



Dhaka: Describing the huge youth as the biggest asset, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday said her government wants to utilise it for ensuring the country's socioeconomic development through imparting proper training to them. "We want our youth force to stay away with from militancy and drug addiction, lead a healthy and beautiful life and keep their families in peace and comfort," she said. The Prime Minister said this in her introductory speech in a meeting with senior officials of the Ministry of Youth and Sports during her visit to Bangladesh Secretariat in the morning. Hasina said her government has undertaken various plans to present a better life to the youth as they are the golden citizens of the nation. "I hope the Ministry of Youth and Sports will work with utmost efficiency and implement its ongoing projects to achieve the goal," she added. Talking about the ill-efforts of the unemployed youths to go abroad in illegal way, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked the officials concerned of the ministry to carry out an awareness campaign so that youths do not go to the "suicidal path" being allured of a 'dream life'. The people of the country are still being confused after falling into the trap of the brokers to go abroad. "They think they could earn huge money by going abroad. But they fall in great danger after going abroad. The people of the country are still rescued from Malaysian and Thailand forests," Hasina said. "So, a massive campaign should be carried out so that the people of the country do not go step towards this way and fall into the trap of brokers," she said. In this connection, Hasina highlighted her government's different steps, including setting up of Karmasangsthan Bank and Probashi Kalyan Bank so that the people do not have to sell their land and other property to go abroad. About the development of games and sports, the prime minister said the government is implementing a project to construct mini-stadiums in 490 upazilas of the country for further flourishing the games and sports. Hasina said the government is constructing new stadiums, gymnasiums and swimming pools side by side with renovating and modernising the sports infrastructures and upgrading the divisional stadiums to international standard for further development of sports and games. Appreciating the role of youths in nation-building, Hasina said Bangladesh could achieve its desired goals only through utilising their potentials. Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh is now the safest place in the global map as it successfully arranged international sports events and also because of the

participation of country's players in international sports meets. She underscored the need for the highest application of the acquired knowledge and experiences of the official and employees of the ministry and asked them to work with utmost sincerity and honesty to achieve the desired goal. Stressing the importance of training of youths, the Prime Minister said her government has taken steps to construct Youth Development Academy in all upazilas to provide proper training to them so that they become self-reliant. The Prime Minister also asked the sports federations of the country, including the Bangladesh Cricket Board, to send teams abroad much earlier before the schedule so that they get adjusted with the weather of the foreign nations.