

Ecneec okays Rural Dev Project-23

UNB, Dhaka

Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) yesterday approved the Rural Development Project-23 (amended) of the Local Government Division for improving infrastructures in Laxmipur and Feni districts with assistance from DANIDA, a Danish development agency.

The ECNEC approved the project at a meeting at the NEC conference room in the city with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair.

The meeting endorsed implementation report on Barind Integrated Area Development Project (BIADP) and the project summary on sanctioning additional money for the Health and

Population Sector Project (HPSP). It also approved the summary of the Rural Gas Distribution Project of the Energy and Mineral Resources Division to set up gas connection lines in Madhabpur, Nabiganj, Habiganj and Balaganj in the greater Sylhet district.

ECNEC also decided to send five reports on foreign remittance inflow, mission-wise export targets and manpower export targets to the cabinet committee on economic affairs.

The meeting also condoled the death of the Finance Minister's wife.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Industries Minister Matiur Rahman Nizami, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Haq, Commerce Minister Amir Khosru

Mahmud Chowdhury, State Minister for Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Qamrul Islam, State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain and State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mizanur Rahman Sinha attended the meeting.

1624 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,624 people, including four identified criminals, during their countrywide drive in 24 hours till 6am yesterday.

During the drive, the law enforcers also recovered two firearms and two bullets and filed one case against one person under the Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release.

Bangladesh likely to sign protocol with France

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and France appear to sign a protocol in mid-December this year, aiming to exchange experience and technical knowledge to face earthquake.

French Ambassador Michel Lummaux said this when he met Disaster Management and Relief Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf at his office yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed issues of bilateral interest, especially the mutual cooperation for sharing experience and technical knowledge to face earthquake.

Referring to river erosion, flashflood, tornado, cyclone, tidal surge and mild tremor in Bangladesh, the relief minister told the French envoy that Bangladesh is a natural disaster-prone country.

He said the government was relentlessly working to face such calamities and seeking assistance and cooperation of various countries to face the disasters, particularly tremor.

