METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

Seven projects worth Tk 1,848cr okayed

BDNEWS. Dhaka

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecnec) vesterday approved seven projects with an outlay of Tk 1,848 crore, including Tk 112 crore in foreign aid

The approval was given at a meeting of the Ecnec held at the NEC conference room with Finance and Planning Minister and ECNEC alternative Chairperson Saifur Rahman in the chair.

meeting include UP complex building constriction (2nd revised) project involving Tk 755 crore, construction of academic buildings of selected private secondary schools at a cost of Tk 631 crore and setting up of fire service and civil defence stations in 47 strategic places involving Tk 99 crore.

"We are approving projects on the basis of priority of the government," Saifur Rahman told journal-

electricity distribution (2nd revised) project of greater Rajshahi involving Tk 631crore, including Tk 112 crore funded by Kuwait and OPEC fund and Indian government.

Constructions of a 452.68 metre bridge over the Brahmaputra on JamalpurSherpur-Bongaon road involving Tk 42 crore and Tailardweep bridge over the river Sangu in Anowara upzila in Chittagong at a cost of Tk 54 crore, and development of Madhabpur-

have already put the MDG issue on

Abdul Qaiyum said the government

should provide dependable data to

the media and fix the target of

West University presented a key-

note paper on 'Bangladesh status

Shaymol Datta, Editor of the Jai Jai

Din Shafiq Rehman, Editor of The

New Nation Mostafa Kamal

Majumder, Foreign Editor of BSS

Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury,

Executive Director of Democracy

watch Taleya Rehman, Secretary

General of the Centre for

Sustainable Development Mahfuz

Ullah, Director General of PIB Dr

Rezwan Siddique, Jai Jai Din City

Editor Aminul Islam and Managing

Director of The Bangladesh Today

director of Centre for Development

Communication (CDC), moderated

Manikganj Sadar upazila at

road on his way to school, police

Razib, 20, was killed when a vehicle

hit his van from opposite direction at

A pickup van helper identified as

Humidity in

73

73

80

90

Muhammad Jahangir, executive

Julfia Asad also spoke

the roundtable

Prof AK Enamul Hague of East

Editor of the Bhorer Kagoj

Joint Editor of the Prothom Alo

their policy agenda

achieving the goals

on MDGs'.

Ramchandrapur-Nagerkandthi road in Moulavibazar district costing Tk 22 crores were also approved in the meeting

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, and Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Hoque were also present at the meeting.

'Approach MDGs from country's perspective'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lessons from the War of Liberation -- integrity, equality, responsibility, democracy and secularity -- must be translated into actions to achieve the Millennium Develop-ment Goals (MDGs). speakers at a roundtable

They said the people of the country have self-confidence and immense mental strength and if they get some sort of support, they can contribute a lot to the development

Democracywatch organised the roundtable on 'MDG: Bangladesh Status and Way Forward' in association with the Centre for Sustainable Development at a city hotel. The British High Commi ssion supported

Eminent economist Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said, "We have to approach the MDGs from the country's perspective and empower people to take ownership of these

"The policy imposed by the donors will not be helpful to achieve the MDGs. Rather, we have to formulate sustainable and suitable development policy with our own

O Gabeshana Parishad organised the discussion.

Worker dies as

roof collapses

in Chittagong

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

port city yesterday morning.

Bhutto, 25.

One worker was killed and two

others injured when a roof collapsed

while dismantling a dilapidated

building at Chawkbazaar area in the

The victim was identified as

The accident occurred when the

Mohammad Musa nicknamed

roof of a one-storey dilapidated

building named Haque Mansion fell

down along with six workers

engaged in demolishing it near

Md Zakir Hossain, 35 and Md

Mizanur Rahman, 30, got trapped in the debris and received serious

Three workers including Musa,

Members of fire service rescued

them and sent to Chittagong

Medical College Hospital where

Musa succumbed to injuries due to

excessive bleeding at around

two brothers hailing from Osman

Nagar of Char Fashion in Bhola.

were undergoing treatment at

casualty and orthopaedics wards of

The other two injured, reportedly

12:00noon, sources said.

Parade Corner, sources said.

efforts, which will protect the people's interest," he added.

Ataus Samad, advisory editor of the Amar Desh, said political will and sincerity and transparency among the politicians are the key to achieving the MDGs.

Quoting Kazi Mesbahuddin Ahmed, a member of the Planning Commission, he said about 30 percent of the countrymen cannot afford more than one meal a day. If such is the situation, it will be very difficult to attain the goals, he

Columnist ABM Musa said the country would attain development if the politicians take initiative in this regard instead of only delivering

He also urged the media persons to raise awareness among general people about MDGs and put pressure on the policymakers to realise the goals.

To allow the media to take initiative in this regard, the government should change its mindset as it has a tendency towards refusing to provide or accept the fact, said Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, executive editor of the Sanabad.

