

Procurement of six dredgers may get Ecnec nod today

Approves seven projects

UNB, Dhaka

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) will meet today to consider seven projects including procurement of six dredgers -- one of the 14 projects under the one billion US dollar Indian line of credit signed earlier this month.

The procurement of six dredgers and ancillary crafts and accessories for Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Shipping (Mongla Port 1, BIWTA 3 and BWDB - 2) will be implemented at a cost of Tk 639 crore from August 2010 to June 2012.

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) will implement the project as the lead agency while Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and Mongla Port Authority (MPA) as the other implementing agencies, said planning ministry sources.

Under the project, some six new dredgers will be procured -- two for the BWDB, three for the BIWTA and one for the MPA.

The Ecnec meeting, chaired by Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina, will also consider another huge dredging project involving Tk 1310 crore to be entirely borne from the government exchequer.

Under the project, some 11 dredgers and other accessories will be procured from July 2010 to June 2012 for dredging of 216 lakh cubic meter a year to meet the demand of the future capital dredging and maintenance dredging.

The Ecnec meeting will also consider 400 KV Grid Interconnection between Bangladesh (Bheramara) and India (Baharampur) Project to be implemented at a cost of Tk 1079 crore.

The bulk of the amount of the project was at first planned to be borne from the Indian credit line, but later it was proposed that Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide Tk 700 crore for implementation of the project to be completed from July 2010 to June 2012.

Of the remaining amount, Tk 277 crore will come from the government fund while Tk 101 crore to be funded by the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited (PGCB).

Under the project, some 30km Bheramara (Bangladesh)-Bahrampur

(India) transmission line, 5km loop-in loop-out in the Ishwardi-Khulna 230KV double circuit line, 500MW and HVDC Back-to-Back 400/230 KV switching station at Bheramara, four 230KV line bay and at least two 230KV bay for the Ishwardi-Khulna 230KV double circuit line will be constructed.

The four other projects to be considered at the meeting are Bajunia-Gandhasur-Satpar-Hatiara-Ramdia (including Ramdia-Batiara) road development project under the Roads and Railways Division, Goalando-Faridpur-Tarail road development project also under the Roads and Railways Division, river bank protection project at Tamruddin and Bangla Bazar area under Hatia upazila of Noakhali under the water resources ministry, and augmentation of gas production under fast track programme project under the Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry.

The Ecnec meeting will also consider the ADP implementation progress under the cultural affairs ministry for 2009-10 fiscal and the Ecnec approved projects from May 19-June 2 this year.

FALSE INFORMATION HC asks JP lawmaker Golam Reza to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule upon Jatiya Party (JP) lawmaker HM Golam Reza to explain within four weeks why he should not be directed to produce his Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary School Certificates (HSC) to this court for proving his academic qualification.

In the rule it also asked the Election Commission (EC) and Golam Reza to explain within four weeks why the parliamentary membership of Reza should not be cancelled if he (Reza) cannot produce proof of his educational qualifications.

A HC bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Syeda Afsar Jahan issued the rule upon a writ petition filed by GM Shafiqul Azam Lelin, a local Awami League leader and UP chairman in Satkhira.

The petitioner in his petition stated that Golam Reza has been elected from Satkhira-4 constituency in December 29, 2008, parliamentary elections through providing false information.

He said Golam Reza has passed class-eight, but he has told the EC that he passed Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC).

Golam Reza has violated the electoral rules and the laws concerned by submitting false information to EC, and his parliamentary membership should be cancelled for committing falsehood with the EC, the petition said.

Advocate Kazi Aktar Hamid appeared for the petitioner.

Japan keen to help in disaster management

BSS, Chittagong

Japan has expressed keenness to assist Bangladesh in disaster management programmes particularly in earthquake and fire incidents.

The interest was expressed when a Japanese delegation led by Director of the Research Institute for Science and Technology, Tokyo University of Japan Shinichi Sugahara made a courtesy call on Chittagong city Mayor Manjur Alam Manju at the latter's residence yesterday.

City mayor informed the delegation that Bangladesh loses a large number of lives and properties due to natural calamities including fire incidents every year.

He said, necessary equipment to extinguish fire in high-rise buildings and post disaster management in the country are inadequate and out dated.

The Japanese delegation told the mayor that Japan has been applying the most modern technologies in disaster management including tremor and fire incident. If Bangladesh desires to follow it, Japan is ready to extend its cooperation in this regard.