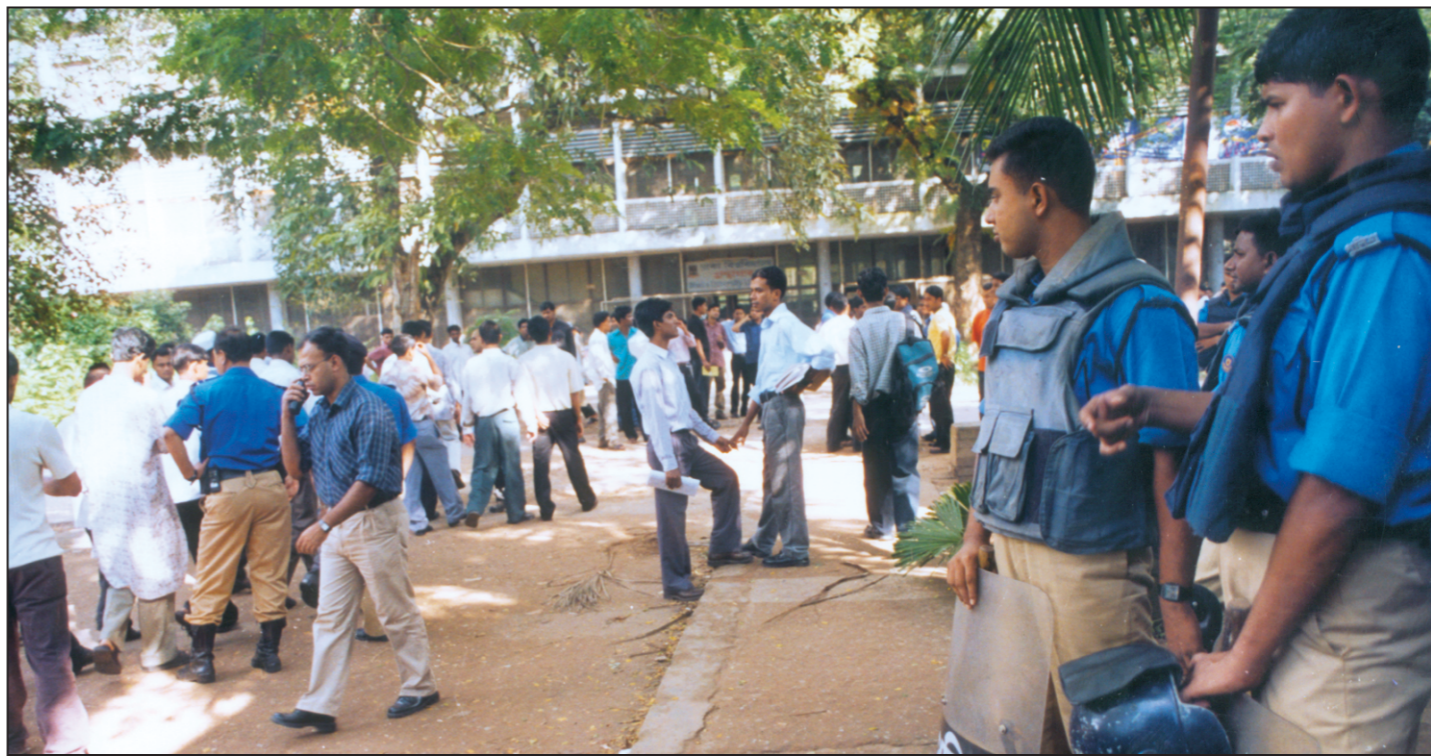


PHOTO: STAR

Police stand on guard on the Dhaka University campus yesterday after two factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal clashed, leaving ten students and two police constables injured.

Cooperatives awards announced

BSS, Dhaka

Fifteen best cooperative societies and 12 best cooperators have finally been selected for the National Cooperatives Award for the year 2002.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to distribute the awards among the winners at the Osmani Memorial Hall here on November 1, an official handout said yesterday.

The best 15 cooperative societies are: in agri-based cooperative society (BRDB) category-Shyamganj Farmers Cooperative Society Limited, Laximpur, in agri-based cooperative society (General) category-Dilipur Pineapple

Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited, Tangail, in sanchoi rindan cooperative society category-Tumilia Christian Rindan Cooperative Society Limited, Gazipur, in bipanon cooperative society category-Mirpur Milk Distribution Rickshaw Van Drivers Cooperative Society Limited, Pallabi, Dhaka, in milk cooperative society category-Barabil Primary Milk Producers Cooperative Society Limited, Sirajganj, in muktijodha cooperative society category-Biral Thana Muktijodha Poultry Farms Cooperative Society Limited, Dinajpur, in youth cooperative society category-Dangarhat Youth Development Multipurpose

Cooperative Society Limited, Rajshahi, in fisheries pisciculture cooperative category-Parulia Fisheries Cooperative Society Limited, Satkhira; in multipurpose cooperative society category-Chaigini Overall Village Development Cooperative Society Limited, Comilla, in Sramik-karmachari cooperative society category-ICDDR,B Employees Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited, Mahakhali, Dhaka; in landless cooperative society category-Zakergachha Upazila Central Women Landless Cooperative Society Limited, Jessore; in mahila cooperative society category-Baridhara Mahila Cooperative

Society Limited, Badda, Dhaka; in tanti cooperative society category-Mominagar Cooperative Shilpa Union Limited, Jessore; in Paribahan cooperative samity category-Lalmohan Rickshaw Puller Cooperative Society Limited, Bhola; and in special category-Sylhet Sadar Fisheries Ayatdar Welfare Cooperative Society Limited, Sylhet.

