

Ecneec okays seven projects of Tk 1,488cr

UNB, Dhaka

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved a project on rural infrastructural development in Jamalpur and Sherpur districts with an estimated cost of Tk 388.81 crore.

The approval came from the weekly Ecneec meeting held in the capital with its chairperson and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, State Minister for Finance and Planning MA Mannan said seven projects were approved involving Tk 1,488.14 crore.

"Tk 1,430.77 crore will come from the government's fund while Tk 57.37 crore from the organisation's own fund," he said.

Of the approved seven projects, four are new while the three are revised.



These vendors blocking the north side of the street near family planning department at the capital's Mohammadpur are quite precise about their timing. Every morning from 6:00am to 8:00am they sell variety of vegetables to the residents, for whom the vendors have become a reliable source for fresh produce.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

NEWS IN brief

New media policy, 9th wage board to be declared soon: Iqbal Sobhan

BSS, Ctg
Prime Minister's Media Affairs Adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury yesterday said a new policy for the print, electronic and online media will be declared very soon. The government will formulate the policy for development of media industry after discussion with all stakeholders.

He said the 9th wage board for the media industry will also be declared very soon removing anomalies in the eighth wage board.

Iqbal Sobhan said this as the chief guest while addressing a views-exchange meeting with journalists at Chittagong Press Club, organised by the press club and Chittagong Union of Journalists.

Mustafizur next envoy to Singapore

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to appoint Mustafizur Rahman as the next high commissioner of Bangladesh to Singapore, according to the foreign ministry yesterday.

He will replace High Commissioner Mahub Uz Zaman, who has been recently promoted to the position of secretary, officials said.

A career diplomat, Mustafizur is currently working as director general (UN Wing) at the ministry.



PM for construction of concrete roads

BSS, Dhaka



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the authorities concerned to construct roads with stone, sand and cement instead of bitumen.

"Rains easily damage roads if they are constructed with bitumen. As a result, suffering of the people and costs for reconstruction of roads go up. So, slab-based concrete roads will have to be built," Hasina told a meeting of Ecneec in its conference room in Dhaka.

State Minister for Finance and Planning MA Mannan briefed journalists after the meeting.

Mannan said the prime minister stressed training for prisoners so that they can acquire necessary skills for work.

"The prisoners will be given a portion of profits to be earned by selling the products to be produced by skilled prisoners and the skilled prisoners would be able to manage jobs after the end of their prison life," he added quoting the premier.

Notice asking Khasi people to leave Nahar Punjee cancelled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The additional divisional commissioner (revenue) in Sylhet yesterday cancelled a notice issued by the district administration which asked the Khasi people in Sreemangal upazila of Moulvibazar to leave Nahar Punjee (village) within June 12 saying that they illegally occupied the government land.

The notice read that the authorities would launch a special drive if they did not leave the land within the stipulated time.

Following the notice, the Khasi people on June 12 appealed to the additional divisional commissioner for cancelling the notice.

More than 700 Khasi people are living in the area.

Cover sewerage lines, manholes: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned to properly set up the covers of the manholes and sewerage lines under Dhaka north and south city corporations within 15 days.

It asked the mayors of the two city corporations and managing director of the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) to submit a report on October 13 after complying with the order.

The court also issued a rule upon the government and the two city corporations to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed to compensate each of the families of the two kids -- Junaid Sabbir and Shanjida, who died after falling into sewers last month -- Tk 20 lakh.

LGRD secretary, mayors of the two city corporations in Dhaka and managing director of Dhaka Wasa, inspector general of

police and director general of Fire Service and Civil Defence have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Ashish Ranjan Das gave the order and rule following a petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Syeda Shahin Ara Laily seeking necessary orders to keep the manholes and sewerage lines under the two Dhaka city corporations protected.

During hearing on the petition yesterday, petitioner's lawyer Aklas Uddin Bhuiyan told the court that Junaid Sabbir reportedly died on July 22 after falling into a sewer near Mirpur Commerce College and Shanjida died after falling into another sewer on July 15 near Mohakhali Bus Terminal as those were unprotected.

Many manholes and sewerage lines under the city corporations are reportedly unprotected and therefore, people get injured after falling into them, he said.