He also noted that the

Participants at a discussion on two books -- 'Bangladesh Threat of War' and 'Dharmer Rajnaitik Byabohar O

Jangibad' (Use of religion in politics and militancy) -- at the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday. From left are

Justice KM Sobhan, Dr MA Wajed Mia, Dr AK Azad Chowdhury and Prof Abu Sayeed. Bangabandhu Adarsha Mulyayn

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Two people, including a primary

school student, were killed in two

separate road accidents on Dhaka-

Aricha highway in Manikganj yester-

on April 23

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

FM begins Europe tour

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan will embark on a weeklong visit to four European countries on April 23 at the invitation of his counterparts.

During his tour, he will hold hilateral talks with the foreign ministers of France, the Netherlands and Switzerland. He will also hold talks with the Foreign Minister of European Union at its headquarter in Belgium.

"I will have discussion on bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern with my counterparts during the visit, Morshed Khan said

In Belgium, he said as chair of the Saarc council of ministers, he will hold talks on enhanced cooperation between the Saarc and the

Morshed Khan said relations between Bangladesh and France. the Netherlands, Switzerland and EU are excellent and he will discuss with his counterparts to enhance ties further as well as increase trade and economic cooperation. He said he will also invite the European entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh.

Bangladeshborn US citizen made attorney

Bss, New York

Nazmul Alam, the first Bangladeshborn US citizen, who has been working here for a long time as an expert on immigration and civil and criminal affairs, has been appointed an attorney of the US Supreme Court in Washington DC recently.

Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court John Roberts administered the oath to Nazmul.

Prior to his joining as the attorney, he had been serving as an advisor of the immigration affairs of the mayoral office in New York for the last seven years.

Nazmul always lends his helping hands to both the immigrant and non-immigrant expatriate Bangladeshis during the especial forced registration drive by the local immigration department.

Besides, he also provides legal assistance to the Bangladesh consulate office here with other

Gayoom visits Bangladeshi painting exhibition

UNB, Dhaka

Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom visited Bangladeshi painting exhibition at the National Art Gallery in Male on Monday.

The exhibition titled "Sreejoni: Paintings from Bangladesh", has been organised on the occasion of the 35th Independence Day of Bangladesh, according to a message received here yesterday.

Minister and State Minister for Information and Arts, Minister for Presidential Affairs and senior officials of the president's office, foreign office and National Gallery were also present.

High Commissioner Mijarul Quayes presented a set of publications on Bangladesh paintings and folders of paintings by Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin to the President.

Maldives Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Shaheed inaugurated the exhibition on March 26 jointly organised by National Art Gallery of the Maldives and Bangladesh High Commission.



Members of Bangladesh Book Publishers' and Sellers' Association march towards the Prime Minister's Office in the city yesterday to submit a memorandum in protest against price hike of paper.

INCLUSION OF 8 F-7 BG FIGHTER AIRCRAFT

Make Air Force more dynamic: PM

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the Air Force members to be more active for making the force more disciplined and dynamic.

She was addressing a function marking the inclusion of F-7 BG fighter aircraft into the fleet of Bangladesh Air Force's fighter planes at BAF tarmac at Kurmitola in the city yesterday

Sixteen F-7 BG fighter aircraft with maximum speed of 2170 km per hour have been procured from China and eight of them included into the fleet of Air Force.

"There is no alternative to training for achieving professional skill. I do believe that the meritorious pilots who will run the new fighter aircraft will be able to build themselves as efficient officers through training and practice," she told the Air Force members. "A consolidated national secu-

rity is necessary for steering the country towards peace and progress," she said, adding that Bangladesh Air Force has been raised through a bloody independence war and now it has been recognised as a disciplined and professional force. Khaleda recalled the contribu-

tions of late president Ziaur Rahman, who first took steps to form a modern and strong air force fit for an independent and sovereign country.

"We have been working for strengthening the force and subsequently new F-7 fighter aircraft have been added to its fleet," the

She said Bogra and Moulvibazar radar units have already been included to the air force while Bogra airfield handed

Ambassador Houroro

Mohammed termed the relations

between the two countries excel-

lent, and said his country has

already sent a delegation to

import of Bangladeshi leather and

He also showed keen interest in

against 16 JU students

Department

Bangladesh to boost trade

over to it for building up a modern air force in addition to procuring MIs-171, a VIP helicopter, some GSA radar and weather satellite receivers.

Khaleda thanked the Chinese

government for its cooperation in strengthening Bangladesh Armed Force and the country's economic development. She praised the Air Force mem-

bers for their service to the country as well as the nation since its establishment. She thanked them for safe-

guarding Bangladesh skies and working together with the people during any emergency situations, including natural disasters. "Our Air Force members are

also acclaimed for their role in UN peacekeeping missions abroad," the Prime Minister pointed out.

added to the Air Force fleet yester

On her arrival at the BAF tarmac, she was received by Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshall Fakhrul Azam and Air Office Commanding the BAF base, Kurmitola, M Delwar Hossain

smartly turned out parade and took salute from an impressive march past. Apart from the parade com-

The Prime Minister reviewed a

manded by Wing Commander Reza Emdad Khan, there was a spectacular fly pass by F-7 fighter aircraft. One F-7 aircraft also carried out aerobatics.

She also witnessed a static display of the fighter aircraft. Ministers, diplomats, MPs

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Chai Xi, chiefs of Army and Navy were present.

