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### News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directed the authorities concerned to take measures for not providing house rent allowance to government employees if they don't stay at the government quarters earmarked for them. The Premier gave the directive while chairing the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban yesterday. Planning Division Senior Secretary Md Ashadul Islam briefed reporters after the meeting held at the NEC Conference Room in the city.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved a Taka 1,882.59 crore project to ensure rural water supply, sanitation, following of health guidelines and thus providing WASH facilities to around 4.5 million people for their overall human resource development. ECNEC Chairperson and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina approved the projects at the 19th ECNEC meeting of the current fiscal year (FY21) held virtually yesterday. The Premier chaired the meeting from her official Ganobhaban residence. Briefing reporters after the meeting, Planning Division Senior Secretary Md Ashadul Islam informed that a total of five projects were approved today involving an overall estimated cost of Taka 3,308.36 crore.

Liberation War Affairs Minister A K M Mozammel Haque said, the close associate of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and a veteran Awami League leader Abdur Razzaq was one of the legends in the history of the rise of Bangladesh. The Minister said, he (Razzaq) was one of the organizers of Liberation War and he led the independence struggle and the great liberation war and various political movements in the country. His name will be written in gold letters in the politics of the spirit of the liberation war of the country, he added. The Minister was speaking yesterday at a discussion organized by Damudya Upazila Youth Welfare Trust on the occasion of the ninth death anniversary of the former minister Razzaq at the auditorium of Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader described BNP's programme centering border issues as an 'eye wash' and said the government is very sincere to keep stability in bordering areas. Quader said, BNP's democracy is to reestablish its 'empire of looting' at Hawa Bhaban and going away from the polls on the voting day after joining it. BNP's democracy means getting assurance of their win in elections, he added. The Minister said this at a press conference through a video conferencing at his secretariat office after the inaugural ceremony of BRTC bus service on Sylhet-Srimangal and Sylhet-Habiganj routes.

Agriculture Minister Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque sought India's invest in public private sector in agro-mechanization and agro-processing in Bangladesh. The Minister said, we want to see India's cooperation in agricultural processing. Indian companies can set up manufacturing plants in the economic zone of Bangladesh, he added. The minister made the call at a digital conference at the FBCCI Auditorium between the two countries to enhance India Bangladesh mutual cooperation in the field of agriculture yesterday.

Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Md Tajul Islam yesterday called upon the local public representatives to maintain peace and order in the respective party. He made the call after administering oath to the newly elected members of Tangail and Chapainawabganj district councils in his ministry room.

Director General (DG) level talks between Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) began in Guwahati of Assam State in India. BGB Director General Major General M Shafeenul Islam is leading the 11-member Bangladesh delegation while his BSF counterpart Rakesh Asthana is leading the 12-member Indian delegation in the talks. A BGB press release said, the 51st round of the biannual border conference formally began yesterday which will continue up to December 26.

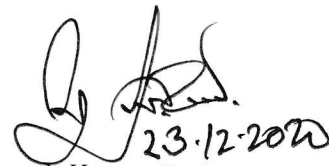
Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Kumar Doraiswami inaugurated a sculpture titled "Mrityunjayi Mitra" at Sitakundaupazila of Chattogram district yesterday to pay homage to the sacrifices made by Indian soldiers during the Liberation War of Bangladesh. The High Commissioner said, India had cooperated a lot during the war of independence of Bangladesh. As a result, many Indian soldiers were martyred along with the freedom fighters, he added commenting Bangladesh-India friendship will last forever.

A press release issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the highest court of the world, yesterday said, the ICJ has introduced a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the provisional measures it indicates. This new mechanism will be applicable to the provisional measures indicated by the ICJ in the genocide case filed by The Gambia against Myanmar in November, 2019.

'Bangabandhu Tour-D-CHT Mountain Bike Competition-2020' has been organised to pay tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great leader. The three-day mountain bike competition from Sajek, Rangamati to Thanchi, Bandarban will begin from December 28. The Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs took the initiative to pay homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and inspire the new generation in the development of the existing tourism industry of the country.

President M Abdul Hamid yesterday expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of valiant freedom fighter, Kishoreganj district unit president of National Awami Party (NAP) Advocate Mojammel Haque Khan Ratan, also former general secretary of Kishoreganj Lawyers Association. In a condolence message, President Hamid recalled the contribution of Ratan, with due respect, commenting, he played a very significant role to establish justice for people as a lawyer. The head of the state prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and expressed profound sympathy to the bereaved family.

Bangladesh recorded 17 novel corona virus (COVID-19) deaths and 1,318 fresh cases in the last 24 hours. The recovery count rose to 4, 41, 929 after another 2,235 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. With this, the total death toll rose to 7,329 from the pandemic in the country.



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