



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

News Brief

The ECNEC yesterday approved a Taka 4,300 crore project to groom the country's youth folk, women and disadvantaged section of people suitable for getting employed and thus build themselves as demand-based workforce of the country. The approval came from a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council with its Chairperson and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The Premier joined the meeting virtually from Ganobhaban. A total of eight projects were approved involving an overall estimated cost of Taka 7,589.72 crore. Of the approved eight projects, six are new while two others are revised projects. The other projects approved in the meeting are Construction of physical infrastructures at Hily, Burimari and Banglabandha LC Stations; Erection of pillars along the bank of Buriganga, Turag, Shitalakhya and Balu Rivers, protection of embankments and construction of walkway, jetty and ancillary infrastructures second phase (first revised); Construction of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Novo theatre, Rangpur; Strengthening capacity of regional lentil research center in Madaripur and boosting production of lentil production at greater Barishal and Faridpur regions; Development of reclaimed land from the River Jamuna in Sirajganj and thus protecting proposed economic zone (first revised) and Rehabilitation of Polder No 15 of Satkhira district.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina emphasized the need for involvement of all concerned to ensure proper medical services for the people with disabilities. On the eve of the World Physiotherapy Day, in separate messages yesterday, they urged all to work together to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities and those at risk of disability in the overall development of the country and ensure their medical services, improve their quality of life and make them self-reliant in order to build Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's dream 'Golden Bangladesh'.

Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will sit with the central leaders of the ruling party in person for the first time in over a year. The meeting will be held at Ganobhaban tomorrow. Sources at the Prime Minister's Office said the Premier will also attend the upcoming 76th United Nations General Assembly in person rather than virtually.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader described BNP as the flag-bearer of politics of intolerance and vengeance and said that the people don't believe BNP would establish democracy as the party itself does politics in undemocratic ways. While speaking at a press conference at BRTA head office in the city yesterday, he also added, Awami League always talks about BNP's practicing of ill-politics and now pro-BNP intellectuals have started talking about the party's irregularities. Mentioning that BNP leaders are constantly spreading hatred against the government, the Minister said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government is tolerating these with its liberalism.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, now in India on an official visit, yesterday met his Indian counterpart Anurag Singh Thakur at his official residence and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in New Delhi. During the meeting with Anurag, they discussed the progress of the biopic 'Bangabandhu,' a joint venture documentary film of Bangladesh and India, on the Liberation of Bangladesh and other joint initiatives marking the golden jubilee of independence of Bangladesh and the diamond jubilee of Indian independence. Later, Dr. Hasan, met Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at South Block. During the meeting, they discussed about people to people contact, bilateral trade, investment and other mutual issues. The meeting also focused on mutual cooperation in tackling the COVID-19.

Meanwhile, the Information and Broadcasting Minister called upon all concerned to work together to help make people's movement easier in the region for their betterment. He said and cited an example from the present Europe where anybody can move one country to another freely. Interacting with the Indian media fraternity at Bangladesh mission in New Delhi last afternoon, he said the movement of people between Bangladesh and India has to be made easier as their movement increased many folds in the recent times for different purposes ranging from tourism to treatment. He urged especially the journalist community to build up public opinion in this regard.

Later, Dr. Hasan Mahmud joined a book launching ceremony at Indian Council of World Affairs in New Delhi. The book titled "Bangladesh War Commentary" was written by U. L Baruah on the War of Independence of Bangladesh. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister paid rich tribute to the martyrs especially the Indian army personnel who laid down their lives during the Bangladesh's 1971 War of Independence.

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Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen called upon major carbon emitting countries to rehabilitate the climate migrants displaced from their homes and traditional jobs due to climate change. The Minister made the remark while addressing the meeting of the Global Center on Adaptation in Rotterdam of the Netherlands on Monday, said a press release in Dhaka. Dr. Momen stressed the need of ambitious nationally determined contributions in the area of climate change by the major polluting countries. Bangladesh Foreign Minister also highlighted the importance of ensuring the climate finance of at least 100 billion dollars every year, with equal importance given to mitigation and adaptation. Earlier, the Minister chaired a meeting of the Ministers of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, the platform of 48 countries severely affected by climate change.

The Dhaka-Bhanga railway route will be launched on December 16 in 2022. Railways Minister Md. Nurul Islam Sujan said this while inspecting the railway links on both sides of the Padma Bridge in Munshiganj yesterday. He also said, it will not be possible to introduce train on Padma Bridge on the same day, with inauguration road communication, if the railway section of the bridge is not handed over to the railway authority by next January.

State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain while speaking a press conference at the secretariat yesterday said, around 3,85,000 posts at various government organisations were now vacant as the recruitment process in the public service was stalled following the Covid-19 outbreak in March, 2020. He said the agencies concerned were asked to resume recruitment process and the government had already decided to extend the age limit considering the coronavirus pandemic.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Md Faridul Haque Khan speaking at the board meeting of the Buddhist Religious Welfare Trust at the Secretariat yesterday said, the government is committed to building Bangladesh as a civilised country through ensuring the welfare and security of the country's religious minorities. Under the leadership of Bangabandhu's worthy daughter Sheikh Hasina, he said, Bangladesh has now been established as a model country of communal harmony.

Bangladesh offered Uzbekistan to launch a direct Dhaka-Tashkent flight to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries. Bangladesh also requested Uzbekistan to set up its own embassy in Dhaka. The proposals were made when a four-member Bangladesh delegation led by Private Industry and Investment Affairs Advisers to the Prime Minister Salman F Rahman met Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov in Tashkent yesterday. During the meeting, Sardor Umurzakov assured Bangladeshi investors will get tax exemption and duty free facilities if they invest in Uzbekistan.

The government has promoted 89 officials of administration cadre, who were performing as joint secretaries, to the rank of additional secretary. The Public Administration Ministry issued a gazette notification in this regard yesterday.

A meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee to review reports on the sighting of moon of the holy month of Safar of 1443 Hijri will be held today, said a press release yesterday.

Bangladesh Policewomen Network Strategic Plan (2021-2023) was launched yesterday, seeking to ensure gender equality in the country's police force and empowerment of female police officials. The event was jointly organized by UN Women Bangladesh and BPWN at Bangladesh Police Headquarters in Dhaka, media reports.

The Bangladesh women's national football team yesterday started its first training in Kathmandu ahead of FIFA tier-1 football friendly matches against their Nepalese counterpart, according to a message of Bangladesh Football Federation. Meanwhile, Mujib Barsho' first-ever Women's Chess League is going to begin at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room in the city today.

The country yesterday recorded 56 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the death toll to 26,684. With 2,639 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,19,805. The positivity rate stood at 9.69 per cent as 27,233 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 14,60,754, DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday. Besides, a total of 343 dengue patients got admitted in different hospitals across the country in the 24 hours till 8am last morning, DGHS informed.

DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, yesterday crossed the 7,100-mark for the first time after the index was introduced more than eight years back in 2013. DSEX soared 65.38 points or 0.92 per cent to settle at more than 7,140.87 for the first time after the index was introduced more than eight years back in 2013.


Md. Shahinoor Miah

Principal Information Officer (Acting)
Phone- 9546091

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