeting with Thai Envoy to Bangladesh Makawadee Sumitmor at his Ministry in the capital yesterday.

As many as 179 members of the Myanmar Border Guard Police (BGP) fled to Bangladesh and took shelter again on Monday amid the ongoing conflict between the ruling junta and the armed rebel group along the international border. Shariful Islam, Public Relations Officer (PRO) of BGB confirmed this information to the reporters yesterday.

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