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News Brief

The ECNEC yesterday approved 10 projects involving an overall estimated cost of Taka 9,460.09 crore, including a Taka 6,476.65 crore project to allocate fund against each Member of Parliament to spend for development of rural infrastructures in the country. The approval came from the ECNEC meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presiding over from Ganabhaban through videoconference. Under the project, Taka 20 crore will be allocated against each MP elected from rural areas to improve rural infrastructures like roads, bridges and culverts. The Prime Minister in the meeting issued a set of directives that include cleaning the garbage on the surface and beneath the water bodies for fish farming, strengthening the embankments, building the roads of the local government bodies maintaining due quality and setting up food processing industries. The Prime Minister said, her government is trying its best to keep up the pace of development amid the coronavirus outbreak. The Premier reiterated her call to the people to follow the health codes properly to protect themselves from the deadly virus.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has said, the government has taken development activities and people-friendly measures for the overall protection of people of different classes and professions ensuring their livelihoods at this critical time. The Speaker made the remarks while inaugurating a programme through a virtual channel arranged to hand over cheques to mosques, students of small ethnic groups and land owners at Pirganj upazila in Rangpur district yesterday.

Bangladesh yesterday recorded 39 more fatalities from the novel coronavirus in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 1,464. At the same time recovery count rose to 45,057 after another 1084 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. Directorate General of Health Services-DGHS came up with the disclosure at its daily health bulletin. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 3,531 new cases taking the total number of cases to 1,12,306 . A total of 15,585 samples were tested at the authorised labs across the country during that time, DGHS added.

Under the supervision of Armed Forces Division and support of the Health Ministry 6-storied DNCC market in capital's Mohakhali area would turn into 1000-bed isolation center. DNCC Mayor would monitor the center's activities, a press release said. Covid-19 positive patients with mild symptoms, referred from different hospitals can be admitted here for health services. A Brigadier ranked official of Bangladesh Army would be the Director of the center. Besides, the sixth floor of the market will turn into a 300-bed specialized hospital with five ICU beds with the financial support of World Health Organization and under supervision of Health Ministry.

The visiting Chinese medical experts' team has highly appreciated Bangladesh's doctors and health workers in facing coronavirus situation terming them as very hard working. The appreciation came from a press briefing at the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka yesterday. Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy Hualong Yan during the online briefing for members of Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh also said, the Chinese experts identified lack of public awareness as one of the problems here. The visiting Chinese team will submit four specific reports to the Bangladesh authorities within a week with recommendations on how the country can better respond to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. Hualong Yan also reassured that as a close neighbor and strategic partner, Bangladesh would get priority access to a prospective COVID-19 vaccine as their researchers appeared to have reached in an advanced stage in developing inoculates.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while addressing a virtual press briefing from his official residence yesterday urged the people not to store any medicine or oxygen

cylinders based on assumption during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic as the use of such drugs without the advice of specialized doctors, might cause harm to them. Mentioning the media reports about people being harassed in testing coronavirus and getting the reports, the Minister called upon all concerned to deliver the coronavirus test reports within the shortest possible time increasing coordination. The Minister further added, although some private hospitals have done commendable tasks in providing treatment to COVID-19 patients, there are still allegations of negligence against many hospitals. He said, there are also allegations that patients suffering from other diseases are not getting proper treatment at many hospitals. The Minister urged the hospital owners, doctors and others concerned to put humanity above business in this difficult time. He requested the media owners to continue paying the salaries and allowances of media personnel amid the ongoing crisis.

Information Minister and Awami League Joint General Secretary Dr. Hasan Mahmud will join an online volunteers' training workshop on coronavirus as the Chief Guest today at 11 am arranged by Bangladesh AL's Science and Technology Affairs sub-committee. In the first phase, the workshop will be arranged online using 'zoom' technology for Rajshahi, Chattogram and Khulna divisions. Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor A H M Khairuzzaman Liton, Khulna City Corporation Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque and Chattogram City Corporation Mayor A J M Nasir Uddin will join it as the special guests. AL Science and Technology Affairs sub-committee Chairman Prof. Dr. Hossain Mansur will chair it. The programme will be aired live from AL's official facebook page.

Local Government Minister Md. Tajul Islam has called upon the members of all Zila Parishads of the country to discharge their responsibilities with honesty and sincerity to build a prosperous and happy 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He came up with the remarks in an oath-taking ceremony of newly elected three members of Cumilla, Chandpur and Bhola Zila Parishads at his ministry yesterday. The Minister also said that Bangabandhu's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has amended the Zila Parishad Act, 2000 to bolster its structure and make it more welfare-oriented to the people.

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh issuing a note of warning said, the city authority would take tougher actions even against Dhaka WASA including realization of fines or taking legal actions if it dumps wastage from sewerage lines on the streets. The DSCC Mayor was inaugurating the year-long sewerage line cleansing programme in city's Muktijoddha Sangsad area. He informed that all the sewerage lines in each ward will be cleaned twice a month.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines resumed its international flight operation through Dhaka-London route yesterday after more than two months of suspension to contain the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. On June 16, Bangladesh resumed international flight operation on a limited scale.

To mark the 71st founding anniversary of Bangladesh Awami League on June 23, a webinar titled 'Youth Expectations from Bangladesh Awami League' is being held today which can be watched live from 8:30pm on the party's official facebook page and youtube channel. It will also be aired on private run Somoy television and Bijoy TV as well as the official facebook pages of leading national dailies including Ittefaq and Samakal and online portal bdnews24.com.

Bangladesh Meteorological Department forecast light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind in most divisions of the country in 24 hours commencing from 6pm yesterday. Light to moderate rain/thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Rajshahi, Khulna, Barishal, Chattogram and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Mymensingh and Rangpur divisions.


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