

ADB offers help for gas development

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Retreating from its previous stand on exporting gas to India through pipeline in a limited scale, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) offers financial assistance to Bangladesh in development of gas sector.

According to a document presented by a visiting ADB fact-finding mission, the ADB will provide a loan of \$215 million for seven projects for gas sector development.

However, the government will have to inject another \$198 million in local currency for implementation of the projects.

The total cost of gas sector development project (GSDP) will be \$413 million.

"Although the ADB has shifted from its previous position on gas export, it puts several conditions for the GSDP," said an official.

The conditions included strengthening the Energy Regulatory Commission, paving the way for private participation in gas transmission and distribution by amending National Energy Policy and enacting gas act, establishing market-based pricing and reducing authority of Petrobangla and making its companies independent.

The ADB fact-finding mission will have final round of meeting with officials of the energy ministry today.

Most of the projects under the GSDP are in transmission sector. The ADB is also willing to provide loan for 3-D seismic surveys -- one at Sylhet Gas Field and two at Bangladesh Gas Field. The donor body is agreed to carry out the survey by state-run Bapex.

The bank is also agreed to fund gas expansion network in Rajshahi.

After the final meeting, the government will have to inform the bank by March 25 whether it will take the "loan with recommendations".

If Bangladesh sends a green signal, a management evaluation team of the ADB will come to Dhaka on April 11. Another team will visit Bangladesh on April 25-28. Then credit negotiations will take place on May 23-26.

"If everything goes well, the proposal will be placed before the ADB board on June 29. Following its approval, loan disbursement will start within three months," said an official.

DU probes not holding of class of Bangla course

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Dhaka University (DU) authorities have formed a five-member committee to enquire into the incident of not holding any class of Bangla foundation course of first year honours of the session 2003-04 under the Arts Faculty.

Sources said the authorities have decided to give clearance to around 2000 first year students of the faculty to get admitted to second year without examination of the 100 marks course.

The five-member body was formed at a meeting of the Academic Council of the university recently with Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz in the chair.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider was made convener of the committee. Other members of the body are deans of Arts and Social Science faculties, Prof Wakil Ahmad of Bangla department and controller of examinations of the university.

While contacted, Dean of the Arts Faculty Prof Sadrul Amin told the BDNEWS that classrooms were allocated to hold classes of the course.

He said that a letter was sent to Bangla department in this regard on September 21 as per the decision of a meeting of the deans' committee when the authorities came to know that the classes did not start even after nearly half an year of its schedule.

Saifur's salvo

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when the price of eggs goes up, they publicise the news widely. But they don't bother to see how hard the poultry industry was hit by recurring floods.

When the price of tomato rises, the press makes news, but when it goes down, they keep silent.

The function presided over by the World Poultry Science Association Bangladesh Chapter President Mashur Rahman was attended by representatives from about 16 countries.

Our correspondent from Moulvibazar reports: Saifur Rahman yesterday said people who usually do not have the ability to land any other job, engage in journalism. They continuously write reports on the price hike of commodities to make the government fall in the face of criticism.

He was addressing a function on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of an infrastructure development project for Moulvibazar Pourashava yesterday.

District BNP Secretary and Moulvibazar Pourashava Chairman Foyzul Karim Moyun presided over the function.

Dr Kamal to support

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The city unit of Oikya Mancha organised the rally at Mukhtangon in protest against continuous price hike of essentials, food shedding, water crisis, mosquito problem and demanding trial of all grenade attacks and stopping extortion and criminal activities.

Dr Kamal, who is also the president of Gono Forum, said the government in three years took time on 20 occasions from the Supreme Court (SC) for separation of judiciary from the executive.

If the separation of judiciary is not fully executed within March 15, the time given by the SC, they will bring out peaceful procession demanding execution of the SC guidelines for separation of the judiciary, he added.

