

PVT-PUBLIC INVESTMENT

City circular elevated expressway gets nod

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more project proposals were sent to the private infrastructure committee secretariat for implementation under public private partnership (PPP) scheme, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury told the House yesterday.

Besides, another project proposal titled "Dhaka Circular Elevated Expressway" was listed in the private infrastructure committee in the current fiscal year, she said.

Of the two proposals, one is for construction of a flyover from Dewanhat junction to Bay resort in the Chittagong City Corporation area with an estimated cost of Tk 15,000 million.

The other is for setting up a 500-megawatt coal based power plant at Raipur on Southern bank of River Karnafuli with an estimated cost of Tk 36,500 million, Matia said.

In reply to lawmakers' queries, Matia, who is also in charge of the prime minister's office in the parliamentary business, gave detail of the two projects.

The estimated cost of "Dhaka Circular Elevated Expressway" project is Tk 87.170 million. The bridge authority under the communications ministry will implement it under PPP.

The selection of private investors to implement the project is underway, Matia added.

The government came up with the PPP concept to implement different projects in the current fiscal year. It also allocated Tk 3,000 crore in the current fiscal year, but no progress has been made in this regard.



Law Minister Shafique Ahmed leads foreign delegates during their visit to the International Crimes Tribunal in the city yesterday. Earlier, the delegates took part in the 'International Conference on Peace, Justice and Secular Humanism'.



Columnist Syed Abul Maksud speaks at a press conference on the 155th anniversary of Santal revolution at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left is Justice Gholam Rabbani and on his right is Prof Mesbah Kamal.

'Ensure rights of indigenous people' Santal revolution anniversary June 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolan yesterday reiterated their demand for constitutional recognition of indigenous people to ensure their rights.

They also called for steps to protect their right to land and forest by cancelling the eco-park projects in forest areas.

The leaders made the call at a press conference on the 155th anniversary of Santal revolution, which will be observed on June 30.

General secretary of the organisation Prof Mesbah Kamal announced the

programmes taken up to mark the day.

He also placed a 17-point demand, including ensuring constitutional rights of the ethnic minorities.

The organisers informed that 'Sidhu-Kanu-Fulmoni' Award 2010 would be given to Kumudini Hajang, a leader Tanka movement, on the occasion. The award was instituted after the name of two brothers Sidhu and Kanu and their sister Fulmoni, who spearheaded the Santal revolution.

Justice Gholam Rabbani and journalist and columnist Syed Abul Maksud were present at the press conference held at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium.

On June 30 in 1855, the Santals led by Sidhu and Kanu, revolted against the British misrule, which is known as Santal Revolt and Santal Hul.

Thousands of people, mostly Santals and farmers, sacrificed their lives during Santal Hul, one of the major revolts against the ruling class in British India. The two-year upsurge spread across the then Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, the speakers said.

Abul Maksud called for an end to discrimination against the ethnic minorities.

Ikhtiar made envoy to Spain, Imran to Uzbekistan

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has appointed new ambassadors of Bangladesh to Spain and Uzbekistan, said a Foreign Ministry announcement yesterday.

Chowdhury Ikhtiar Momin, Bangladesh Ambassador to the Philippines, has been appointed Ambassador to Spain.

While Muhammad Imran, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was appointed ambassador of Bangladesh to the Republic of Uzbekistan.

A career diplomat, Ikhtiar belongs to the 1985 batch of BCS (Foreign Affairs) Cadre and joined the service in 1988. During his diplomatic career, he has served in Bangladesh missions in Birmingham, Bangkok, Paris and Hong Kong before taking up his assignment in the Philippines as ambassador.

Ikhtiar holds a post-graduate degree in Mass Communication and Journalism from the University of Dhaka. He also obtained a Diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy from IAP, Paris.

A career diplomat, Imran belongs to the 1986 batch of BCS (Foreign Affairs) Cadre. During his diplomatic career, Imran has served at the Headquarters and at Bangladesh missions in Jeddah, Bonn, Berlin and Ottawa in various capacities. He was also Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Kolkata, India.

