

UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR

Tk 3,000cr for PPP likely despite failures

UNB, Dhaka

The government has planned to implement 16 projects under Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) in the fiscal 2011-12, despite implementation failure of the PPP projects earmarked for the last two fiscal years.

The government failed for the second successive fiscal year (2010-11) to spend any budgetary allocation for the PPP projects and is likely to earmark Tk 3,000 crore again for such projects in the next budget.

The government launched the PPP initiative in fiscal 2009-10, allocating Tk 2,500 crore in the budget in a bid to involve the private sector in big infrastructure, power, and energy projects. The allocation for PPP in the current budget (fiscal 2010-11) was Tk 3,000 crore against 23 projects.

But, despite the government's repeated commitments and efforts, not a single PPP project could be undertaken in the last two fiscal years.

The finance ministry officials said the PPP allocation of Tk 3,000 crore, which

remained unutilised in the current fiscal, would be carried forward to the next budget.

They said that out of the 16 PPP projects, 13 are in the power sector and three in the housing sector.

The projects are: 1300 MW Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant in Chittagong, 2MW Grid Connected Solar Power System at Sharishabari in Jamalpur, Khulna 210MW Thermal Power Plant Project, Mymensingh 360MW Combined Cycle Power Plant, Emergency Procurement for Strengthening of Power Distribution Network of DPDC Project, Reactive Power Compensation of DPDC Distribution Network, Construction and Conversion of 132/33KV substation under DPDC Area, Construction of 33/11 KV substation under DPDC Area, Construction of 15 Nos. of 11 KV switching station to regular 33/11KV 35/50MVA substation under DPDC, and Emergency Construction of substation for Power System of DPDC.

Power Cell will implement the Kutubdia RAPSS project, Cox's Bazar, Swandip RAPSS project, Chittagong and Hatia RAPSS project, Noakhali.



Children view newspaper clippings on the devastating Nimtoli fire in the city on June 3 last year claiming over a hundred lives. Locals of Nimtoli pasted the clippings in different parts of the area yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMAN



Nagrik Sanghati forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding enactment of disaster management law.

PHOTO: STAR

Enact disaster management law

Demand speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday demanded enactment of Disaster Management Act and its immediate implementation.

The rally was organised by twenty-two international development partners including Oxfam, Action Aid, Nagrik Sanghati, CSRL, ECB in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city with the General Secretary of Nagrik Sanghati Sharifuzzaman Sharif in the chair.

The speakers said Bangladesh is one of the worst victim countries of climate change due to its geographical position. A major portion of its population is in vulnerable situation and over population, mismanagement and highly dependence of natural resources augmented risks, they added.

So internal preparation is very important to prevent the risks, they said.

They said the government has already prepared a draft of the Disaster Management Act, which was sent back by the cabinet for vetting.

President of Karmojibi Nari Shirin Akter, General Secretary of Bhumihin Samiti Subal Sarker, environment rights activist Ifma Hossain spoke at the rally.

Rokeya now VOA Bangla chief

METRO DESK

Noted broadcast journalist Rokeya Haider has been appointed the chief of Bangla language department of the Voice of America (VOA), being the first woman to have joined the role at the radio station since 1958.

Rokeya will formally take over on June 6, says a press release.

Beginning her career with Chattogram Betar in 1968, the veteran journalist has been serving the VOA for three decades. She joined BTV as an anchor after 1971 war.

Rokeya had been holding the position of VOA's managing editor of Bangla department since 2001.

2 cohorts of Shahid held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives arrested two alleged cohorts of top criminal Dakat Shahid, now absconding in India, with firearms from Babubazar in Old Dhaka Thursday. DB said Aminul Islam Aman and Sohel were acting local chiefs of Shahid's gang.



ADCOMM 2011

