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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reiterated her assurance that all the flood-hit people will be rehabilitated, saying, 'don't be panicked and don't worry about flood. The PM said this at a view exchange meeting on the review of the recent flood situation in the Sylhet division and rehabilitation of the affected people at the Sylhet Circuit house. She has given a set of directives to all concerned particularly the field level administration to take prompt measures to ease sufferings of the flood affected people. She also advised the flood affected people to somehow harvest rainwater as it has been raining cats and dogs in the region. She asked all concerned to distribute an adequate number of water purifying tablets, required medicines and saline to the flood-hit people. The PM stressed the need for constructing elevated ways instead of roads filling soil in the haor areas like Sylhet, Sunamganj and Kishoreganj for smooth transportation of the people and goods during such disasters alongside ensuring their durability. About dredging of the Kushiara River, she said, she favours capital dredging in a river for a single time and maintenance dredging for every year to ensure their navigability.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday also said, the Awami League (AL) always stands beside the people during any disaster. The Premier said this at a same view exchange meeting on the review of recent flood situation in Sylhet Division and rehabilitation of the affected people at Sylhet Circuit house. In government or opposition, wherever AL remains, its leaders and activists always stand beside the countrymen and work for them. During cyclone, flood or any other disaster, AL always stay beside people and will continue assistance to people, she said adding during any disaster, AL reaches the affected people fast and quickly than others. AL leaders and activists went to the remote areas, where many couldn't reach, and sent pictures of those areas to me what helped ease the rescue process that I sent those pictures to the army chief, our office, divisional office, so they have been able to rescue the people, the Premier said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday offered ziarat at the shrines of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) and Hazrat Shah Paran (RA). Sheikh Hasina, who arrived in Sylhet to inspect the flood situation in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Netrakona and adjacent areas, first went to the mazar of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) in the divisional city. She spent there for some time, reciting from the holy Quran and offering Fateha and munajat. The Premier asked the authorities concerned to take measures to make sure that the water cannot enter the food godowns and food can be transported easily from the storehouses during the flood. About power cuts during the flood, she said the electricity connection is usually snapped during storms and flooding mainly to avoid any new disaster like deaths in electrocution. The Prime Minister asked the administration to clean the entire flood affected areas of Sylhet region by bleaching powder to protect the people from infectious diseases like diarrhea and fever after the water started receding. She said she had already instructed the Health Ministry to this end.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the police force to grow as the last resort of the people who come to them seeking protection for their lives and dignity. The Premier said this while joining a function of Bangladesh Police through a videoconference from her official residence Ganobhaban. In the function, the Premier opened five projects of Bangladesh Police, including two newly constructed police stations -Padma Setu Uttar Thana and Padma Setu Dakkhin Thana-on the two sides of the much-desired Padma Bridge. She also asked the police to stay vigilant against different social diseases and crimes to maintain a peaceful environment in the country. Noting that the police drive against militancy and terrorism has been a success, she said the drive should continue. She said police is playing a significant role in controlling drug abuse, cybercrimes, money laundering, spreading rumours, human trafficking and other offenses, which are very harmful to the people and the country.

Prime Minister Sheikh hasina said, her government took immediate measures to cope with the situation, and built cyclone shelters in the south and multipurpose flood shelters in the northern part of Bangladesh as disaster preparedness. The Premier said this while Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh Charles Whiteley yesterday called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the National Parliament. At the meeting, the Premier appreciated Ambassador Whiteley's commitment and efforts to elevate and diversify the Bangladesh-EU relations further. The EU Ambassador expressed his satisfaction over Bangladesh's preparedness and resilience to combat this kind of seasonal natural disaster caused mainly by the monsoon rain.

22.06.22

Health Minister Zahid Maleque said, the government has taken a plan to set up burn units in five divisional medical colleges and hospitals in the country with Saudi Arabian funding. He said this during a question-answer session at the Parliament yesterday. He said the units would be set up in Sylhet, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Barishal and Faridpur. The project was approved at the ECNEC meeting on December 7 last year and will be implemented from July 2022 to June 2025. In addition, a 100-bed burn unit will be set up at Chattogram Medical College Hospital funded by the Chinese government. Another project has been taken to set up a burn unit in Mymensingh and Khulna district under the fourth sector programme, said the Minister. He also said licenses of 49 drug manufacturing companies and production and marketing of all types of medicines by 14 pharmaceutical companies have been suspended during this period.

Railways Minister Md Nurul Islam Sujan yesterday said, the government is implementing a 30-year master plan slated from 2016 to 2045 to modernize the country's rail communication system aiming at making the transportation service a people-friendly one. He said this while addressing as the chief guest at a seminar titled 'Railways in development progress: Challenges and remedies' at the CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka. He put emphasize on gearing up the infrastructural development for ensuring a better rail communication system.

The Ministry of Environment has requested all concerned to ensure environmental protection through proper waste management of sacrificial animals in compliance with health guidelines. The request was made at an inter-ministerial meeting held at the conference room of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change yesterday on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha. It also made request to use eco-friendly bags or materials for removal of waste or distribution of meat and dump the remains of slaughtered animals in the dustbins or designated places. The meeting decided to distribute 400,000 leaflets nationwide through city corporations, municipalities, Department of Environment, district administrations and district information offices. In addition, the Department of Environment will take steps to reach out the public through text messages. Leaflets have been distributed in mosques across the country through the Islamic Foundation to create awareness among people and imams have been urged to advise them to keep the environment clean during Jumma prayers. Television channels have been requested to broadcast the message regarding removal of waste of sacrificial animals properly.

The state-owned Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation will launch air-conditioned buses on 23 routes in the southwest on Jun 26 after the inauguration of the Padma Bridge. Initially, 65 AC buses will operate on the routes, BRTC said, adding that preliminary preparations have been completed. Non-AC buses will be pressed into service later as per the demand of passengers. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is set to open the 6.15 km-long bridge on June 25, connecting people from southern and southwestern Bangladesh. The government spent Tk 301.93 billion on the construction of the bridge and approach roads.

M/s Checkpoint System Bangladesh Limited-Unit 2, a Netherlands-owned company, is going to establish a Garments Accessories manufacturing industry in BEPZA Economic Zone. The company will invest US\$ 10.52 million to produce annually 1,319 million units of different types of Hang Tag, Tickets, Sticker and Label. A total of 274 Bangladeshi nationals will get employment opportunities in this factory. An agreement to this effect yesterday was signed between Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) and M/s Checkpoint System Bangladesh Ltd.-Unit 2 at BEPZA Complex in Dhaka. Ali Reza Mazid, Member (IP) of BEPZA, and Kumudu Athuruliya, General Manager-South Asia of Check point System, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations.

The Covid-19 situation in Bangladesh is keeping worsening day by day as the country yesterday reported one death in two consecutive days and 873 fresh cases in last 24 hours. The daily positivity rate is 11.03 percent and infection tally has now stood at 1,905,983. The virus killed 29,133 people so far.

DSEX, the core index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, slid 45.72 points or 0.72 per cent to settle at 6,311. Two other indices also ended lower. The DSE 30 Index, comprising blue chips, lost 19.15 points to finish at 2,295 and the DSE Shariah Index (DSES) shed 9.11 points close at 1,378.

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