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News Brief

The ECNEC has approved four projects with an overall estimated cost of Taka 1,668.29 crore, including a Taka 566.76 crore project to develop the runways of three domestic airports at Jashore, Syedpur and Rajshahi. The ECNEC meeting virtually with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday also approved the 'Land Acquisition and Development for Solid Waste Management of Narayanganj City Corporation' project with an estimated cost of Taka 301.35 crore, 'Irrigation expansion in greater Dinajpur and Joypurhat districts through development of surface water' project with an estimated cost of Taka 251.15 crore and the 1st revision of Madaripur, Shariatpur and Rajbari districts Rural Infrastructure Development project increasing the cost by Taka 549.03 crore.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has called for enhancing the extensive public awareness to prevent the child marriage and ensure the health and well-being of adolescent girls. The Speaker was addressing the 'Online Awareness Campaign on Reproductive Health' marking the 'Mujib Year' in Panchagarh yesterday.

The government has embarked on a project to develop a state-of-the-art memorial-cum-tourist complex in the historical Mujibnagar at an estimated cost of Taka 540 crore, Liberation War Affairs Minister A K M Mozammel Haque said at a meeting at Meherpur yesterday. He also said that the list of freedom fighters will be published on December 16.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, the BNP leaders should resign from their posts for failing in movement and polls in the last 12 years as he was addressing a virtual press conference yesterday. The Minister added, without getting any issue, BNP cannot make a call for movement and that is why they are making such an irrelevant demand of the government's resignation. He said, BNP did not give polling agents in the by-elections and kept themselves away from other activities to make the election questionable and this is their old strategy.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque while addressing an ADP meeting in the Ministry yesterday, asked all the officials of his ministry to be prepared for the continuation of production of crop in view of second wave of coronavirus outbreak that likely to hit the country in the upcoming winter. There is no shortage in food reserve, hopefully shortage will not appear in future, he added.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen addressing a virtual high-level event on the Rohingya Crisis at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London yesterday urged to create a 'Friends of the Gambia group' for promoting international justice and accountability for the Rohingyas. He said, there will be no sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis in near future if the defiance, impunity and geopolitical appeasement of Myanmar continues. Meanwhile, along with the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union, UNHCR- the UN refugee agency is co-hosting a virtual donor conference today to meet urgent humanitarian needs of forcibly displaced Rohingyas. India has been invited to join the donor conference. Anurag Srivastava, Official Spokesperson at Indian Ministry of External Affairs speaking on the occasion said, they have committed resources to both Bangladesh and Myanmar to that end.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen yesterday visited the house of Rayhan Ahmed, died in police custody in Sylhet. The Foreign Minister provided Taka two lakh in cash to the victim's family. The Minister talking to reporters vowed that suspended sub-inspector Akbar Hossain Bhuiyan, accused in the Sylhet custody killing, would be brought to justice after bringing him back home, even if he fled away abroad.

A doa mahfil was held at Chattogram Press Club auditorium yesterday seeking early recovery of Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, who has been undergoing treatment at a hospital in the capital with coronavirus infection since Friday night. Meanwhile, the country yesterday recorded 18 more fatalities from the COVID-19, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 5,699. At the same time recovery count rose to 3,07,141. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 1,380 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,91,586. The Health ministry has nominated 10 private Covid-19 rt-PCR testing labs in Dhaka city for issuing coronavirus infection-free certificates for the outgoing passenger.

Rome has decided to accept the Bangladeshi expatriates with valid stay permit of Italy who have been stranded in Doha on their way to Italy. The Italian Foreign ministry has already informed Bangladesh embassy in Rome regarding the decision, Foreign Minister Dr. Momen said. Meanwhile, Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday announced that it will operate a weekly flight from Dhaka to Rome from October 28.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Kumar Doraiswamy has offered cooperation to transform Dhaka South City Corporation into a smart city as he called on DSCC Mayor Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh at Nagar Bhaban yesterday. The Indian High Commissioner also met Textiles and Jute Minister Golam Dastagir Gazi at his ministry yesterday.

Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni will announce the evaluation system of secondary annual examination today. The Dhaka University authorities during a meeting of Deans' committee yesterday decided to hold division-wise written admission tests for the 2020-2021 academic session. Jagannath University authorities yesterday unveiled its 16-storey Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall for female students, the first ever residential hall of the university, marking its 14th founding anniversary. The Public Service Commission has recommended for recruiting 541 candidates of the 38th BCS examination with the status of first class non-cadre officials.

As part of the celebration of 'Mujib Year', Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday officially inaugurated 'Bangabandhu Corner' at Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo. The government has appointed Sultana Laila Hossain, currently serving as Bangladesh Ambassador to Morocco, as the next Ambassador of Bangladesh to Poland.

TCB starts selling potatoes at Taka 25 a kg in Dhaka through their trucks today. Each person will be able to buy two kilograms of the vegetable. Onions, oil, sugar and pulse would also be sold. Department of Agriculture Marketing following a meeting with businessmen and cold storage association leaders has reset the price of potato at Tk 35 per kg at retail markets.

The parliamentary standing committee on environment at its meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on Monday, decided to make public the list of 90,000 individuals and organisations who have grabbed around 2.87 lac acres of forestland across the country.

A ship carrying a nuclear reactor and a steam generator, the key components of the first unit of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, reached Mongla Sea Port in Khulna from Russia yesterday.

Some 4,000 fishermen families received 80 tons of rice under special VGF programme in Rajshahi city and four upazilas in the district as they remained abstained from fishing mother Hilsa fish in the river Padma during the 22-day ban on catching, selling, hoarding and transporting of Hilsa.



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