CICIR team meets Shahriar Alam

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A five-member delegation led by Ji Zhiye of China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) called on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam yesterday.

This delegation is on a three-day visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) and will leave today, said a foreign ministry press release.

The state minister and delegation leader Ji Zhiye put emphasis on the exchange of ideas between the two countries for more cooperation in politics, economy and other affairs.

DHAKA TODAY

Workshop
Bangladesh Forest Department with UNDP and FAO will hold a project inception workshop on "UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme". Venue: Radisson Blue Water Garden, Dhaka. Time: 10:30am

Discussion
Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) will hold a roundtable on "Strengthening SDG Implementation in Bangladesh". Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am

Death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the 17th death anniversary of Prof Mohammad Faruque, former chairperson of the Bangla department of Jahangirnagar University and Karachi University.

On the occasion, his family has arranged a daylong programme including a

Qurankhwani, a milad mahfil and a special munajat at a mosque. Besides, food will be distributed in orphanages and among the destitute.

Relatives, friends, students and well-wishers are requested to pray for his departed soul.



Dilapidated Soarighat-Lalbagh road in the capital becomes muddy during this monsoon, doubling the sufferings of people. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Memorial

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Seiya Matsuoka, who worked with two of the victims Makoto Okamura, 32, and Yuko Sakai, 42, told reporters: "It is so disappointing. They were working to improve the environment in Bangladesh."

"Their faces came to my mind when I offered flowers (at the ceremony). I really did not want to ever have to attend this kind of event," said Matsuoka.

Islamic State militants have claimed responsibility for the July 1 attack on the restaurant in Dhaka. Police are investigating the possible involvement of a Bangladeshi who was a former associate professor at a Japanese university in the attack.

Switzerland, Spain to supply 70 locomotives

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Switzerland and Spain will jointly supply 70 locomotives to Bangladesh Railway for its development.

This was stated in a joint statement issued yesterday by Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh Christian Fotsch and Spanish Ambassador Eduardo de Laiglesia y del Rosal following their meeting with Finance Minister AMA Muhith.

It said Spain-based Swiss company Stadler Rail Valencia SAU has been selected as a preferred bidder by the railway ministry of Bangladesh in a tender bid for the locomotives.

"One of the important elements of this project is technology transfer. Stadler Rail will manufacture 30 locomotives in Spain and 40 locomotives will partially be manufactured in Bangladesh," said the statement. The Swiss company will also arrange 100 percent financing of the project at a highly competitive rate, it added. "Stadler Rail, Switzerland and Spain believe in the investment climate in Bangladesh despite current challenges due to the security situation, and are working together on this landmark project," said the statement.

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Bhola remanded

FROM PAGE 4
confessed to the court that Musa hired six persons including them for carrying out the killing, said the court sources, adding, "The four others are Rashed, Kalu, Shajahan and Nurunnabi." The duo also confessed that Bhola supplied the arms in the killing. Mohammad Kamruzzaman, assistant commissioner of Detective Branch of CMP, told The Daily Star that seven persons have so far been arrested in connection with the murder. On June 5, three bike-riding assailants stabbed and shot Mitu dead on the OR Nizam road while she was going to put her son on a school bus at GEC intersection in the city. Babul lodged the case the following day with Panchlaish police.

Rupnagar house

FROM PAGE 3
arrested under section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). In the remand prayer, Humayun, also the case's investigation officer (IO), said Daud, the caretaker of house no. 2 on road no.1 of Arifabad Housing at Rupnagar, had rented out the flat to Ismail. Daud failed to provide his full address and other information, and he needs to be remanded so that full information about the suspected militant could be known, added the IO.

On July 16, police arrested four others for renting out flats to the suspected attackers and each of them was remanded for eight days. They are: Gias Uddin Ahsan, dean of North South University's School of Health and Life Sciences and owner of the house, his nephew Alam Chowdhury, the building's manager Mahbubur Rahman Tuhin, and Nurul Islam, an apartment owner in Shewrapara. Nurul was arrested for not collecting his tenants' information and also for "sheltering militants."

They were shown arrested too under the same section of CrPC and sent to jail on completion of their remand. On July 1, armed militants attacked the Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan area and killed 20 hostages. Two police officers were also killed.

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