Editor of weekly magazine 'Begum' Nurjahan Begum, middle, and Chairman of Inner Wheel District-328 Tahera Muzaffar, on her right, and its club presidents pose for a photograph at Sawgat Press Office in the city yesterday. On behalf of the clubs of the women's organisation--Dhaka, Buriganga, Cosmopolitan, Midtown, North, North East, North West, South, West, Dhanmondi, Dilkhusha, Feni Central, Greater Dhaka, Gulshan, Metropolitan Dhaka, Motijheel, and Uttara--Tahera Muzaffar hands over a citation to Nurjahan Begum recognising her work.

Amend article 12 of RPO Demand professionals

BSS, Dhaka

Peshajibi Samannoy Parishad, a platform of 14 professional bodies, yesterday reiterated their demand to amend the article 12 of Representatives of People's Order (RPO) to create rooms in politics for the professionals, a meritorious section of the society.

According to the law, professionals can't participate in the parliament election before three years after going to retirement or resigning from jobs.

Leaders of the Parishad placed the demand when they called on Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Dr ATM Shamsul Huda at election commission here.

Election Commissioners Sohul Hossain and Shakhawat Hossain were present at the meeting.

Parishad convenor AKM Sayedul Huq Chowdhury and Secretary General Quamrul Hasn Khan led the delegation while co-convenor engineer Khabiruzzaman, former general secretary of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) Omar Faruque, Prof Wahiduzzaman Chan, Dr M A Aziz, Agriculturist Sayedur Rahman Selim, Dr Nazrul Islam and Principal Mohammad Ali Chowdhury Manik, among others, were present.

Peshajibi leaders said the law has undermined the 20 lakh professionals including teachers, engineers, agriculturists, journalists, justices, civil servants and members of the armed forces of the country.

It is also a violation of citizen rights according to the articles 27, 66 and 58 (Gha)(1) of the Bangladesh Constitution, they argued.



10 students get 'Prof Sitara Parvin Award'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten students of Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday won the 'Professor Sitara Parvin Award' for their outstanding academic performance in honours final examination, 2008.

Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique handed over cheques for the award money among them at R C Majumdar auditorium in the university, says a press release.

Prof Arefin at the ceremony called upon the awardees to follow honesty, efficiency and overall the ideology of Prof Sitara Parvin who was a very popular and famous teacher in the department.

Prof Gitiara Nasreen, chairman of the department, presided over the occasion while another teacher Robaiyet Ferdous read out the Prof Sitara Parvin memorial lecture.

Prof Aha duzza man Mohammad Ali, husband of Sitara Parvin and also a teacher of the department, was also present.

Family of Prof Sitara, daughter of former president Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, formed 'Prof Sitara Parvin Trust Fund' in her memory after her demise in a tragic road accident in the USA in 2005.

The 10 awardees are Mahubul Haque, Osmani, Riffat Ferdous, Dilruba Khanom, Rehana Sultana, Ali Ajgor, Kutub Uddin, Nandini Shahla Chowdhury, Tamanna Islam, Afsana Abedin and Rahima Parvin, says the release.

ILLEGAL SALE OF SUGAR IN OPEN MARKET JS committee for action against culprits

BSS, Dhaka

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industries Ministry yesterday recommended action against those employees of Deshbandhu Sugar Mill who were involved in supplying sugar, meant for export, in the open market illegally.

The Deshbandhu Sugar Mill authorities procured 6000 tonnes of sugar from Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) to export but some employees sold the sugar illegally in the open market.

The committee also asked the ministry to take necessary measures to bring back the same amount of sugar from the mill.

The recommendations were made at the 11th meeting of the committee held at Sangsad Bhaban here with its chairman Tofail Ahmed in the chair.

Committee members M Meraj Uddin Molla, Anwarul Ashraf Khan, Zahid Malek, M Ali Asgar and Sultana Bulbul attended the meeting.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua also attended the meeting on an special invitation.

The committee also recommended building refinery plants at the sugar mills under the BSFIC and emphasised setting up at least one refinery plant at one of the mills within next three months.

The members of the committee discussed various activities of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC), BSFIC, Bangladesh Standards and Training Institute (BSTI), Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), Bangladesh Institute of Management (BIM) and Patent Design and Trade Mark Department.

During the meeting, a three-member committee headed by the industries secretary was formed to take necessary measures for improving the education standard at the schools and colleges of the BCIC.

The members of the committee were informed that at present the government has a stock of 5.94 lakh tonnes of urea fertiliser.

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