



Prime Minister and Ecnec Chairperson Sheikh Hasina presides over a meeting of the Ecnec at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar NEC conference room in the city yesterday.

Ecnec okays six projects involving Tk 3,240cr

UNB, Dhaka

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) yesterday approved six development projects involving Tk 3,240 crore, including Tk 764 crore in project aid.

With Prime Minister and Ecnec Chairperson Sheikh Hasina in the chair, the Ecnec in a meeting at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar NEC conference room gave the approval to the development schemes.

Among the okayed schemes are: one project for setting up Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP), a unit of Bangladesh University Grants Commission and Army Headquarters, at Mirpur Cantonment under the Education Ministry, Dhaka University Special Development 2nd Phase (1st Revised) project under the Education Ministry, Revival of Community Healthcare Initiative in Bangladesh Project under the Health and Family Welfare Ministry, the revised project on installation of studio machinery at the extended building of the television centre in Dhaka, Emergency Disaster Damage Rehabilitation (Secto) Projects 2007 (Part-E: Water Resources) (1st Revised) project under the Water Resources Ministry, RCC Bridge Construction Project (Former Steel Bailey Bridge Construction Project, 2nd phase) 2nd Revised Project under the Local Government Department.

Finance Minister Abul Mal Abdul Muhith, Planning Minister Air Vice-Marshal (ret'd) AK Khandaker Bir Uttam, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen, Commerce Minister Let Col (ret'd) Faruk Khan, Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan, LGRD and Cooperatives

Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam, Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haque, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, Advisers to Prime Minister HT Imam, Dr Moshir Rahman, Dr Modasser Ali, Dr Alauddin Ahmed and Dr Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury attended the meeting.

PM's support to wife of police sergeant

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday donated Tk five lakh to the bereaved family of police sergeant Abdul Baset who was killed in a road accident at College Gate in the city on May 19.

The sergeant died on the spot as a minibus knocked him down while he was on duty in the area.

Baset's widow Tanzila Akhter received the cheque from the prime minister at her office.

On the same occasion, Akhter Hossain, a BDR man injured by bullet during the February 25-26 Pilkhana carnage, got a donation of Tk one lakh from her.

The premier handed over the cheque to the jawan's father M Esahak.

Meanwhile, Milk Vita Chairman Wahidullah Mollah donated Tk 10 lakh to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund on that day.

Education Day observed

DU CORRESPONDENT

The historic Education Day was observed on the Dhaka University campus yesterday with a call to introduce a scientific, single-stream, pro-people and secular education system in the country.

Different student organisations made the call from separate rallies on the campus marking the day.

The day was observed to commemorate the sacrifices of three students -- Mostafa, Babul and Wajidullah -- who were killed in police firing while staging a demonstration protesting against the SM Sharif Education Commission formed in 1962.

The day's programmes were started with placing wreaths at the Shikha Odhikar Chatter Commission pillar by different student organisations.

Bangladesh Chhatra League, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Chhatra Oikyo Forum, Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri and Bangladesh Chhatra Federation placed wreaths.

Student organisations demanded introduction of a single-stream, scientific, pro-people and secular education system and steps to stop commercialisation of education and observe the day at state level.

Aggyan Party members active in city

23 people fall victim in three days

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The number of mugging incidents rose alarmingly in the last several days as Aggyan Party members became active ahead of Eid.

Also, petty crimes marked a rise in launch and bus terminals in the city.

A total of 23 people fell victim to Aggyan Party members, who drug people before robbing them, in the last three days. All of them were in unconscious state when they were brought to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) from different city places.

Meanwhile, car lifters took away two taxicabs after killing the drivers in separate incidents at Pallabi and Ashulia in the last three days. The drivers -- Shamim, 35, of Ashulia and Nuruzzaman, 30 of Pallabi -- were stabbed to death.

Home-bound passengers also fell victim to petty crimes in the city bus and launch terminals as several hundred hoodlums posing as porters are engaged in stealing valuables from them, sources in the terminals said.

DMCH sources said that on an average, around 10 victims of the Aggyan Party

come to hospital every day. The figure was two only a week ago.

Small traders, students, day labourers and drivers are among the people hospitalised in the last few days.

The gang members took away valuables from the victims after making them unconscious by offering foods mixed with sedatives. In some cases, they make victims inhale something which has a sedative effect.

Talking to The Daily Star, Prince Mohammad, an honours final year student of Tejgaon College, said he himself fell victim to such gang members on Wednesday. He became unconscious after drinking mango juice offered by a fellow launch passenger.

Both of them came to Dhaka from Barisal in a launch, he said. The man offered a juice pack on their way to Farmgate from Sadar Ghat launch terminal at around 6:00am on Wednesday.

"We are travelling in a rickshaw. When the rickshaw reached the High Court area, he offered me a juice pack. Soon after I drank the juice, I realised that the man belongs to Aggyan Party. I then jumped from the rickshaw and started running, but soon I became unconscious and

collapsed," he said.

"When I came round, I found myself in the DMCH and the hospital staffs told me that the police brought me here," he said.

Julhash, 22, a construction worker, is another victim of the Aggyan Party members. He became unconscious after having soft drink offered by an unknown person at BDR cinema in Pilkhana at around 1:30pm on Wednesday.

Habib, a shoe trader of Dohar, was brought to DMCH in an unconscious state by shop employees at Fulbaria Supper Market at Dhaka on Tuesday night.

Relatives said Habib was coming to Dhaka to purchase shoes for his shop but became unconscious in a minibus.

They also said the culprits took away Tk one lakh from Habib.

Walid Hossain, additional deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Public Relations), told The Daily Star that the gangs became active as more and more people are coming out of home ahead of Eid.

The police, however, are keeping a close eye on them, he added.

He also said the police have arrested 12 members of the Aggyan party on Tuesday.

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