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Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina places wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum yesterday to mark his 85th birthday.

Tk 9,000cr mega health project approved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) yesterday approved the Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (HNPS) involving an expenditure of about Tk 9,000 crore.

Earlier on February 11, the Ecne

meeting reviewed the project implementation paper of HNPS in which the health ministry had proposed an expenditure of over Tk 10,600 crore.

At the same meeting, a six-member secretarial committee was formed by the prime minister to revise the budget and place it again at the Ecne.

The HNPS primarily aims at controlling communicable diseases and improving maternal and child health.

A package of essential health interventions with enhanced programmes for family planning to cater the needs of the poor would be another area of its main concerns.

Implementation and access of current essential services package (ESP) under sector-wise approach would be ensured with special focus on the health needs of the poorest and the most vulnerable group.

Under the programme, non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, mental illnesses, and cancers would be effectively addressed by relatively low-cost interventions, especially using preventive actions relating to diet, smoking, and lifestyle.

Besides, subsidised provisions in the supply of birth-control technologies, especially for poor women, would be continued.

Emerging public health problems such as arsenic and dengue would receive priority attention in the medium-term period.

Adequate measures would be taken to check the prevalence of HIV/AIDS as well as enhance the capacity to address the problem.

Enhancing the capability of the public health sector to address the past slippage and manage new threats to the health of the population would be a crucial part of the new strategy.

