

FOUR-LANE JOYDEVPUR-MYMENSINGH HIGHWAY

Chinese companies get nod

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet committee on purchase yesterday approved the proposals by some Chinese companies to turn Joydevpur-Mymensingh Highway into four lanes under four packages.

The committee meeting, held at the Cabinet division with Finance Minister AMA Muhith in the chair, also okayed the proposal to improve conditions at stadiums in Dhaka and Chittagong which have been selected as World Cup Cricket venues.

It also gave nod to importing fertiliser and petroleum products and

construction of a specialised hospital in Gazipur.

The purchase committee approved around Tk 880 crore to turn the around 86-kilometre Joydevpur-Mymensingh Highway into four lanes. Besides, a US-based company has been appointed as consultant to monitor the work for a fee of Tk 25 crore.

As per recommendation of International Cricket Committee (ICC), an additional Tk 23 crore has been approved to improve the condition of three stadiums in Dhaka and Chittagong, where ICC Cricket World

Cup-2011 will be hosted.

Besides, the committee also approved a proposal to import 1.5 lakh tonnes of rice from Morocco at state level. Green signal was also given to a proposal for importing 14 lakh tonnes of petroleum products from Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia at a cost of Tk 7,803 crore.

The committee also gave nod to the construction of the first phase of Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujib Memorial Specialised Hospital and Nursing College in Gazipur at a cost of Tk 125 crore.

'Uproot razakars'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said it is important to uproot razakars and ensure war crimes trial to build a democratic, progressive, developed and secular Bangladesh.

They also blamed the previous governments for failing to develop the country, though independence was achieved 40 years ago, due to being engaged in unethical activities.

Projonmer Chetona, a social organisation, arranged the programme titled 'What type of Bangladesh we want to see in 2021 after 50 years of the War of Liberation' at Dhaka University (DU), in observance of its tenth anniversary.

Barrister Amirul Islam, former army chief Lt Gen (rtd) Harun-ar-Rashid Bir Protik, Bangladesh Economic Association President Prof Abul Barkat, DU Teachers' Association President Prof Anwar Hossain and the organisation's Convener Md Golam Nabi Hossain spoke at the programme. Justice Gholam Rabbani was in the chair.

Govt has no success in 2 years: Anwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee Member MK Anwar yesterday said government had no successes in its term except in repressing the opposition.

"Ruling Awami League-led grand alliance government could not achieve anything for the country in its two years though the prime minister's speeches are rhetoric," he said at a discussion at National Press Club in the city.

Youth Forum organised the discussion titled "Two years of grand alliance government: Crisis riddled Bangladesh and things needed to be done", presided over by its President Saidur Rahman.

Misrule by government has crossed all limits, he said. He also said the government has turned parliament, National Human Rights Commission, Anti-corruption Commission and the judiciary dysfunctional.

'5 journos killed last yr'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of five journalists were killed and 335 victimised in different sorts of repression last year, said a study of Mass-Line Media Centre (MMC).

Of them, 124 were assaulted while on duty, 112 after publishing report and 99 out of vindictiveness.

The deceased are Fateah Osmani, Sylhet correspondent of Saptahik 2000; Shafiqul Islam Mithu, senior cameraman of ATN Bangla; Rafiqul Haque Rashel, senior video editor of Bangla Vision; MA Hasan, Khulna bureau chief of MyTV; and Monir Hossain Rari, president of Muladi Press Club.

Political leaders, influential cadres, police officers, local government representatives, businessmen, drug peddlers and war criminals are responsible for repressing the journalists, said the study.

Ex-army man stabbed, wife mugged in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers stabbed an ex-army personnel and a rickshaw puller and snatched gold ornaments from the ex-army's wife at Sheikhertek in the city's Adabor area early yesterday.

The retired army is Nayek Mahfuzur Rahman, 45, who was stabbed in his abdomen, chest, and back, and the rickshaw puller Abul Hossain, 40, in his back. They were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Mahfuzur was a resident of PC Culture Housing in the city.

The injured at the hospital told reporters that two muggers waylaid their rickshaw at knifepoint around 6:30am and snatched gold ornaments from Mahfuza Begum, wife of the ex-army personnel.

The muggers assaulted the victims as they tried to resist the criminals, they said.

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