Demanding that the government stop broadcasting wasteful programmes like releasing balloons on the state-run Bangladesh Television, Dr Kamal said if the government can take one or two steps to check corruption and identify those who make money through extortion, he will release two balloons thanking the govern-

ment.

"Prevailing water and power crisis are examples of government's failure and if they can solve the crises, I will celebrate it releasing a balloon," he added.

At the rally, Krishak Sramik Janata League President Kader Siddiqui said, "Nothing except salt and killing are cheap in the country now".

"At present the nation needs a doctor for its treatment and there is no alternative of Dr Kamal in this regard. We are with him from the beginning," he said, adding that unity with the leadership of Dr Kamal is needed to oust the government.

Oikya Mancha's city unit President Saidur Rahman Sayeed presided over the rally where Gono Forum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Oikya Mancha Member Secretary Adur Rouf, Gono Forum Presidium Member advocate Jaharul Islam and Pankoz Bhattacharya also spoke.

Later, a procession was brought out from Mukhtangon that paraded several streets of the city.

Members of Tofazzel's family said the boiler was faulty and it exploded twice earlier.

Tofazzel was the owner of the land where the Rapid Dyeing was constructed, filed a General Diary with the Fatullah Police Station on October 10, 2004 mentioning that the boiler may explode anytime.

Locals alleged that the boiler lacked safety bulb and water pressure pump that is essential for full safety of a dyeing boiler.

ENQUIRY COMMITTEE
A three-member enquiry committee headed by Narayananj Additional District Magistrate Azharul Islam has been formed to probe the incident and instructed to submit its report in a week.

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HC issues

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"Shahudul stands dismissed since January 27 last year after being convicted in the High Court. The president had no scope to cancel his contractual job on December 15, ten months after his conviction," advocate MK Rahman who challenged the notifications issued on December 15 last year, told reporters.

Issuing the rule, the High Court bench comprising Justice MA Matin and Justice AFM Abdur Rahman asked six government officials to submit their reply in three weeks.

The respondents are establishment secretary, principal secretary to the prime minister, secretary to the president, home secretary, former IGP Shahudul Huq and a senior assistant secretary of the establishment ministry.

"The two notifications are illegal and made out of jurisdiction," advocate MK Rahman said while talking to reporters yesterday.

"When the president ordered for cancellation of Shahudul's contract, he was already dismissed from his post in line with law," he said adding that the order has no legality as Shahudul was no more holding the post in line with Section 3 of Public Servants (Dismissal on Conviction) Ordinance 1985.

According to the section, on conviction for a criminal offence a public servant stands dismissed on the date of delivery of judgement or order convicting him.

Talking on the other December 15 notification on president's exemption of Shahudul from the purview of this section, MK Rahman said the president cannot nullify court order using the power he was bestowed upon by Section 4 of Servants (Dismissal on Conviction) Ordinance 1985. "The president made the order when the court had already awarded Shahudul punishment," he said.

On January 27, the High Court awarded Shahudul a fine of Tk 2,000 and in default to serve simple one-month imprisonment for contempt of court for his remarks in a written reply to certain queries of the court in a suo moto rule.

The Supreme Court on December 7 turned down Shahudul's appeal against the verdict and upheld it.

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Winners of Ananya Top 10 Awards by the fortnightly women's magazine Ananya pose with guests for photographs after the award-giving ceremony at Bangladesh National Museum in the city yesterday.

Govt to track down

FROM PAGE 12

body of Pavel who died at the hospital.

According to information received by the foreign ministry from Bangladesh mission in Egypt, he said some 43 people--26 Bangladeshis and 17 Africans-- boarded a plastic 'dinghi' boat on February 19 and sailed from Nadore in Morocco for Spain. The pilot of the boat was not experienced and lost his way in the Mediterranean Sea. After a few days, the boat started leaking and ran out of food and water.

On February 23, two Bangladeshis--Mosaddeq and Mizan--died from hunger and exhaustion. On February 24-25, eight other Bangladeshis died in the boat. Since the bodies started getting decomposed, the Africans decided to throw them into the sea.

