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News Brief

The ECNEC has approved eight projects with an overall estimated cost of Taka 10,102.03 crore, including a Tk 4,025.62 crore project to develop road infrastructures and drainage system in newly included 18 wards under Dhaka North City Corporation. The approval came from the a ECNEC meeting yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually presiding over. Another important project approved in the meeting is on agricultural mechanization with Taka 3,020.06 crore. Under the project, the government will provide agricultural machineries to the farmers at 70 percent and 50 percent subsidized prices in the haor and coastal areas respectively. The ECNEC also approved another project for increasing the production of oil-seed crops involving Tk 278.26 crore. Two more approved projects are- enhancing digital survey capacity of Land Record and Survey Department with a cost of Taka 1,212.54 crore and land management automation project with Taka 1197.03 crore. The meeting was informed that the implementation rate of ADP was 80 percent in the last fiscal year, which was 94 percent in 2018-19 fiscal year.

Bangladesh yesterday recorded 33 more fatalities from the novel coronavirus in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 2,424. At the same time recovery count rose to 1,03,227 after another 4,910 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. Directorate General of Health Services disclosed this at its daily health bulletin. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 3,163 new cases taking the total number of cases to 1, 90,057. A total of 13,453 samples were tested at the authorised labs across the country during that time.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while speaking at a virtual press briefing yesterday urged the authorities concerned to further increase the number of coronavirus samples test. Reiterating that no irregularity would be tolerated in the COVID-19 samples test, he said issuing fake certificates of coronavirus samples test has raised concerns and put the country's image abroad at risk. Urging all the party workers to stand by the flood victim, Obaidul Quader informed that the government has already evacuated the stranded flood victims and sent them to shelter centres. About 1,000 shelter centres also remain prepared to this end, he added.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud provided food items among over 500 distressed workers at Rangunia in Chattogram yesterday. NNK Foundation on behalf of the Minister handed over the food stuff among the jobless people at Karnafuli Jute Mill Gate at a simple ceremony.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque while talking to reporters at his ministry yesterday said, the ministry and the Directorate General of Health Services do not have any problem with each other. The ministry can seek explanation from DGHS which is part of the government's job, he added. Zahid Maleque also said, the government is carrying out inquiry into the fraudulence activities of JKG and Regent Hospital. If the allegations are found to be true, then stern action would be taken against them.

Meanwhile, RAB arrested the chairman of Regent Hospital Shahed from Satkhira district early in the morning today over issuance of fake coronavirus certificates from the hospital. The prime accused of the case was arrested in a drive conducted in Devhata frontier area around 5:30 am, RAB sources said. RAB also nabbed Regent Group Managing Director Masud Parvez, a close aide of Shahed, from Kapasia of Gazipur yesterday. Police handed over JKG Health Care Chairman Dr. Sabrina to the Detective Branch of Police for interrogation for issuing fake Covid-19 test certificates.

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Dr. Md Enamur Rahman in a virtual briefing at his ministry yesterday said, the government has the capacity to continue relief assistance, no matter how big the disaster is and how long the disaster lasts. In order to provide relief to the flood affected people as soon as the flood waters come, the government gave 8,210 tonnes of rice, 2 crore 82 lakh 50 thousand taka, 74,000 packets of dry food, Tk 48 lakh for cattle food and Tk 48 lakh for baby food, he informed.

Meanwhile, with the rise of water levels in all major three river basins and the southeastern hill regions coupled with the heavy to very heavy rainfall in the upstream Indian states and inside Bangladesh, the country is likely to witness a prolonged flood inundating low-lying areas in nearly 25 districts, Bangladesh water Development Board sources said yesterday.

The government yesterday inked a \$500 million deal with China to implement mega renewable power projects in the country to fulfill its promise to produce power from renewable sources along with its traditional ones. A new joint venture company titled Bangladesh-China Power Company, was formed to implement the projects. State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid attending the contract signing ceremony through video conference said, incentives will be continued to encourage renewable energy in the country.

Deputy Minister for Water Resources A K M Enamul Haque Shamim while speaking at a discussion at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday informed, the government has taken up four projects costing Tk 8,000 crore to construct sustainable embankments in southwestern part of the country.


Awami League nominated candidates Sahadara Mannan Shilpi and Shahin Chaklader have been unofficially elected in the by polls to the Bogura-1 and Jashore-6 JS constituencies by polls which were held yesterday following hygiene rules amid the coronavirus pandemic. Meanwhile, the Election Commission has said, it will not be possible to hold the Chattogram City Corporation polls by August 5 in line with the legal obligations due to coronavirus situation and apprehension of mudslide in hilly areas during this monsoon.

The World Youth Skills Day-2020 is being observed virtually in the country as elsewhere in the world today with the theme "Skills for a Resilient Youth". President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages on the occasion of the day wished all the success of the Day.

President Md. Abdul Hamid in a condolence message expressed profound shock at the death of veteran freedom fighter and former minister Shajahan Siraj, who breathed his last at the age of 75 at a city hospital yesterday.

Legendary singer Andrew Kishore, who breathed his last on July 6 at his 64, will be buried today at Christian cemetery at Sreerampur area in Rajshahi beside his parents' after completing rituals in the City Church in Rajshahi.

The government has re-appointed Surath Kumar Sarkar, an officer of BCS 1984 regular batch as Principal Information Officer at the Press Information Department on contract for the next one year. Surath Kumar Sarkar, an Additional Secretary of the government, went on PLR on 4th July after serving the post for more than one year.


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