



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina along with her party leaders offers fateha after placing wreaths at the graves of three national leaders at Banani graveyard in the city yesterday on the occasion of the Jail Killing Day. (Story on Page 1)

DEVELOPING COST-EFFECTIVE POWER TECHNOLOGY PDB offers to launch research collaboration with Buet

SHARIER KHAN

The Power Development Board (PDB) has offered to embark on research collaboration with Buet to develop cost-effective power technology and prepare the next generation of technical manpower required in the power sector, which is set to expand rapidly in the next five years.

PDB is willing to spend up to Tk two crore each year to fund thesis projects of graduate and postgraduate students of the Electrical Engineering Department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), said PDB Chairman ASM Alamgir Kabir.

This initiative is the first of its kind for any technology-dependent state-owned sectors, which are typically not linked with the country's higher education system.

The Power Development Board has given this proposal to Buet on October 27, stating that PDB would provide all the required funds for the studies, as it is expected that they would play a major role

in the development of this sector.

PDB is set to make a similar offer to the Mechanical Engineering Department of Buet in late December, thereby establishing direct link between one of the country's top educational institutes and the power sector.

"We have also proposed to have Buet students in different installations of PDB on internship and industry placement terms," said Kabir.

"This will give the students an opportunity to gain hands-on experience. Also, the PDB might be able to provide jobs for some of them in the future."

The thesis subjects include (a) cost-effective and efficient LED lamp development, (b) cost-effective and efficient grid and non-grid solar power development, (c) wind power potential analysis, (d) cost-effective and efficient home-based wind power project, (e) cost-effective and efficient tidal power project, (f) innovative and effective micro-hydro project development, (g) cost-effective and efficient wave power project, (h) efficiency improvement of exist-

ing BPDB power plants, (i) system protection and control, (j) least cost power generation and (k) audio and video conferencing: least cost solution.

The PDB proposal followed a presentation of paper by Alamgir Kabir on 'Cooperation between Academy and Industry: BPDB & Buet for power sector development' at a workshop at the Electrical Engineering Department on October 22.

Adviser to the prime minister on energy Dr Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, who was present at the workshop, had proposed signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Buet and PDB on inter-organisational cooperation.

The government has set a new target to improve energy efficiency and install power plants to generate around 7000 megawatt of electricity in order to meet the country's ever-increasing power demand.

To achieve these goals and manage the country's power sector, PDB would need a large number of technical manpower. PDB already has around 5,000 vacant posts.

Mass Transit Authority to be formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is set to form Dhaka Mass Transit Authority (DMTA) abolishing the existing Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB) to look after the city's transport system, said Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain at a seminar yesterday.

DTCB and Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) jointly organised the daylong seminar on 'Urban and Transport Development in Dhaka' under the Jica project Dhaka Urban Transport Network Development Study (DHUTS) at a city hotel.

"The DMTA Act 2009 will soon be passed in the parliament to institute a more efficient and empowered body for Dhaka's transportation system," said the minister.

The new body is intended to remove the inadequacies of DTCB that has so far been unable to function effectively thanks to lack of coordination between the communications ministry and Dhaka City Corporation, he said.

The act will also have provisions to institute Dhaka Metro Rail Authority and other subsidiary bodies, said the minister.

Toshio Kimura, DHUTS Team Leader, said in his presentation that rationale of the proposed rail-based Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in Dhaka city is to provide the city dwellers with mobility, reduce vehicle operation costs and travel time.

DHUTS vision, in line with the urban development needs and Strategic Transport Plan, is to develop a sustainable and

efficient multi-modal transportation system, facilitate urban development and maintain a healthy environment, he said.

The communications minister also said that Dhaka has four or five transportation corridors and the government is getting proposals from the concessionaries to develop the main corridors.

The government also has a plan to establish Dhaka-Jessore rail connectivity through the proposed Padma Bridge, he added.

Communications Secretary Md Mozammel Haque Khan, Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Tamotsu Shinotsuka and Jica Resident Representative Dr Takao Toda also spoke at the inaugural session chaired by Prof Alamgir Mojibul Haque of Buet.

5th Bangladesh Astro-Olympiad next year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Astronomical Association (BAA) is going to organise the 5th Bangladesh Astro-Olympiad from February 9 to March 20 in 2010.

Students of schools, colleges and universities, who will be between 14 and 19 in December 2010, are eligible for the Olympiad, says a press release.

Interested students have to apply before December 31 with a certificate as a proof of his/her age.

Applications should be sent to the Bangladesh Astronomical Association, 75, Science Laboratory Road, Dhaka-1205.

For further details, one can dial 01819978936 or send e-mail to mohakash@bangla.net

The official website of the association is www.astronomybangla.com.

UK to continue to help fight poverty, climate change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The visiting International Development Committee (IDC) delegation yesterday said the United Kingdom (UK) wants to continue its support towards Bangladesh in eradicating poverty and fighting climate change.

"Our government wants to support Bangladesh in eradicating poverty and facing the impacts of climate change," IDC Chairman Malcolm Bruce told journalists at a press briefing at a city hotel.

The delegation has arrived in the city on November 1 for a 10-day visit to Bangladesh to scrutinise the UK's aid partnership with Bangladesh and the work of the Department for International Development (DFID).

"We have seen [that] a lot of good activities are being done in the country under the DFID funded projects. We have visited Bangladesh for the past five days and will visit another five days and then go back to London and evaluate our findings to prepare the final report and recommendations," he said.



PHOTO: STAR

IDC Chairman Malcolm Bruce, second from right, speaks at a press conference at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. On his left is Nigel Evass and on his right is Marsha Singh.

Malcolm said the Bangladesh government needs to ensure good governance and it also has the responsibility to look at the projects funded by foreign donors like DFID whether the money is really spent for poverty reduction.

A member of the delegation and British MP Nigel Evans said Bangladesh would be one of the worst sufferers of climate change impacts and the British government wants to support it in the adaptation process.

The developed countries, which are mainly responsible for climate change, should come forward to support the countries like Bangladesh, he added.

"Poor people should not pay for the crisis created by the developed world," he said.

Malcolm said there are resources in the developed countries but that should be transferred to the developing nations for their adaptation. "Resources exist but commitment needed to transfer those from developed countries to the developing ones," he said.

The UK would try to bring all the developed countries together for reaching a deal on climate change in the upcoming climate change summit in the Danish capital, he said.

Another member of the delegation Marsha Singh and DFID Country Director Chris Austin were present at the briefing.



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