On February 28, Algerian coast guards traced the boat and rescued 16 Bangladeshis in unconscious condition. They were brought to Oran Hospital where Pavel died. The other 15 are undergoing treatment at the hospital.

The dead Bangladeshis are Mosaddeq and Himel (Dhaka), Mizan (Konabari, Gazipur) Asad (Dohar, Dhaka), Billal Hossain Swapan (Tongi, Gazipur) Mamunur Rahman (Rajshahi), Anwar (Dohar, Dhaka), Robiul (Srinagar, Munshiganj), Ibrahim (Narayanganj), Farhad (Dohar, Dhaka) and Pavel.

Those receiving treatment at Oran Hospital are Sohail Rana, 25, son of Abdul Ali Bepari, Latakholia,

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Dohar, Dhaka; Ripon Mollah, 23, son of Md Munnaf Mollah, Charkoshai, PO Jamalchar, PS Dohar; Sajjad Hossain, son of Wadud Mondol, Garmora, PO Alamin Bazar, Dohar; Md Anis Rahman, 25, son of Alhaj Abdul Majid Sarker, Airipur, Gung, Gazipur; Md Mamunur Rashid, 23, son of Shafiuddin, Vill&PO Bardhanpara, PS Nawabganj, Dhaka; Shibly Sadi, 22, son of Md Jahar Hossain, Char Ramnagar, PO Akoterchar, PS Sadarpur, Faridpur; Swapan Khan, 25, son of Hashem Khan, Banmara, PO Mouchak, Gazipur; Mozammel Hossain, son of Abdul Kashem, Vill&PO South Barra, Dohar (Relatives' phone-0175068434); Md Saidur Rahman, 22, son of Md Sonamuddin, Joypara Khara Kanda, PO Joypara, Dohar (Relatives' phone--0622387212-Ext 103); Md Amjad Hossain, 23, son of Abdul Jalil Majhi, Marichpatti, PO Churain Bazar, PS Nawabganj, Dhaka; Md Rabiul Islam, 22, son of Md Abul Bashir Dewan, Ikrashi Dewan Bari, PO Kalamganj, PS Dohar, Dhaka; Md Nasir Uddin, son of Md Nazimuddin, Madankhali, PO Churain Bazar, PS Srinagar, Munshiganj; Mohammad Mintu Khan, son of Md Nayan Khan, Vill & PO Matijab, PS Nawabganj, Dhaka; Mohammad Zakir Hossain, 23, son of Abdus Sattar, Lamati, PO Maizpara, PS Srinagar, Munshiganj; and Rajib Majnu, son of Abdul Jalil, Vill, & PO Arangabad, Dohar, Dhaka.

2 bombs

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On December 18, three bombs went off at a drama stage in front of Mohimaganj Sugar Mill's rest house that left seven people hurt. Three others were injured in two blasts at the Brac office on February 10.

Locals said they had observed outsiders' movement around the madrasa for the last few days.

HC asks

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judge from taking up any post serving the republic for emolument, added the petitioner.

He also argued that the chairman of ACC is an administrative post, created for inquiry and investigation of the anti corruption affairs inasmuch as from the amendment of the Rules of Business 1996.

He said that the commission is under administrative control of the government, and the chairman of the commission is holding the office of emolument in the service of the government but not of the republic within the meaning of article 133 of the constitution.

Advocate MD Ashad Ullah moved for the petitioner while Deputy Attorney General Abul Khayer Manna stood for the government.

The Daily Star on February 11 this year ran a story regarding the appointment controversy where constitution experts questioned the legality of the appointment saying that it has been done in violation of the constitution.

A selection body of five men including two judges in August last year recommended six names for the positions of chairman and two members of the ACC. The president picked three from the panel, and appointed Justice Sultan as its chairman and M Maniuzzaman Miah and Maniruddin Ahmed as members.

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