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Southwest to get gas

Tk 531cr pipeline project to start in January; main target to set up power plants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to set up gas pipeline from Kushtia to Khulna to build power plants both in government and private sectors.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) at a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday approved a Tk 531 crore Southwest Region Gas Distribution Network Project to this end.

The gas will be supplied to industrial units. Some selected energy-starved areas will also get it for domestic uses.

A total of Tk 3606 crore was okayed at the meeting for 11 development projects including the Southwest Region Gas Distribution Network Project.

Of the Tk 531 crore project, Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide Tk 280 crore as project aid.

A planning ministry official said the project will begin in January next year and end in June 2012.

According to project document Kushtia, Jhenidah, Jessore, Khulna and Bagerhat will come under this gas distribution network project.

Planning ministry official said it had a plan to set up several power plants through public-private partnership (PPP). The pipeline will be set up to provide gas connection to the plants.

However, the prime minister told the meeting to leave an option open for providing gas connection to other areas in this region.

UNB reports: Under another project titled 'Supply Efficiency Improvement of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited' under the energy and mineral resources division, involving Tk 56 crore, 7,000 prepaid meters will be installed by 2012.

Planning Division Secretary Mohammad Habibullah Majumder revealed the decisions to reporters after the meeting.

He informed that they are now in a good position for implementing the Annual Development Programme (ADP), which reportedly has made moderate progress.

The other approved schemes include: procurement project for four 108TEU Self Propelled Multipurpose Container-carrier Ships under the Shipping Ministry

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4,000MW power bid by next year

Says Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith said the government would invite tenders for generating 4,000-megawatt electricity by December 2010 for tackling the nagging power crisis in the country.

"In last one year we have taken preparation for setting up big power plants. Next year, tenders will be floated for setting up the plants."

Muhith told journalists

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A birthday party to remember

Mother misses Krishna, Trishna more on the special day



STAR REPORT

Formerly conjoined twins Krishna and Trishna had their first special birthday in Australia yesterday when their mother passed the day restless apart from them in Bangladesh longing to give the girls kisses on the occasion.

"Now my only wish is to see my Krishna and Trishna and give them a birthday kiss," Lovely Mallick told The Daily Star yesterday when her twin daughters and their Australian guardian Moira Kelly celebrated the birthday describing it as a "miracle."

"We're having a little birthday party and something in their life that's small, because everything's been so big," AFP quoted Moira Kelly as saying on the occasion which they celebrated with separate themed cakes -- Dora the Explorer for stronger twin Trishna and The Wiggles children's band for Krishna.

Now everything big is happening for the twins out there in Australia and Trishna even crawled on her own for the first time in life on Monday. The sisters have amazed the medics with their recovery from the surgery that had only 25 percent chance of ultimate success.

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Same offence, same penalty

Pak court orders to cut off ears, noses of 2

BBC ONLINE

Pakistani court has ordered that two men have their ears and noses cut off, as punishment for doing the same to a woman who refused to marry one of them.

The two brothers were found guilty of kidnapping 20-year-old Fazeelat Bibi, one of their cousins, in September.

The judge in Lahore also sentenced them to life in prison and a fine of \$2,000.

Sentence was passed under a rarely invoked Islamic law dating from the 1980s. In the past similar sentences have been revoked on appeal.

Government prosecutor Ehtisham Qadir said the punishment had been awarded in accordance with the Islamic principle of "an eye for an eye."

Sher Mohammad and Amanat abducted Fazeelat Bibi as she returned home from work at a brick kiln in the Raiwind area of Lahore, the court heard.

"They put a noose around her neck, and then cut off her ears and nose," Qadir told the BBC.

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Messi on top of the world

AFP, Zurich

Barcelona and Argentina striker Lionel Messi was crowned World Player of the Year by world football's ruling body FIFA on Monday.

Messi, whose goals this year helped Barcelona win the Champions League final and

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FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMME

Make MP's advice must for UZ body

JS body suggests

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday asked the food ministry to take steps so that lawmaker's advice is made mandatory for upazila committee monitoring Food for Work programme.

Food Minister Abdur Razzaque informed the House body at its meeting that a fresh circular regarding management and distribution of food grains under the programme is being prepared.

The parliamentary standing committee on food and disaster management ministry discussed the price hike of coarse rice and asked the ministry to ensure that it does not increase further, committee member Akram Hossain

Chowdhury told journalists after the meeting. The House body that met at the Sangsad Bhaban directed the ministry concerned to reinforce important government structures including the secretariat and hospitals applying 'strengthening column strategy' so that they can withstand earthquake with a magnitude of over seven.

Akram said committee members told the meeting that lawmakers do not have any role in allocating or distributing food under social safety net programmes, especially Food for Work.

The food minister, who is a member of the committee, informed the meeting that upazila

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Zardari, Gilani to resolve issues 'constitutionally'

ANI, THE DAWN, Islamabad, Lahore

Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani yesterday called on President Asif Ali Zardari to brief him on his meeting with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shahbaz Sharif in Lahore, and the two leaders agreed that there should not be a confrontation between institutions.

Sources said Zardari and Gilani discussed the consultations that were underway with government allies and other political parties, to tackle the situation in the wake of the Supreme Court's (SC) verdict on the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO).

The prime minister and the president also discussed ways to implement the SC decision, and exchanged views on the appointment of a new chairman for the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) as ordered by a 17-member SC bench on December 16.

The sources told Daily Times that the president and the prime minister agreed that there should not be any confrontation between the institutions. "They agreed that issues should be

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PRIMARY EXAMS Vigarunnisa, Monipur High School on top

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vigarunnisa Noon School and College, Monipur High School and Ideal School and College of Dhaka secured the top three positions in terms of securing highest number of first divisions in the primary terminal examinations across the country.

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Prayer Timing		
December 23		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	6-25	7-00
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-24	6-27
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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