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CIRCULAR WATERWAY

Balu, Tongi canal to be reclaimed

Ecneec okays Tk 65cr scheme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The river Balu and Tongi Khal (canal) between Ashulia and Kanchpur would be reclaimed from encroachers for implementation of the second phase of Dhaka Circular Waterway.

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec) at a meeting yesterday approved the Tk 65 crore revised project.

Earlier, the project was scheduled to be implemented from July last year, and the approved allocation was Tk 47.50 crore.

The expanded project was approved yesterday with additional allocation as per advice of its consultants.

The ECNEC meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also approved four other projects involving Tk 1,432 crore.

Later, acting Secretary of the Planning Ministry Habibullah Majumder told journalists that the prime minister said the waterway project has to be completed by reclaiming the rivers from the grabbers at any cost.

The fixed time limit for its implementation is June 2012.

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PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

BIWTA with the help of district administration demolishes illegal structures on the Shitalakha near BK Das Road in Nitaiganj of Narayanganj yesterday.

ENCROACHMENT

Buriganga drive starts tomorrow

TAWFIQUE ALI in Dhaka and FAISAL PARAG from Narayanganj

The government has decided to launch a three-day eviction drive tomorrow against river grabbers in the river Turag near Amin Bazar Bridge at Gabtoli in Dhaka.

"Authorities have taken the final decision on the drive," said Deputy Director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) Saiful Islam.

"Most of the encroachers in Amin Bazar area are sand traders and our aim is to remove sands from the foreshore of the river," he added.

There are around 25 encroachers in the area, he said adding, "We negotiated with them in many different ways asking them to remove the sand but they did not pay heed."

BIWTA has hired three excavators for the drive and labourers will be employed to knock down the makeshift

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Mobile stays busy in jail

Convicted criminal's records show 184 calls on a single day

SHARIFUL ISLAM

A convicted imprisoned top criminal made and received 184 cellphone calls to and from his cohorts in just 24 hours, law enforcers found this out recently to their disbelief.

Inmates are not allowed to have cellphones in jail but that convict made and received over 3,500 calls in one month.

Checking with a cellphone operator, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) also got information about numerous cellphone calls from jails that they believe were made by bonds to their gangsters instructing them on extorting money from individuals and establishments, murdering someone and other criminal activities.

A Rab official on the condition of anonymity told The Daily Star that they

know there are several other yet-to-be-identified godfathers in jail who make and receive between 250 to 450 calls over cellphones a month.

The official, however, refused to name the convict who made and received the 3,500 calls in one month.

"We have identified a few callers and are trying to identify others but we are finding it difficult to identify them as addresses given during registration of the SIM [Subscriber Identification Module] cards are usually fake," said the Rab official.

"Checking the call list we have found one criminal made and received the highest 184 calls in a single day from Kashimpur Jail," said the Rab official.

Giving an example the Rab official said five youths arrested last month by Rab in connection with murdering Aminul Islam Khadem, administrative officer of Dhaka

Divisional Commissioner's Office, disclosed that imprisoned gang boss Honda Babu planned the murder inside his prison and instructed his hit men over cellphone.

Honda Babu planned the murder after Saidur Rahman, inmate of Dhaka Central Jail and detained in connection with an embezzlement case, asked Babu to have Aminul killed for Tk 1.5 crore blood money.

Aminul was the secretary of Kallya Shah Mazar (shrine) in Brahmanbaria and Saidur is a former secretary of that shrine. Aminul had filed the money embezzlement case against Saidur.

The official also said a group of unscrupulous jail staff in exchange for large bribes provide the criminals with cellphones.

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Gunmen shoot dead Bianibazar OC, injure SI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Criminals shot dead the officer-in-charge of Bianibazar Police Station and wounded a sub-inspector and a student in Bianibazar upazila last night.

The deceased, Munayemul Islam, 43, hailed from Bheramara upazila of Kushtia.

A police team led by him went to Kalaiura village, some 20 kms off the police station, as two local gangs were locked in a gunfight there, said Ruhul Amin, superintendent of police (SP) in Sylhet.

Munayemul's men came under fire as soon as they reached the scene at around 10:00pm, headed.

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BDR MUTINY

CID still working on Pintu's mobile call list

Taskforce to monitor implementation of recommendations by nat'l probe body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday started interrogating Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu in another fresh remand to glean the names of people who contacted him over cellphone during February 25-26 BDR carnage.

Earlier in a remand prayer to a Dhaka court CID mentioned that it had already identified some people from Pintu's cellphone call list but the rest are yet to be identified which requires further interrogation.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mominul Hasan

yesterday placed Pintu on a one-day fresh remand against CID's prayer for seven days.

