

ECNEC approves dev projects worth Tk 749.17cr

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) yesterday approved 8 projects involving about Tk 749.17 crore including about Tk 217.25 crore as project assistance, reports BSS.

The approval was given at the 57th meeting of the ECNEC held in the NEC conference room at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The projects include emergency expansion and renovation of Dhamondi 132/33 KV Power Sub-station, procurement of equipment and spare parts for emergency renovation and re-establishment of transmission and distribution system of Power Development Board, Sholoshahar power distribution project, renovation and development of jails, construction of three district jails, project on development of water supply and sanitation system in the three hill districts, renovation and development of Syl-

het Osmani Airport (amendment) and emergency procurement of equipment and spare parts for renovation and re-establishment of sub-transmission and distribution system of Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA).

The meeting was told that 1097 projects out of 1,216 under the Annual Development Programme of 1998-99 fiscal were approved by the ECNEC in its 56th meeting.

The percentage of approval stood at 87.99 as against 82.73 per cent during the same period of the previous year, which is 6.91 per cent higher.

Four hundred foreign funded projects out of 414 have been approved by the ECNEC till its last meeting and the percentage of approval stands at 96.62.

The prime minister at the meeting underlined the need for transfer of the convicts to their respective district jails so that their relatives can visit them. She asked the concerned

authorities to expand the length of runway of the Sylhet Osmani Airport to 10,000 feet to enable wide-bodied aircrafts to take off and land smoothly.

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, Education Minister ASHK Sadique, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Agriculture and Food Minister Begum Munia Chowdhury, Minister for Housing and Public Works and Tourism and Civil Aviation Engineer Mushtaq Hussain, State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and State Minister for Energy, Power and Mineral Resources Prof Rafiqul Islam attended the meeting.

Principal secretary to the prime minister, secretary of the Planning Commission, members of the Commission, finance secretary and concerned secretaries and officials attended the meeting.

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Cairo+5 seminar adopts plan of action

A three-day Cairo+5 media seminar of South Asia region concluded at a hotel yesterday with adopting a plan of action by the participating seven countries.

Thirty-five media professionals prepared the guidelines for respective countries in the working sessions to make the Plan of Action of Cairo International Conference of Population and Development a success.

Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Iran participated in the seminar, organised jointly by International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB).

On the concluding day, Nima Puri, President of Family Planning Association of India presided over the seminar, said a press release.

Lena Choudary, programme advisor South Asia region of IPPF, Dr Ahmad Neaz, Director General of FPA, Bangladesh and Pervaiz Alam, senior producer of BBC addressed among others.

Seminar on 'SA 8000 awareness' BGMEA has implemented welfare projects: Sinha

Speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday stressed the need for awareness about social accountability among garment exporters to dispel growing concern of consumers in the West over the workers' welfare, reports BSS.

Jointly organised by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Societe Generale de Surveillance (SGS), a Geneva-based international service company, the seminar was held at Sonargaon Hotel. Presided over by BGMEA President Anisur Rahman Sinha, the "SA 8000 (Social Accountability) Awareness Seminar" was addressed by Director of ILO Area Office M A Hassanein, Global Programme Manager of SGS Marie Miller and Managing Director of SGS, Bangladesh, Peter Hall.

Speaking on the occasion, BGMEA President Anisur Rahman Sinha said his association is quite aware of the growing non-tariff barriers like eco-labelling, child labour and human rights issues being imposed by buyers in the USA and

European countries.

He said the BGMEA has implemented a raft of programmes to ensure welfare of the labourers working in the sector. He mentioned the elimination of child labour from factories, implementation of the 'earn and learn' project, annual health check-up of workers and regular training for officers and workers on safety measures in this regard.

Sinha recalled the help and cooperation of the government to this end and said the government has allotted land for setting up a hospital in Mirpur of the city for garment workers and land in Savar for establishing a garments village.

SA 8000 is a programme of the SGS to make the exporters aware of the concern of the global consumers over the work place code of conduct and welfare condition of the labourers.

SGS is mainly a certification company relating to standard, quality and level of social accountability maintained by the manufacturers and exporters across the world.



City BNP unit held a press conference yesterday demanding withdrawal of the government decision to fell trees at the Osmani Udyan in order to build the NAM conference centre. Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP, is seen addressing the conference.

—Star photo

Indian air strikes

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The attack began at 6 am (0030 GMT) and at least four Cheetah helicopters fitted with missiles flew toward the mountain ranges of Dras and Kargil. They returned a short while later, their missile racks empty. Five hours later, another four helicopters again headed to the mountains, one behind the other.

Four or five times in the morning, Indian jets, singly and in pairs, roared across the Indian sky. Officers told a visiting reporter they may be targets.

Not far away, a couple of mortar shells hit the mountainside in a puff of smoke. It was not clear where the shells came from. A faint thump of exploding shells echoed off the mountainsides once in a while. Unarmed helicopters skinned the ground. Soldiers said the fighting usually occurs at night.

Indian army officers pointed to the mountains toward Pakistan, saying 60-70 infiltrators had entrenched themselves in a dozen places on the slopes of the hills of Dras, looking down at Indian army convoys, 900 meters on the meadows below.

Their command of the heights handicapped Indian soldiers trying to evict them, officers told an Associated Press reporter who drove up from state capital Srinagar to Dras, 160 kilometers to the northeast. Army officers in the area said the infiltrators must have taken months to occupy the posts. They said Indian forces could take three to six months to clear them.

One army soldier was killed in the shelling today, an officer said in Madyan, a village near Dras. It was not known if there were other casualties.

