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News Brief

The ECNEC has approved 9 projects including one with Taka 306.23 crore scheme to acquire necessary land and ancillary facilities development for implementing the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline Project. The approval came at a meeting of the ECNEC with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka yesterday. The approved projects involving an overall estimated cost of Taka 2,422.27 crore also include upgrading of Baneswar-Sarda-Charghat-Bagha-Lalpur-Ishwardi highway into regional highway, widening and strengthening of Syedpur-Nilphamari highway, construction of multistory building of BSCIC at Tejgaon, establishment of BSCIC plastic industrial estate, further infrastructural Development of Khulna University, establishing 50-bed kidney dialysis center at medical college and 10-bed kidney dialysis center at Sadar hospital.

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation Bill, 2020 was passed in the parliament yesterday aiming to bring transparency, accountability and dynamism in the public transport sector. Earlier, placing the bill Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, proposed law will replace the existing Road Transport Corporation Ordinance, 1961 and will ensure a modern and progressive public road transport system. Meanwhile, Social Welfare Minister Nuruzzaman Ahmed responding to a query at the Jatiya Sangsad in Dhaka yesterday said, the government has a plan to give allowance to all elderly male and female gradually in the country by 2025. He also said, a total of 44 lakh elderly people are receiving the allowance in 2019-20. State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Zakir Hossen in the House informed the government has set a target of constructing 58,000 wash blocks in the next five years to enhance toilet facilities for checking possible health hazard of the primary school students.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is going to inaugurate the Sheikh Kamal IT Incubation and Training Centre in Rajshahi through a videoconference from Ganabhaban in Dhaka today. The centre will help build Digital Bangladesh and knowledge-based society and create employments. From the same function, the Premier will inaugurate cent percent electrification in seven districts and 23 upazilas as well as a power plant. Later, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the month-long drama festival of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has said, the Malaysia-bound trawler that capsized near the Saint Martin's island in the Bay was carrying Rohingyas living outside the camps and they were trying to move away illegally. He came up with the remarks while talking to reporters at the National Museum in Dhaka yesterday. Replying to a query regarding evacuation of Bangladeshis from China, he said the government will not arrange the return of more Bangladeshi nationals from China amid the 'coronavirus outbreak' but the government will assist those, who are willing to come back on their own. Meanwhile, in a message written to State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China, A K Abdul Momen expressed deep shock for the families of the victims at the loss of 1000 lives due to the outbreak of coronavirus in Wuhan city and other places in China.

A 'Bangabandhu Chair' will be set up at the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) of the University of Saskatchewan in Canada aiming to help promote multidisciplinary research and ensure sustainable food security. To this end, the GIFS of Canada and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council under the Bangladesh Agriculture Ministry signed a MoU at a city hotel in Dhaka on Monday in presence of Agriculture Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque and Canadian Agriculture Minister David Marit. The MoU

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work plan also includes establishing an agricultural technology centre named 'Bangabandhu – Pierre Elliot Trudeau Agricultural Technology Centre' in Bangladesh in joint collaboration to reflect Canada's support during the war of Independence of Bangladesh and the strong, longstanding bilateral relationship.

The two-day-long 13th Joint Commission Meeting between Bangladesh and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is set to start today, with a focus on a number of items on the agenda, including manpower exports, investment, power and energy. The Bangladesh delegation will be headed by Economic Relations Division Secretary Monowar Ahmed while the Saudi delegation will be led by its Deputy Secretary of the Labour Ministry Mahir Abdul Rahman Gassim.

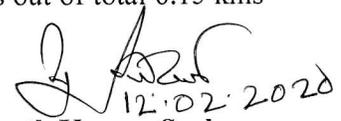
Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Senior Officials Meeting has agreed to convene a pledging conference during the upcoming 47th Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting to be held in Niger on April 3-4 to mobilize resources for the International Court of Justice case against Myanmar on accountability for human rights violations against the Rohingyas. The agreement was reached yesterday during the OIC Senior Officials Meeting preparatory to the upcoming CFM meeting, said a press release of Foreign Ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

Leading towards a world record, 10 lakh schoolchildren across Bangladesh are expected to receive an online safety certification within the next year, making their online experience safer. The ICT Division of the Posts, Tele-communications and Information Technology Ministry, with support from UNICEF, will embark on this journey to minimize the growing risks faced by children and adolescents online in an increasingly connected world. This was announced yesterday at an event to mark the international Safer Internet Day 2020.

Admission test of public universities will be held under a uniform procedure from the next 2020-21 academic sessions. The decision was taken at the standing committee meeting of Bangladesh Bishwabidyalay Parishad, a platform comprising the vice chancellors of the public universities, at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University in Dhaka yesterday.

The Bangladesh Under-19 cricket team, which made the history by clinching the World Cup title for the first time, is set to return home today. Bangladesh Cricket Board President Nazmul Hassan Papon and high government officials are expected to receive them at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka. A rousing reception will be accorded to world cricket heroes.

The 24th span of the much-awaited Padma Multipurpose Bridge was installed yesterday at the Zazira point in Shariatpur district, making 3,600 meters out of total 6.15 kms of the main structure of the bridge visible.



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