Abul Kader Akand, CID's Senior Assistant Superintendent and also the investigation officer of the mutiny case, filed the appeal on June 11. The court did not hear the appeal that day as Pintu was ill.

In the report, Kader mentioned that during his earlier remands Pintu disclosed important information including the call list and several names of his accomplices.

On June 8, the same court placed Pintu on a

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No plan to abolish CG system

Says Ashraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam yesterday said the government has no plans to abolish the caretaker government system and the Awami League has its earlier stance about it.

Ashraf also said the Election Commission (EC) will have to be strengthened further.

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2 outlaws murdered

Bodies found in IU dormitory

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Kushtia

Two suspected cadres of an outlawed party were brutally murdered by rival party men inside a female dormitory of Islamic University (IU) in Kushtia early yesterday.

The deceased, Sher Ali, 30, son of Ibrahim Mondol, and Abdul Awan, 32, son of Abu Taleb of Diknagar village under Saikupur upazila in Jhenidah, were the cadres of outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz.

Police suspected that the cadres of outlawed Jasod Gono Bahini killed the youths as police found a slip written

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BAF aircraft crashes in Karnaphuli

Pilot unhurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An FT-6 training aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) crashed into the Karnaphuli river channel at Patenga yesterday morning.

Flight Lt Abdullah-Al Mamun--the only person onboard--ejected and landed safely by parachute, said an Inter-service Public Relations (ISPR) press release.

The fighter-trainer aircraft crashed at 11:33am immediately after taking off from Sergeant Zahirul Haq Airbase at Patenga for a regular training flight, said sources at the airbase.

Right after the take-off the aircraft appeared to be malfunctioning and caught fire before crashing into water

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Offload 49pc share of Biman to NRBs

JS body suggests

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary standing committee yesterday recommended offloading 40-49 percent shares of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd onto non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) to improve the financial strength of the national flag carrier and make it profitable.

The parliamentary body on the civil aviation and tourism ministry also asked the Biman management to lease three Boeing-777s for resuming the Dhaka-New York route and other long-haul routes, which are now suspended due to aircraft shortages.

During a meeting, it also asked Biman's new management to start "motivational programmes" for Biman staff so that they become more professional and Biman runs more efficiently.

Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, chairman of the standing committee, told reporters after the meeting, "Biman is facing capital shortage. The committee therefore unanimously recommended offloading Biman's 40 to 49 percent shares onto non-resident Bangladeshis."

Civil aviation and tourism minister and chairman of the board of directors of Biman Jamaluddin Ahmed and civil aviation secretary Hidayatullah Al Mamun were also present in the four-hour-long meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Iran grapples with rising crisis

Guardian Council agrees to some vote recount

AGENCIES, London, Tehran

Supporters of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his defeated challenger staged rival rallies in Tehran last night as the nation grappled with its worst crisis since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

As the authorities imposed a clampdown on foreign media, the powerful Guardian Council says it was ready to recount some votes from Friday's disputed presidential poll.

State television broadcast footage showing huge crowds of flag-waving demonstrators packing a central square in Tehran at

JUBAK SCAM

DCC councillor handed over to police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deceived clients of the controversial organisation Jubak yesterday handed over to police a female councillor of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) for her alleged involvement in cheating them.

Raushan Ara, councillor for reserved seat-10 for DCC wards-44, 46 and 48, is an accused in a Tk 30 lakh misappropriation case against some officials of the laid off Jubak,

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Pakistan must not use its soil for terrorism

Indian PM warns as he meets Pak president

AFP, Yekaterinburg

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday met Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari for the first time since the Mumbai attacks, bluntly declaring that Pakistani soil must not be used for terrorism.

"My mandate is to tell you that Pakistani territory should not be used for terrorism against India," the Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted Singh as telling Zardari.

PTI reported that the pair had earlier shaken hands but after Singh's comments Zardari immediately asked journalists to be escorted

from the room so the meeting could be continued in private.

The leaders were meeting in the Russian city of Yekaterinburg at the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), a regional security body where both India and Pakistan are observers.

India blamed the attacks -- which left 166 dead -- on Pakistan-based militants linked to the country's powerful spy service and froze the four-year-old peace dialogue with its nuclear-armed neighbour and arch-rival.

PTI reported that Singh was also understood

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Online Poll

Do you support the 25 percent duty on mobile phone handsets proposed in the Budget for the next fiscal year?

Yes (25.47%)

No (73.05%)

No Comments (1.48%)

Total votes: 742

TODAY'S POLL

Law minister has said if the Election Commission could function independently and actively, there would be no need for caretaker government. Do you agree with him?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing		
June 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-55
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45