Ecnec okays seven projects of Tk 1,488cr UNB, Dhaka

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

The approval came from the weekly Ecnec 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

"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

PM for construction of concrete roads



bitumen. "Rains easily damage

roads if they are constructed

room in Dhaka. State Minister for Finance and Planning MA Mannan

briefed journalists after the meeting. Mannan said the prime minister stressed training for

built," Hasina told a meeting of Ecnec in its conference

prisoners so that they can acquire necessary skills for "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

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

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

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

ernment land.

Notice asking

leave Nahar

Khasi people to

Punjee cancelled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

commissioner (revenue) in

Sylhet yesterday cancelled a

notice issued by the district

asked the Khasi people in

Moulvibazar to leave Nahar

administration which

Sreemangal upazila of

Punjee (village) within

June 12 saying that they

illegally occupied the gov-

The additional divisional

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 yester-

day, 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.

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 devel-

opment 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 Mahbub 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.

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.



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

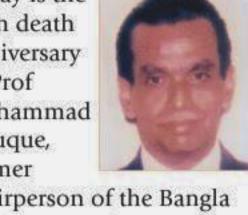
Discussion

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) will hold a roundtable on "Streng-thening 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

premier.



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.

Education for tomorrow's WOrld

PHOTO: **PALASH KHAN**

Memorial

FROM PAGE 3 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 vesterday by Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh Christian Fotsch and Spanish Ambassador Eduardo de Laiglesia y del Rosal

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 com-

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Rupnagar house

lowing day with Panchlaish police.

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.

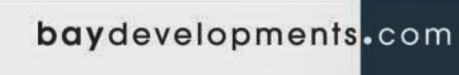
Bhola remanded

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.

following their meeting with Finance Minister AMA Muhith.

pany 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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