Currently, Imran is serving as Director General (South Asia Wing) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Imran did his MBBS from Mymensingh Medical College in 1983 and obtained a Diploma in Development Diplomacy from Berlin, Germany in 1993. He has represented Bangladesh at various bilateral and multilateral meetings and negotiations.

ELECTION COMMISSIONERS Govt mulls policy for recruitment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government plans to enact a law or a policy for recruitment of election commissioners, Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad told the House yesterday.

Azad, also in charge of the Election Commission Secretariat in the parliamentary business, said they would make the move through consultation with all stakeholders and organisations.

About 38 years into independence, yet no law or policy specifies criteria for appointment of an election commissioner despite call from 1972 constitution for enactment of such law.

All of the successive governments arbitrarily

chose election commissioners triggering widespread controversies.

The Election Commission (EC) at the end of 2008 drafted a proposal specifying qualifications and disqualifications for election commissioners' appointment.

The EC sent the draft to the past caretaker government to translate it into law. The interim regime however failed to do so.

Now the EC has again moved to persuade the present government to enact the law.

Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda recently said the EC would hold talks with political parties on this matter and send it to the government to take necessary steps.

US names eight countries to get health aid

REUTERS, Washington

The US government named eight countries on Friday that will get extra help under the Global Health Initiative, a six-year, \$63 billion aid program.

Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nepal and Rwanda will receive additional technical and management resources for programs in infectious diseases, maternal and child health, family planning and building health systems.

"Global Health Initiative Plus countries will provide enhanced opportunities to build upon existing public health programs; improve program performance; and work in close collaboration with partner governments, across US government agencies, and with global partners," the Health and Human Services Department and US Agency for International Development said in a joint statement.

Earlier this year the administration of President Barack Obama said the initiative would focus in particular on women, newborns and children as well as AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, maternal and child health, nutrition, family planning and reproductive health, and neglected tropical diseases.

Physiotherapy students on hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Physiotherapy Students Union began fast unto death at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday morning demanding immediate establishment of Bangladesh College of Physiotherapy.

Around 300 students took part in the hunger strike. They will also lay siege to the Directorate General of Health Services at Mohakhali tomorrow morning.

Earlier, the students staged hunger strike thrice and every time the government officials assured them of establishing the college. Even on June 2 last year, they threatened to observe self-immolation.

The students said foundation stone of the college was also laid on June 10 in 2009 at Mohakhali and Health Minister Prof AFM Ruhul Haque assured them of starting construction of the college by July the same year.

But no step has been taken yet in this regard. The physiotherapy course was initiated in 1972 but even after long 38 years, no separate public

physiotherapy college was established in the country, they said.

The students also said that in absence of a separate physiotherapy college, they have to attend classes at two rooms of the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor).

The clinical and practical classes are almost stopped while some 12 posts of teachers have been lying vacant since 1980.

Currently, there is no teacher to run the physiotherapy course in graduation level and for this, students have been facing at least three years' session jam, they said.

"We have to run from one hospital to another for our classes. But the teachers are irregular in their classes considering it as their additional duty," said a student preferring not to be named.

They said their education is being hampered for lack of teachers.

The Bangladesh College of Physiotherapy Project began in 1998 but it is yet to be implemented, the aggrieved students added.

President's check-up begins in London

BSS, Dhaka

The medical check-up of President Zillur Rahman began at Bupa Cromwell Hospital in London yesterday, according to a message received here.

Earlier, the President was received by Sheikh Rehana, younger sister of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Dr M Saidur Rahman at the Heathrow International Airport on Sunday night (London time).

Leaders and activists of London parties of different political units also were present at the airport.

A good number of Bangladeshi expatriates welcomed the president when he arrived at the Hilton Hotel from the airport.

Zillur is accompanied by his family members and concerned secretaries of the President's office and his personal physician.

The President is expected to return home on June 29.

2 Bangladeshis killed by BSF

STAR REPORT

Border Security Force (BSF) of India shot dead two Bangladeshi cattle traders and injured another in the border areas of Jhenidah and Chapainawabganj early yesterday.

Robu, 40, a cattle trader was gunned down by BSF along Chouka border in Shibganj upazila of the district, reports our Chapainawabganj correspondent.

