

Ecneec okays Tk 849cr project for railway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) has approved a project involving Tk 849 crore, aiming at improving rail communication on Dhaka-Tungi-Joydevpur route.

Under the project, a 49-kilometre dual-gauge rail track would be constructed between Dhaka-Tungi section and a 13-kilometre dual-gauge tract between Tungi-Joydevpur section.

The project would reduce traffic congestion in Dhaka city, and help commuter train services to operate on Dhaka, Narayanganj, Tangail, Joydevpur, Mymensingh and Brahmanbaria routes, said a statement from the planning ministry.

Besides, it would enable a new intercity train service to operate between Dhaka and the proposed Hightech park at Gazipur.

The approval came from an Ecneec meeting held at the NEC conference room

with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday.

The approved project was one of the 14 projects to be implemented under the Indian dollar credit line sharing an outlay of Tk 696 crore from its \$1 billion fund, added the statement.

The Ecneec meeting approved another project to enhance civic facilities of Khulna city dwellers through developing a planned housing scheme. The project "Ahsanabad Residential Area Development" involves a cost of Tk 125 crore.

After the meeting, Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam, acting secretary of the Planning Division, told reporters that besides these two, nine other projects involving Tk 1,366 crore had been approved.

The other approved projects include establishment of two self-contained 10 KWFM radio stations at Mymensingh and Gopalganj costing Tk 76 crore and monitoring the situation of vital statistics of Bangladesh project involving Tk 30 crore.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 24th death anniversary of Father Charles J Young, founder of the Cooperative Credit Union Movement in Bangladesh.

Member organisations of the Cooperative Credit Union League of Bangladesh (CCULB) will pay homage to the memory of the late Father by organising different programmes, said a press release.

Rezaul Karim Manik

METRO DESK



Yesterday was the 41st death anniversary of liberation war martyr Rezaul Karim Manik. The valiant freedom fighter lost his life in Manikganj while fighting against the Pakistani army.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil was held in the capital's Nayapaltan Jame Mosque.

His family members also organised a prayer at the martyr's graveyard.

He was the leader of the Freedom Fighter Guerrilla Unit (Dhaka) and a student of Dhaka University.

Anwara Begum

METRO DESK



Yesterday was the 20th death anniversary of Anwara Begum, former managing director of KDH Laboratories Limited.

On the occasion, a Qurankhawani and a milad mahfil was held at Banani Graveyard in the capital, said press release.

Well-wishers and relatives are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Anwara was also former president of Abahani Club and former president of Bangladesh Aushud Shilpa Samity.



PHOTO: STAR
The newly built Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel, which Khulna Shipyard Limited built for Bangladesh Army at a cost of Tk 16 crore, at the handover ceremony on the bank of Rupsha River yesterday.

Project launched to reduce child abuse

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A new project was launched in Dhaka yesterday aiming to help reduce sexual abuse and exploitation of children in the country.

Titled, "Improving child protection and rehabilitation of children from sexual abuse and exploitation in Bangladesh", it was undertaken by the European Union and Save the Children.

The project will provide social services to those children who have been victims of sexual abuse and support their reintegration into the communities.

Activities will reach approximately 40,000 children and 40,000 parents across 16 districts.

The three-year programme will utilise 1.4 million Euros (approximately Tk 13.72 crore), with about one million Euros from the EU.

BMA CHITTAGONG UNIT ELECTION Campaign on in full swing

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

As the day of election to the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) of Chittagong unit nears, candidates are busy with their campaigning in different public and private hospitals in Chittagong district.

The triennial election to the BMA is scheduled to be held on November 29.

Candidates from pro-Awami League Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (Swachip), pro-BNP Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (DAB) and Jamaat-e-Islami backed National Doctors' Forum (NDF) are contesting the poll.

Sources said the DAB and NDF have formed an unofficial alliance to contest against the Swachip candidates.

Meanwhile, Swachip rebel candidate Dr AMM Minhazur Rahman will contest independently for the general secretary post.

DAB-NDF candidate for president post Dr Khurshid Jamil Chowdhury said they were facing obstruction by Swachip activists during campaign at different hospitals.

"We have informed the matter to the election commissioner. But any action was not taken yet," he said adding that Swachip activists removed their banners from Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) campus.

CMCH deputy director and the election's commissioner Dr Kazi Shafiqul Alam said he did not get any written complaint from any candidate.

"Some candidates verbally and over telephone alleged that their posters and banners are being removed at night," he said, adding that he has sent letters to the candidates to abide by the electoral code of conduct.

Swachip leader and incumbent president of the BMA unit Dr Sheikh Shafiqul Azam said they have asked their activists not to create any obstruction in campaigning of any candidates.

Khulna Shipyard hands over locally made ship to army Government saves Tk 34cr

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The authorities of Khulna Shipyard Limited yesterday handed over a newly built Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel (LCVP) worth Tk 16 crore to Army Chief General Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan.

The ship, which measures at 19.85 metres in length and 7 metres in breadth, was designed by China Shipbuilding Offshore Company (CSOC). The company also provided materials for the ship's construction.

Former army chief Abdul Munib had inaugurated the vessel's construction works on June 29, 2011.

The ship is able to move at a speed of 10 to 15 nautical miles an hour, said Commodore R U Ahmed, also the managing director of the shipyard, at a ceremony

held on the bank of Rupsha river to officially hand over the vessel.

Import of such a vessel, the first of its kind built for Bangladesh Army, would cost the country over Tk 50 crore, he added.

With 45 crew members, the ship can continue running for two days and nights at a stretch, the commodore said, adding that the vessel was launched on the river Rupsha on June 23 this year.

Speaking as the chief guest, Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan said the LCVP will run during war and during relief distribution after disaster strikes.

Khulna Divisional Commissioner Md Abdul Zalil, among others, attended the function.

The shipyard, on October 8, launched the first Patrol Craft for Bangladesh Navy.

30 hurt as RMG workers clash with police
OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

At least 30 people, including five police officers, were injured as workers of a garment factory clashed with police on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj yesterday.

The clash ensued when police charged baton on the workers of Antim Knitting Dyeing and Finishing Garments Limited, who blockaded the highway for about an hour demanding salary arrears and a pay hike, said Mahbub Alam, director of Industrial Police-4.

Police also fired rubber bullets and lobbed tear gas shells at the agitated workers.

RISING Stars

This week we talk of best of Bangla books while we Anisul Hoque talks about children's literature. We have interview of a kid who sells candy and lots of balloons. Plus, to top it off, we have Assassins Creed in centre. All this more.

SEE THIS WEEK'S RISING STARS.

ALLEGED DETENTION OF SAYEDEE'S WITNESS HC rejects petition challenging legality

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a writ petition which challenged the legality of the alleged detention of a defence witness of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayeedee.

The HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar rejected the petition, considering that it was not placed before it.

Abul Kalam Azad, a friend of the defence witness Shukho Ranjan Bali, had filed the petition on November 7 stating that law enforcers abducted Ranjan from the International Crimes Tribunals' entrance on November 5.

The petitioner sought HC directives to produce Ranjan before the court to show that he was not illegally detained.

During hearing on the petition on November 11, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam opposed the petition, saying that the petitioner could not show any document to prove that Ranjan was detained.

Tank lorry workers go on strike in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

In protest of the arrest of four leaders for possession of heroin, the Tank Lorry Sramik Union stopped transporting petroleum products from the depots of three state-run companies to the filling stations in the region from Monday.

A leader of petroleum dealers, agents and distributors association yesterday said if the strike continued for a day more, the filling stations would go dry.

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