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News Brief

The ECNEC yesterday approved a total of five projects involving an overall estimated cost of Taka 7,505.29 crore, including a Taka 5,905.59-crore project to conserve the rural road network system by rehabilitating the roads, bridges and culverts affected due to cyclone Amphan, excessive rain and the recent flood. Presided over by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually, the meeting also approved a project for protecting Gobindi and Holdia areas under Saghata upazila and Katalmari area from river erosion with Taka 798.53 crore. The other approved projects are-the first revision of the Important Rural Infrastructures Development Project: Barishal, Jhalakathi and Pirojpur districts with an additional cost of Taka 305 crore, Waste System Development of Khulna City Corporation with Taka 393.40 crore and the first revision of Construction of Sheikh Hasina Sangskritik Palli with an additional cost of Taka 102.77 crore.

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed the Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Bill 2020 in a bid to ensure death penalty for rape. The JS also passed the Air Transport (Montreal Convention 1999) Bill 2020 paving the way for an air passenger to get some US\$ 160,000 (Taka 1.4 crore) as compensation in case of death. The Parliament has been adjourned till 6pm today.

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka has made a special edition of wristwatch in honor of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of Mujib Year, the birth centenary of Bangabandhu with inscription of his portrait and signature. Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday unveiled the special edition of wristwatches at his ministry in presence of Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami. The Minister talking to media mentioned that there has been progress in Teesta water sharing issue.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, if BNP does not give up ill-politics, it will get ruined in its own fire. The Minister said this as he was virtually addressing a discussion arranged by National Awami Party at Jatiya Press Club in the capital, marking 44th death anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani yesterday. The Minister said, by not standing by the people amid the COVID-19 crisis, BNP is setting busses on fire and burning people alive like they did during 2013-2015 period.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has said, Dhaka will seek the newly elected Myanmar government to fix a date for commencing Rohingya repatriation while Bangladesh's friendly countries China, Japan, the European Union the United Kingdom pledged to mount pressure on Naypyidaw in this regard. The Minister was talking to reporters after a discussion on 'Sylhet Development Authority Law' at Foreign Service Academy in the capital yesterday. Dr. Momen said, Sylhet Development Authority will be established through enacting a law to ensure planned development of Sylhet metropolitan area. The draft of the law has already been prepared, he said.

Textiles and Jute Minister Golam Dastagir Gazi while addressing a workshop on "Tant Nitimala-2020" at the Jute Diversification Promotion Centre in the city yesterday said, the government has adopted a plan to set up an entrepreneurial village-Uddokta Palli to improve the socio-economic condition of the weavers. There will be modern business facilities for entrepreneurs involved in handloom at the Uddokta Palli, he said.

The number of deaths from Covid-19 in Bangladesh rose to 6,254 yesterday with the death of 39 more people, the highest daily deaths in two months. With the detection of 2,212 new cases, the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 4,36,684. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal has tested negative for Covid-19. Despite that, the Minister remains in self-isolation and is doing well, official sources said. Actor and Lawmaker Akbar Hossain Pathan Farooque has tested positive for COVID-19.

Sheikh Razia Naser, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's aunt and mother of lawmakers Sheikh Helal and Sheikh Jewel, was laid to eternal rest at the Banani Graveyard in the city following her Namaj-e-Janaza after johr prayers yesterday. Floral wreaths was placed on her coffin on behalf of President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Awami League General Secretary and Minister for Road Transportation and Bridges Obaidul Quader accompanied by Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud and other senior leaders paid tribute to the deceased on behalf of the party. Sheikh Razia Naser Razia, wife of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's younger brother Sheikh Abu Naser, who was assassinated in August 15 carnage in 1975 along with Bangabandhu and most of his family members, breathed her last at city hospital on Monday night at the age of 83. Meanwhile, former Deputy Speaker and one of the accused in the Agartala Conspiracy Case and freedom fighter Col (retd) Shawkat Ali was laid to rest with state honour yesterday at his family graveyard at his village Dakkin Naria after the second namaz-e-janaza there. On behalf of President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, floral wreaths was placed on the coffin of Shawkat Ali.

Prime Minister's ICT Adviser and CRI Chairperson Sajeeb Wazed Joy virtually addressing the Joy Bangla Youth Award 2020 event getting connected from the USA, yesterday said, the COVID-19 induced lockdown resulted in holding the award giving ceremony online which is a testament of making the pledge of Digital Bangladesh a reality.

The University of Brasília, a prestigious academic institution of Latin America, has agreed to establish a "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Chair" at its South Asian Studies department. A Professor of the university will also translate "The Unfinished Memoirs", a historical work of Bangabandhu, into Brazilian Portuguese. These decisions were taken at a recent meeting between the Bangladesh Ambassador to Brazil Md. Zulfiqur Rahman and the Rector (Vice Chancellor) of the University of Brasília Dr. Marcia Abrahão Moura.

The country's inward remittances hit new highs during the first fifteen days of November in the fiscal 2020-21 with around US\$ 1.22 billion, which is an all-time high in the country's remittance history, despite the ongoing coronavirus epidemic, according to the Finance Ministry.

The land registration-Namjari for certified freedom fighters will be completed in ten working days, the Ministry of Land issued a circular in this regard yesterday.

A court in Dhaka yesterday set January 12 for holding hearing on charge framing against BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and others in Barapukuria Coal Mine graft case. The hearing was scheduled to be held yesterday, but the defence pleaded to allow them time in the case as Khaleda Zia could not appear in the court.

Bangladesh National Football Team won the two-match FIFA International Friendly series against Nepal National Team at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday with a goalless draw. Earlier Bangladesh won the first match by 2-0 margin on Friday.


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