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From: PIO, PID, Dhaka
Fax: 9540553/9540026
E-mail: piddhaka@gmail.com
Web: www.pressinform.gov.bd

News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has stressed the need for formulating a “well-coordinated roadmap” and urged the UN to play a “catalytic role” to combat COVID-19 crisis as she placed a six-point proposal to this end. The Premier was addressing virtually a high-level event on “Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond” on the sidelines of the 75th UN General Assembly in the UN headquarters in New York yesterday. The six-point proposal placed in the event by the Premier are: Firstly, fiscal stimulus, concessional finance, and debt relief measures should be scaled by the G-7, G-20, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries, multilateral development banks, and international financial institutions while the advanced economies must fulfil their 0.7% ODA commitment. Secondly, diverting more private finance and investment to the developing countries. In her third proposal, the Prime Minister said to formulate right policy for reversing the downward trend of remittances flow by helping the migrant workers during and in the post-COVID job market. Fourthly, the advanced economies must fulfil their unmet promises regarding duty-free, quota-free market access, technology support, and more accessible financing for developing countries. In the fifth proposal, the Premier said, there must be new international support measures for the graduating LDCs to prevent any possible slide back due to the pandemic, at least till 2030. Finally, more vigorous efforts are required to finance climate actions and resilient recovery, she said.

The ECNEC has approved a total of four projects involving an overall estimated cost of Taka 796.45 crore, including a Taka 337.60 crore project for mouza and plot-based national digital land zoning in a bid to ensure proper land management at the field-level. The ECNEC meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday also approved the 1st revision of Chattogram-Dhaka-Ashuganj road project with an additional cost of Taka 149.42 crore, Canal re-excavation project for addressing water logging at Begumganj, Chatkhil, Senbagh and Sonaimuri upazilas with Taka 71.87 crore and the Bhairab River Re-excavation (2nd phase) project with Taka 237.56 crore.

India has agreed to hold ministerial level Joint River Commission meeting at the soonest possible time to resolve the outstanding issues involving water-sharing of the common rivers. Bangladesh and India also agreed on early resolution of Teesta water-sharing agreement, Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen said this after the virtual meeting of JCC with his Indian counterpart Dr. S Jaishankar last afternoon. The two Foreign ministers discussed issues relating to trade, line of credit, Rohingya repatriation and bringing down border killing to zero level. Dr. Momen and Dr. Jaishankar jointly unveiled two commemorative stamps as part of the celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. India said, it would also release a commemorative stamp on the birth centenary of Bangabandhu on 16 December 2020 to pay their homage to Bangladesh’s founder.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate condolence messages have expressed profound sorrow and shock at the death of Kuwait’s Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah, who died yesterday at the age of 91.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday virtually inaugurated a web and mobile based application titled ‘My Constituency’, jointly launched by Bangladesh Parliament and the UNDP, Bangladesh, for the MPs to measure the progress of SDGs in their respective constituencies.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while virtually addressing a discussion in Dhaka yesterday said, BNP’s politics is in deep crisis now as the party is getting isolated from the people day by day after failing in elections, by-elections and movements.

Turkey has expressed its interests to extend cooperation in developing food processing sector in Bangladesh. The assurance came when Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh, Mustafa Osman Turan called on Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque at his ministry yesterday.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan speaking a function at Dhanmondi yesterday said, those involved in the heinous and dreadful rape incident in Sylhet MC College hostel will not be spared. He said, all the accused in the case filed over the incident have already been arrested.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, new dimension would be added in the activities of Bangabandhu's Birth Centenary programmes through a detailed review of what can be done realistically in the context of COVID-19 situation. The Minister stated this at a meeting of the subcommittee of Media, Publicity and Documentation of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Birth Centenary Celebration at his ministry yesterday. The Information Minister yesterday planted a sapling on the premises of Sangsad Bhaban marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.


The government has determined the price of rice. The price of the best miniket rice (millgate price) has been fixed at Tk 2,575 per 50 kg bag and medium rice at Tk 2,250 per 50 kg bag. Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder said, the price was fixed at a meeting with rice mill owners and rice traders yesterday. If the price is not implemented, the government will allow the import of fine rice within 10 days, he said.

Traders have taken 322 permits for importing 1,47,554 tons of onions through the Chattogram port from 12 countries -- China, Egypt, Turkey, Myanmar, New Zealand, Netherlands, Malaysia, South Africa, Ukraine, the UAE, India and Pakistan, Chattogram Seaport Plant Quarantine Center official said. The first consignment of 58 tons of Myanmar onions were unloaded at the Chattogram port on Monday night. Another 118 tons of onions have come from Pakistan.

Dr. Yousef A Al-Othaimeen, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation-OIC, has pledged to continue to support Bangladesh to ensure the dignified repatriation of Rohingyas to Rakhine in Myanmar. He made the assurance when the newly appointed Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Dr. Mohammad Javed Patwari presented his credentials to him to serve as the permanent representative of Bangladesh in OIC. Meanwhile, the government has appointed M Allama Siddiki, current Ambassador of Bangladesh to Turkey, as the next Ambassador of Bangladesh to Denmark.

The country yesterday recorded 26 more fatalities from the COVID-19, in a daily count raising the death toll from the pandemic to 5,219. At the same time recovery count rose to 2,73,698 after another 1,625 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 1,488 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,62,043. Meanwhile, ADB is providing US\$3 million in grant to Bangladesh for procuring urgent medical supplies including vaccine for the COVID-19, finance. An agreement was signed yesterday between ERD Secretary Fatima Yasmin and ADB Country Director Manmohan Parkash in this regard.

The government under a scheme would provide US\$ 10 million as grant to diversify and boost country's export. To this end, Commerce Ministry's Export Competitiveness for Jobs Project is seeking applications from prospective firms.


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Surath Kumar Sarker
Principal Information Officer
Phone- 9546091