Lt Col Zayed Hossain, commanding officer of 39 Rifles Battalion, said the Indian border guards of Shabdelpur in West Bengal shot at a group of cattle traders around 5:00am when they were returning home with cattle through Chouka border.

Robu, son of Arzed Ali of Hazarbigi-Azmatpur village in Shibganj upazila, died instantly while the others managed to escape unhurt. BSF men took the body away.

BDR officials protested strongly against the killing and asked their Indian counterparts to return the body immediately. However BSF said they would return the body after completing some formal procedure, Lt Col Zayed said.

Earlier BSF had gunned down another cattle trader on Fatehpur border in Shibganj upazila on June 14.

In Jhenidah, BSF troops of Shuitipur camp shot two Bangladeshi cattle traders who were crossing Srinagar border in Moheshpur at about 4:00am yesterday, BDR sources said.

Baharuddin, 35, son of Akkas Ali of Loraighat village in the upazila, died on the spot while Altaf managed to flee the scene with bullet wounds.

BSF men took away the body of Baharuddin, reports our Jhenidah correspondent.

Altaf was admitted to a local clinic.

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NGO activities

FROM PAGE 1

was allocated against which projects taken by 474 NGOs, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, who is also in charge of the Prime Minister's office in the parliamentary business, told the House.

While replying to a query of ruling Awami League lawmaker Israfil Alam, the minister also said the bureau did not maintain any such database to keep records of NGOs.

She, however, said the bureau has decided to seek Tk 1 crore for next fiscal year to conduct an evaluation of the NGOs.

"On getting of the NGO, overall activities of the NGOs will be evaluated through selected firms," she said.

The minister also placed a list of 474 NGOs with their addresses, registration numbers and date of registration. But the list did not say anything about how much money each of the NGOs received during the BNP-Jamaat alliance government during 2002 to 2006.

The list shows the NGO Affairs Bureau has allocated Tk 1,187 crore in FY 2001-02, Tk 1,593 crore in FY 2002-03, Tk 1,784 crore in FY 2003-04, Tk 1,561 crore in FY 2004-05, Tk 1,980 crore in FY 2005-06 and Tk 2,258 crore in FY 2006-07 against those NGOs.



Members of Bangladesh Physiotherapy Students Union begin a fast unto death at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding immediate steps to construct the building of Bangladesh College of Physiotherapy.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Prof Akhtar Imam, an eminent educationist, writer and social worker, says a press release.

Prof Akhtar was the first provost of Begum Rokeya Hall and associate professor of Philosophy Department of Dhaka University. She was also lifetime president of 'Hemantika', an organisation of aged women.

On the occasion, a memorial meeting will be held at the RC Majumdar auditorium of Dhaka University at 5:00 pm on June 26.

Tolamoti Halder

METRO DESK

Today is the seventh death anniversary of Tolamoti Halder, mother of Chaitanya Chandra Halder, court correspondent of The Daily Star, says a press release.

On the occasion, recitation from the Geeta, kirtan, discussion and a prayer session will be held at her village home at Nayakandi in Bajitpur, Rajoir, under Madaripur district.

The government has decided not to allow repeated digging of city roads anywhere from next year in view of severe criticism about lack of coordination in such activities for various development works.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam said this in the House yesterday in reply to a question from treasury bench member Mohammad Shah Alam.

"The Dhaka City Corporation gives permission for road digging with coordination of the 'One Stop Cell', which was constituted with different utility service-providing organisations," he said.

From the beginning of the next year, he said, permission will be given for road diggings after collecting the list of the roads in advance through coordination.

"As a result, same roads will not be dug repeatedly and public sufferings as well as wastage of money will be reduced," Ashrafur said, adding that the system will be also applicable for other city corporations later.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Barisal, Chittagong, Sylhet Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions and at a few places over Khulna division in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm Today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:12am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and Chuadanga and lowest 24.0 degrees Celsius at Rangpur.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.0	27.4	78	71
Chittagong	31.8	25.2	74	81
Rajshahi	35.2	27.5	82	68
Khulna	34.0	27.5	79	84
Barisal	31.8	27.2	80	88
Sylhet	31.2	25.5	83	90
Cox's Bazar	32.5	26.4	79	81