The best-12 cooperators are: in agri-based society (BRDB) category-Anisul Islam Thakur, president, Borodewanpara Baddapara Krishak Cooperative Society Limited, Brahmanbaria, in agri-based cooperative society (General) category-Mohammad Sirajul Huq, president, Jatrapur Farmer Cooperative Society Limited, Comilla; in sanchoi and rindan cooperative society category-Alhaj Alauddin Mollah, president, Chakbazar Small Businessmen Sanchoi and Rindan Cooperative Society Limited, Sherpur in market-bipanon cooperative society category-Dr Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, president, Bashudevpur Development Consumers Cooperative Store Limited, Dinajpur; Milk Cooperative Society, Kartik Chandra Shah, member, Dhulla Kamalpur Primary Milk Producer Cooperative Society Limited, Manikganj; Jubo Cooperative Society, Mohammad Shaheedul Islam, president, Kumarpara Jubo Welfare Cooperative Society Limited, Kushiya; Multipurpose Cooperative Society, Ismail Hossain, member, Agragami Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited, Sylhet; Sramik-Karmachari Cooperative Society, Mohammad Osman Gani, member, Fisons Sramik and Karmachari Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited, Gazipur; Landless Cooperative Society, Shora Begum, president, Sabujpara Landless

Women Cooperative Society Limited, Nilphamari; Mahila Cooperative, Society Josna Sharma, president, Monipur Rajbari Cooperative Society Limited, Sylhet; Paribahan Cooperative Society, Noshar Ali, secretary, Bagabari Ghat Trucklori Paribahan Sramik Cooperative Society Limited, Sirajganj; and special class, Cooperative Society, Mohammad Shanti Miah, secretary, Sunamganj, Motar Boat Owner Cooperative Society Limited, Sunamganj.

MK Anwar leaves for Hanoi

UNB, Dhaka

Agriculture Minister MK Anwar left for Hanoi yesterday to share Vietnam's experience in agriculture development as the Asian country recorded a quick success in attaining food autarky.

During his visit, the two sides will hold discussions aiming to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on 'Bangladesh-Vietnam cooperation in the field of agriculture'.

Vietnam's economy is mainly based on agriculture and the nation succeeded in tripling rice production in 25 years, turning the food-deficit country of 1975 into the world's second-largest rice exporter now, after Thailand.

Vietnam exports some 4.5 million tons of rice annually.

Introduction of hybrid seeds is the key to Vietnam's tremendous achievements in production of rice as well as other foodgrains, spices, pulses, vegetables, fruits and non-farm produces like flower.



PHOTO: STAR

Winners of a drawing competition pose with State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain and other guests at the prize distribution ceremony in the city yesterday. The Youth and Social Development Organisation arranged the competition to mark the World Children's Day.

Distribute VGF cards in N-dists immediately

Krishak League urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Krishak League yesterday called on the government to distribute Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cards among the destitute in northern districts on an urgent basis.

"A famine-like situation has been prevailing in northern districts and people are dying of starvation and various diseases, including diarrhoea, and farmers are the worst affected," said its President Mirza Jaill at a press conference.

Blaming the government's wrong policy for price hike of essentials, he said the government also failed to control the market, leading to great hardship for the low- and middle-income groups.

He said farmers are being deprived of fair prices of agricultural produces although those are selling at high prices in the market.

Jaill urged the government to ensure fair prices for the farmers and grant more subsidies for the agriculture sector.

"Instead of taking steps for betterment of farmers, the BNP-Jamaat government is harassing poor farmers by filing certificate cases," Jaill said.

While the previous AL government had withheld all certificate cases against the farmers, the present government filed over one lakh cases against them, he said and demanded immediate withdrawal of the cases.

The Krishak League president urged the government to reduce prices of seeds, fertiliser, diesel and pesticides, and distribute khas lands among the landless farmers.

AL leader Rahmat Ali MP and Krishak League General Secretary Motahar Mollah were also present.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country with chances of light rain or drizzle at one or two places over the coastal districts till 6pm today.

Day temperature may slightly rise over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and the lowest 21.6 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:21 pm today and rises at 6:04 am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.9	24.4	69	67
Chittagong	34.6	24.0	73	74
Rajshahi	31.2	23.0	66	88
Khulna	32.5	24.6	89	82
Barisal	32.0	24.2	80	83
Sylhet	32.2	23.5	75	79
Cox's Bazar	34.0	25.7	82	85



Students take part in a daylong inter-school debate on 'Child rights' at Tongi recently. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Limited sponsored the event organised by the Working for Better Life, an NGO.