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News Brief

The ECNEC has approved a total of four projects involving an overall estimated cost of Taka 1,659.34 crore including the 1st revision of the multi sector project to address Rohingya crisis on emergency basis with an additional cost of Taka 930 crore to ensure various facilities for the forcibly displaced Rohingyas and also for the host communities in Cox's Bazar. The ECNEC meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair also approved a fresh project titled 'Creating employments and eradicating poverty through expanding the operations of BITAC' by giving importance on technical training of women at a cost of Taka 123.17 crore. Besides, the ECNEC approved the 1st revision of the development of physical infrastructures of Jatiya Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University with an additional cost of Taka 349.22 crore and the 2nd revision of rehabilitation of three polders at coastal areas in Chattogram with an additional cost of Taka 256.94 crore.

During the ECNEC meeting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, the timely stimulus packages given by her government to every sector particularly in agriculture and industrial ones help the country's economy keep moving during the Covid-19 pandemic. The stimulus packages and cash incentives have also helped the commoners who have lost their jobs due to the coronavirus in easing their hardships, she added.

The Premier while examining the government procured Siddha (boiled) and Atap rice during the Boro and Aman seasons at Ganabhaban last morning, expressed satisfaction over the standard of the rice. The Prime Minister asked the concerned authorities to construct modern warehouses at different parts of the country. She directed to properly preserve the information, regarding the rice stored in all the godowns across the country, through a database.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would chair a virtual event of global leaders this evening on the climate change issue as the current President of Climate Vulnerable Forum. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Global Center on Adaptation Chair Ban Ki-moon, among others, will be present at the event.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury while participating in the second governing council virtual meeting of Future Earth South Asia Regional Office yesterday said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's farmer-friendly policy has played an effective role in ensuring food and nutrition security in the country.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while presiding over the AL secretariat meeting at the party's central Bangabandhu Avenue office yesterday urged those who are waging movement in protest against rape to keep patience as the government is taking actions in the incidents. Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, among others, was present there.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal while talking to newsmen at his ministry yesterday assured that investigation into the repression on the woman at Begumganj, Noakhali will be neutral and fair and none will be spared over the incident. Meanwhile, the law enforcement agencies have arrested a total of six people in connection with the repression incident. A Noakhali court yesterday placed prime accused Badal on a seven-day remand in the case. The court also placed local UP member Moazzem Hossain on a two-day remand.

Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni has said, all scholarship activities under the ministry will be digitalised to ease the process for the students. She made the remarks yesterday while inaugurating an online programme of distributing scholarships among secondary and higher secondary students. The government is now directly sending money to students' bank accounts through the G2P system, she said.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has sought South Korea's cooperation to ease the visa process so that the workers and students who came back to Bangladesh at the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic could return to their work and studies. Dr. Momen made the urge as his South Korean counterpart Kang Kyung-wha made a phone call last afternoon seeking Bangladesh's support to the Korean Trade Minister Yoo Myung-hee's bid for the top post of the WTO.

The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment has taken an initiative to register the names of all the returnees, stranded migrant workers, who couldn't leave the country due to COVID-19 pandemic, aiming to help them return to their workplaces. The information obtained through the registration process will be used in carrying out diplomatic efforts and relevant activities. Another news says, the Saudi Airlines yesterday started issuing tickets by taking into account visa validity and Iqama instead of tokens.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque has said, Bangladesh is well equipped to face possible second wave of COVID-19 as the country is handling the pandemic successfully. He was addressing a discussion titled "Tackling of second wave: Preparation" organized by Bangladesh Medical College Association in the city yesterday.

The country yesterday recorded 30 more fatalities from the COVID-19, in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 5,405. At the same time recovery count rose to 2,84,833 after another 1,651 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 1,499 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,71,631.

The country has earned around US\$ 30.75 crore in the first quarter of current fiscal year from jute export due to the government's different action plans replacing the sector second in position with leather industry, which is 39.26 per cent higher than the last corresponding period, Textiles and Jute Minister Golam Dastgir Gazi told a meeting in the ministry yesterday.

Social Welfare Minister Nuruzzaman Ahmed has informed that the government has a plan to set up services as well as help centres at district and upazila levels for people with neuro disabilities, including cerebral palsy. He was virtually addressing a discussion marking the 'World Cerebral Palsy Day' yesterday.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Fazilatun Nessa Indira at a virtual seminar on the occasion of the National Girl Child Day in the city yesterday said, committees have been formed to prevent sexual harassment at educational institutions and a 24-hour help line is in operation.

Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the UN, Rabab Fatima has said, Bangladesh has been promoting and protecting all human rights of its population in a people-centric and 'whole-of-society' approach. She was addressing a general debate of the third Committee of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Monday.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs has requested all not to make any transaction with anyone being inspired by the deceptive advertisements of holy Umrah on Facebook or social media, saying no official letter from the Saudi government has been received so far in this regard. A notification will be issued by the ministry subject to permission from the Saudi Government to perform the holy Umrah, it said.


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