In New Delhi, army officials said some 600 infiltrators, mainly Afghan mercenaries, supported by the Pakistan military and Inter-Services Intelli-

gence agency moved into uninhabited Himalayan ridges early this month in India-occupied Kashmir, posing threat to Indian supply lines in the Himalayan state.

Army intelligence units say the infiltrators have anti-aircraft missiles, radars, snow mobiles and sophisticated communication equipment.

"This is the start of operations and they will continue until our defense forces reoccupy our territories. Any escalation of this conflict will be entirely the responsibility of Pakistan," the Defense Ministry said in a statement in New Delhi.

The attacks were carried out within Indian-held regions, well beyond the Line of Control that separates the two countries, said army Brig Mohan Bhandari, deputy director-general of military operations, told a news conference in New Delhi.

The attack came a day after Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpeyi said all steps — including air strikes — will be taken to push back the infiltrators. Vajpeyi said he warned his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, in a telephone conversation Monday.

Ali Haider Khan, former Chittagong divisional commissioner, died of a heart attack in the city yesterday. He was 60, family sources said, reports BSS.

Ali Haider who played an important role in the peace process in Chittagong Hill Tracts, died only four days after his wife was killed in a road accident in Comilla.

He served as deputy commissioner in Rangamati for some seven years and retired from the service three years ago as the divisional commissioner to the south.

Today, army soldiers dug trenches along the road leading to Dras, which has turned into a ghost town. Its 2,000 residents have fled to nearby villages along the Suru River. Anti-aircraft batteries were being reinforced along the route.

His qulhwani will be held at his Uttara residence after Asr prayers on Friday.

His namaz-e-Janaza will be held at the sector seven mosque at Uttara after Juhur prayers today. He will be buried at the Uttara sector four graveyard about the run rate also lest they are faced with such a problem.

On this famous ground the English bowlers were superb with their length and line and Gough and co bowled their forty overs for a miserly 102 runs. The African lions were left hungry by British lions.

This easy win of the English team not only took them closer to the Super Six but salvaged some of their lost prestige.

Stewart's men were very careful about the run rate also lest they are faced with such a problem.

BSMMU employees' union threatens work stoppage

By Staff Correspondent
Employees of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday threatened non-stop work stoppage if their five point demands are not met immediately.

The BSMMU employees' leaders at a press conference at the National Press Club Tuesday announced action programmes of 12-hour work stoppage on each day of May 30 and 31 and a two-day non-stop work abstention on June 6 and 7 to press home their demands.

The employees' demands include disbursement of salary, benefits and pension of employees through AGB, formation of local pension cell, ensuring all government holiday for employees, free treatment of employees and their wards and ensuring the provision of promotion for deserving employees according to government rules.

The authorities failed to realise our demands though they admitted that those were logical and pledged to accept it," said the written statement presented at the press conference. The BSMMU employees' union leaders also alleged that they were being harassed by the authorities in different ways.

The BSMMU employees' union leaders held the press conference under the banner of Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Samanoy Parishad (Bangladesh Government Employees' Coordination Council).

Housewife set on fire, dies at hospital

By Staff Correspondent

A housewife who sustained serious burns when her husband along with others set fire to her at a slum in Agargaon died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday morning.

Hospital sources identified the victim as Parveen, 32, a resident of PWD slum in Agargaon. Parveen was admitted to the DMCH in critical condition on Tuesday night.

According to sources, Khokon, the husband of the victim, along with his three brothers-in-law tortured Parveen on Tuesday night as her parents failed to give Khokon Tk ten thousand as dowry.

At one stage, they doused Parveen with petrol and set her on fire. Later, she was rushed to the hospital but died 12 hours after the admission.

Her body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

BNP accuses govt of plotting to erase Osmani's name

BNP yesterday accused the government of plotting to erase the name of liberation war hero Gen M A G Osmani, reports UNB.

The government is up for erasing the name of Gen Osmani by constructing an international conference hall in Osmani Udyan," city BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka said accusing the government.

Addressing a press conference at Osmani Udyan in the afternoon, the city BNP chief asked the government to shift the venue of proposed international conference hall somewhere.

"Though we had political difference with Gen Osmani, but we don't want to undermine his contribution and image," he said and expressed solidarity with the demand of protecting some 11,000 trees in Osmani Udyan most of which would be felled for construction of the hall.

He said the government should keep in mind the importance of Osmani Udyan which was raised to uphold the dignity of Gen Osmani.

Gully

From Page 1

Nottingham — Trent Bridge became a cricket ground due to the enterprise of William Clark, according to Wisden. A bricklayer by trade, William Clark was also the organiser of Nottingham First XI in the 1830s. In late 1837 he married Mrs. Chapman the landlady and lessee of the Trent Bridge Inn and the open ground behind the building.

On July 1838 he organised the first cricket match on the ground behind the Inn between T. Baker's Side and W. Clark's Side. In July 1840 the first county match was staged with Sussex the visitors and the first Test match at Trent Bridge was played in 1899, exactly hundred years ago, against Australia.

Harold Larwood and Bill Voce, who started as a left-arm spinner, formed as menacing a fast bowling partnership as county cricket has seen. They were the instruments of Jardine's leg theory or 'bodyline' in the 1932 Tour of Australia by England that caused furor and was outlawed.

Denis Compton the Middlesex and England star scored his masterly 278 against Pakistan in 1954 on this ground and Sir Frank Worrell of the West Indies had his 261 in 1950.

On this famous ground the English bowlers were superb with their length and line and Gough and co bowled their forty overs for a miserly 102 runs.

The African lions were left hungry by British lions.

This easy win of the English team not only took them closer to the Super Six but salvaged some of their lost prestige.

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