

Chandpur project

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years for hire purchase. The cabinet body at a meeting with Finance Minister AMA Muhiut in the chair okayed awarding contract for the power project to China Chenga Engineering Co Ltd.

Previously the deal for this project was won by Chinese company Harbin. But it was cancelled during the caretaker government's tenure when the company wanted to increase the project cost.

Harbin had originally proposed a cost of \$45.20 million (around Tk 315 crore) for the project. But after signing the deal, it sought another \$16 million that led to cancellation of the tender.

The purchase committee in August this year okayed setting up of a 150 MW combined cycle power project in Sylhet by Chinese firm mpany Shanghai Electric Company at a cost of around Tk 704 crore. The estimated cost of Chandpur project is Tk 300 crore more than that of the Sylhet project.

The committee yesterday approved additional expenditure proposed for purchase of jeeps with AC and other related expenses for upazila chairmen. Earlier, it was decided that 420 jeeps would be bought at a cost of Tk 33.30 lakh each. Now the price has been raised to Tk 35.39 lakh each in addition to Tk 80,000 for registration, Tk 40,000 for AC and Tk 58,000 for gas connection.

It also approved construction of three 16-storey buildings with 60 flats each at

55 Rohingyas arrested in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

At least 55 Rohingyas were arrested in different areas of Roangchari upazila in the district yesterday.

Roangchari police during a raid on Betcharabazar Para of the upazila early morning detained some 36 Rohingyas for illegal infiltration. A total of 18 children, 14 women and four men were among the arrestees.

The cabinet body also okayed proposed construction of a building with 78 flats costing Tk 23.67 crore.

The government

would

construct

182 flats at Lalmatia

Housing

1,250 and

1,060 sq feet each) for sale to government officials on hire-purchase basis. Of these, construction of 78 flats was okayed at yesterday's meeting.

A proposal for

procurement

10 railway

locomotives

for Tk 199 crore

was

approved

yesterday.

And proposed import of

one lakh tonnes of wheat at a cost of Tk 151 crore was also okayed.

Moreover, the cabinet

committee

gave

nod

to a

proposal

for government

import

of 1.5 lakh tonnes of

Murate of Potash (MOP) from

Belarus company.

No power crisis

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underway to set up another rental power plant with the capacity of generating extra 970MW of power."

Hasina also spoke about the feasibility study for setting up coal-based power plants in Chittagong, Khulna, Sharaipt and Meghnaigat by 2014 with a capacity of generating 2,000-2,600MW.

The government has taken up plans to set up wind power units and solar power plants to generate 280MW of power by 2013, she added.

NEWFLATS

Hasina said a total of 52,512 flats would be built in the capital in the next five years to resolve accommodation problems. Besides, the national housing authority will construct 17,677 more flats across the country in the same period.

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartirikapakha has planned to build 600-square-feet and 1,000-square-feet flats in the city for low- and mid-income group people, Hasina said while replying to lawmakers' queries.

She said the Prime Minister's Office and the land ministry have taken up separate projects to address the accommodation problems of landless and homeless people.

In response to a query on

BNP

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expelled BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan to float a new political party.

BNP standing committee will sit soon, and might take decisions in this regard, sources said.

Asked about the allegation against him last night, ZA Khan declined to make any comment.

DELIWARAT SRAMIK DAL RALLY

Protesting the prime minister's statement in parliament, BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain said yesterday it is not BNP but Awami League (AL) which started politics of killing in the country.

"They [AL] killed many innocent people including freedom fighters using the so-called Rakhhkhabin after the Liberation War," he said while addressing a rally in front of the party central office at Nayapaltan, organised by Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal.

Delwar alleged that the prime minister was telling lies against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in parliament. She is doing so just to make the House ineffective, he said.

BNP leaders Abdullah al Noman, Selima Rahman and Zafra Hasan, among others, were present at the rally chaired by Nazrul Islam Khan.

Earlier in the afternoon, Delwar attended a meeting of the party's national committee for observing the 'national revolution and solidarity day' on November 7 at the party office.

BNP observes the day every year, and had declared public holiday on November 7 when it was in power.

But the ruling Awami League will observe the day as 'freedom fighter killing day'.

Delwar alleged that AL intends to destroy the significance of November 7.

Climate change

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nine-member delegation of the British Parliament's International Development Committee (IDC) headed by its Chairman Malcolm Bruce, MP when they called on her at the ministry yesterday.

Hasina described various steps including setting up of training centres, technical centres, and institutes of marine technology to generate employment.

She also informed the House that several countries including some in the Middle East have shown interest to employ a large number of Bangladeshi workers.

Climate change

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thanked the British government, parliamentarians and its people for their steadfast support for Bangladesh's advancement toward return to democracy including elections, support for voter identity card project and election observation.

Dipu Moni also expressed satisfaction over the two countries' cooperation on major international issues including UN peacekeeping, achieving millennium development goals and climate change.

She told the IDC delegation that poverty alleviation is one of the priorities of the present government besides food and energy security, infrastructural development, industrialisation and employment generation. She thanked the Department for International Development to increase assistance from the current year's £135 million.

Prothom Alo

FROM PAGE 16

pledges of bringing change from the citizens.

Thousands of people gathered at Rabindra Sarobar for the celebration. The programme started with Baul Samrat Shah Abdul Karim's song 'agey ki shundor dinkataam'.

Congratulating Prothom Alo's staff on the founding anniversary Prof Anisuzzaman in a brief discussion said, "Besides professional duties, Prothom Alo has been doing things that bring good to the country."

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad urged people not to do anything harmful to the environment and asked them to be aware so that nobody can grab the Dhanimonds playground.

Former adviser to the caretaker government Rasheda K Chowdhury, TIB Trustee Board Chairman M Hafizuddin Khan, FCCCI President Anisul Haque, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, Syed Abdul Mokuds, economist Salma Khan, Mohit Karnal, Asif Nazrul and Prothom Alo Deputy Editor Anisul Haque, among others, spoke at the discussion.

Tender papers

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Magura Sadar Hospital.

They also snatched the schedule from him and later returned the bank draft attached with the schedule, said Haibul Haque who came there on behalf of APC Pharmaceuticals.

"As they attacked me in presence of police personnel I was forced to take shelter at the office room of the civil surgeon," he said.

Some cadres allegedly belonging to Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Awami Juba League from the morning took position in front of the CS office and obstructed the contractors to drop schedules.

Some contractors wishing anonymity told this correspondent that to win the bid, pro-BCL and pro-Juba League contractors held a meeting at the conference room of the hospital on Tuesday night. At one stage, two rival groups of contractors were locked in a scuffle. After a while, they took a unanimous decision to prevent general contractors from dropping schedules to win the bid.

When contacted, Civil Surgeon Dr AKM Mahfuzul Kabir expressed his ignorance about holding of any meeting by any quarter.

He, however, said he heard about the attack and assured the contractor of taking necessary action if anybody submits a written complaint in this connection.

The contractors said they bought 47 schedules to take part in the bid and yesterday was the last date of tender dropping. But when asked, the civil surgeon could not confirm the number of schedules sold and dropped.

In this context, she sought international support to face the situation.

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