Appeal for help

Shilpi Begum, a mother of two

children, has appealed for financial assistance for her treatment as her heart valve has been damaged.

According to doctors, she needs immediate surgery, which involves

But her husband Md Abdul Majid,

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

about Tk one lakh

Morocco keen to import Bangladeshi leather

Ambassador tells president

President laiudin Ahmed vesterday said there could be cooperation between Bangladesh and Morocco in fertiliser and leather sectors. He also suggested possible joint

ventures in manufacturing of phosphate fertilisers as there is a substantial demand for it in the country. His remarks came when newly appointed Moroccan Ambassador

Houroro Mohammed met him at Bangabhaban to present his cre Welcoming the new envoy, President lajuddin also conveyed

his regards and compliments to King Mohammed VI through the ambassador and invited him to visit Bangladesh He said bilateral trade could be encouraged for mutual benefits of

the two countries. "Jute and jute goods, garments, pharmaceuticals, ceramic and other products from Bangladesh could meet some of the requirements of Morocco." The president also stressed the

importance of exchange of business delegations between the two coun-

Referring to Bangladesh's pioneering role in advancing the concept of micro-credit, he said it can be replicated in Morocco like other countries.

The president also mentioned the contribution of troops in UN peacekeeping missions, particularly in Africa.

Bangladesh is also committed to OIC, the UN charter, NAM and other regional and international bodies,

Disciplinary action

BDNEWS. JU The Jahangirnagar University (JU) syndicate has taken some disciplinary measures against 16 students at a meeting following recommendations of the University Disciplinary

The actions were taken against them for resorting to unfair means in examinations, misbehaving with female students and setting fire to trees in front of the registrar build-

The examination papers of 12 students of seven departments have been cancelled for adopting unfair means in examinations.

Of them, four are the students of Botany Department of academic year 2003-2004. The others are students from

Urban and Rural Planning Department, Bangla Department, Anthropology Department, Zoology

underscored the need for exchange in the field of education. Earlier on his arrival at

Bangabhaban, the ambassador was President's Guard Regiment (PGR). He took salute and inspected the parade.

Department, Government and

Politics Department and Philosophy

one-year permanent expulsion and

one-year suspended expulsion to a

student of Urban and Planning

Department for teasing a female

ment of Business Adminis-tration

(DBA) was awarded one-year

suspended expulsion and fined Tk

3,000 for misbehaving with a female

student in collusion with Tavee

Ahmed Siddique, a DBA teacher

who was removed earlier from his

Department and another from

Philosophy department were also

fined Tk 3,000 each for setting fire to

the trees in front of the registrar

A student of Economics

Besides, a student of Depart-

student of the same department.

The syndicate also awarded

who is a tailor at Joynagar in Bera,

Pabna, could not afford such expensive treatment. Shilpi has appealed to generou

people to extend a helping hand to save her life, says a press release. Contributions can be sent to

Account No.-8618/47, Sonali Bank, Bera Branch, Pabna.

Canadian architect Safdie arrives tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Internationally acclaimed Canadian architect Moshe Safdie will tarvel to Bangladesh for a two-day visit beginning tomorrow at the invitation of the Asian University for Women Support Foundation.

Safdie came into limelight when he designed an award-winning Habitat for the Montreal Fair at the age of just 26.

Before establishing his own practice and going on to join the faculty of the Harvard School of Design, Safdie worked as an associate of Louis I Kahn, architect of

Bangladesh's National Parliament.

DHÂKA T O D A Y

Roundtable

Workers Party of Bangladesh organises a roundtable discussion on ' Origin of militants' political and financial power' Venue: Asad auditorium, Topkhana Road, Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

Embassy of Iran and Anjuman-e-Farsi Bangladesh organises a seminar on 'A Star in the Galaxy of Contemporary Persian Literature'. Venue: RC Majumdar Auditorium of Dhaka University. Time:

General meeting Bangladesh Awami Jubo League will hold

a general meeting of its central committee. Venue: Party office. Time: 11:00am. Colourful

procession Ain O Salish Kendra will take out a colourful procession titled 'We Are

Committed to Protect Child Domestic Helps of Ward No 8'. Venue: City Corporation office, Mirpur 2. Time 10:00am.



Mamtaj Begum, a representative of freedom fighters, speaks at a discussion marking the 36th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at the National Press Club yesterday.

A Dhaka-bound bus ran over Borongail under Shivalaya upazila Ashik, 9, at Mufjan bus stand under

2 die in road accidents

Thundershowers likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna. Barisal and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country,

Highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 18.4 degree Celsius at Srimongal. The sun sets in the capital at 6:16pm today and rises at

5:46am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature

the hospital percentage Hospital sources said they are Morning out of danger. The building constructed during Chittagong 32.2 23.7 71 the British period was being disman-Rajshahi 35.4 23.8 tled by its owner Shamsul Haq 33.0 26.0 Khulna following a notice of Chittagong 33.8 25.4 83 Development Authority served a 22.6 18.5 100 Sylhet month back to help expansion of the Cox's Bazar road passing through Chawkbazar.