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News Brief

The ECNEC yesterday approved a total of four projects involving an overall estimated cost of Taka 2,115.20 crore including a Taka 693.16 crore project to install 3rd submarine cable to expand the country's international telecommunications system that would enable 6 terabyte per second of bandwidth that will boost internet speed and help launch 5G services in the country. Chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually, the ECNEC also approved the 1st revision of re-excavation of Arial Kha River, Haridoa River, Brahmaputra River, Paharia River and Meghna Branch River with an additional cost of Taka 403.14 crore and the 1st revision of Modernization of Telecommunication Network for Digital Connectivity with an additional cost of Taka 741.54 crore. The ECNEC meeting also Okayed the 2nd revision of the Municipal Governance and Services Project with an additional cost of Taka 277.35 crore.

Liberation War Affairs Minister A K M Mozammel Haque addressing a human chain organized by sixty social-cultural and professional organisations in the capital yesterday demanding the arrest of those who opposed installation of the sculpture of Bangabandhu said, they should withdraw the statement opposing Bangabandhu's sculpture. Otherwise, people believing in the spirit of the Liberation War of Bangladesh will respond properly and the results will not be good, he added.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader virtually addressing the 27th anniversary of road safety advocacy group 'Nirapad Sarak Chai' at Jatiya Press Club yesterday said, the Road Transport Act 2018 is now functioning practically and it will be made completely effective soon with the cooperation of all. The Minister also said, road safety audit has been introduced in Bangladesh like in other developed countries. He further said, around 450 km highways were upgraded to four or more lanes across the country in the last 12 years.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal has said, there will be no events in open space on the occasion of the Victory Day-December 16 this year because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Indoor programmes could be held following health guidelines, he said at an inter-ministerial virtual meeting on the Victory Day security measures at his ministry yesterday.

Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni has said, the government will bring time-befitting changes in the curriculum in near future. She said this while unveiling Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's mural at Government Bangla College in Dhaka yesterday.

Foreign ministry started 'Bangabandhu Lecture Series' yesterday at the Foreign Service Academy marking the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. While virtually inaugurating the event, Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen said, Bangladesh will organise a world peace conference next year, marking the 50th year of the country's Liberation War and Mujib Borsho, as part of promoting a culture of peace and tolerance.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque in a statement marking the 'World AIDS Day' said, the government is providing HIV tests and treatment free of cost across the country. The Prime Minister has asked the ministry to work to completely eradicate AIDS by 2030 from Bangladesh, he also said. Talking about the second wave of Covid-19, the Minister said, the government has all kinds of preparations to face the second wave. Health Secretary Abdul Mannan while addressing an event in the capital yesterday said, the country would receive the Covid-19 vaccine hopefully by February next year or earlier.

The number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 6,675 yesterday with the death of 31 more people and detection of 2,293 new cases. Meanwhile, the Globe Biotech Ltd has cancelled the contract with the icddr,b to conduct clinical trial of its coronavirus vaccine Bancovid due to lack of satisfactory progress from icddr,b's part and assigned the Clinical Research Organization to run the trials of their homegrown mRNA vaccine.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-CDC would conduct a serological survey by this month to detect COVID-19 carriers in six major Bangladesh cities- Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Rangpur, CDC 's Bangladesh Country Director Dr. Michael Friedman said to media. Friedman also suggested to keep schools open as children are less vulnerable to COVID-19 and much less likely to transmit the virus to adults. Another report says, Biman Bangladesh Airlines resumed regular flights on Dhaka-Kolkata route yesterday.

Today is the 23rd anniversary of Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the eve of the day.

A virtual bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain yesterday said, the tenure of life imprisonment will be 30 years in jail unless any court or tribunal sentences the accused to imprisonment till natural death.

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh while visiting the ongoing Shyampur canal cleaning work in the capital yesterday said, they will recover all the canals from encroachers and clean those before next monsoon. The Mayor said, they are going to take a short-term and long-term working plan to solve the waterlogging problem of Dhaka city.


Bangladesh has sought urgent action from Qatar to help Bangladeshis return to the country and join their work. Bangladesh Ambassador Qatar Md. Jashim Uddin made the request at a meeting with Chief of Protocol of that country Ambassador Ibrahim Fakhroo on Monday.

The US Ambassador in Bangladesh in an interview with a newspaper said, he does not anticipate any major changes in US-Bangladesh relations in the coming years as the new Biden administration takes over in January. He added, the relationship between the two countries is very strong.

The 1,320 MW capacities Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant at Rampal in Bagerhat is expected to start power generation by the end of 2021. Bangladesh Power Development Board Chairman Engineer Belayet Hossain informed this while addressing a function in Dhaka yesterday.

The admission tests for 2020-2021 academic sessions in 19 public and science and technology universities will be held under the "cluster system", according to a statement of University Grants Commission.

For the fourth time this year, Bangladesh received remittance of over US \$2 billion, which is 33.63 per cent up from the same period last year, despite the global economic fallout due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



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