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Dhaka housing project for low-income people gets Ecnec nod



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The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) has approved a housing project for the middle- and low-income people in Dhaka, titled Uttara Flat Construction Project. The project, among eight others, was approved at an Ecnec meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal told reporters during a post-meeting briefing. Under the project, which will be implemented by the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) with support from Malaysia, a total of 131 buildings containing 15,036 flats will be constructed in Uttara with an estimated cost of Tk10,902.21 crore. Of the 15,036 flats, 11,004 will have a space of 1,250 square feet, 4,032 wi[illegible] 1,050 square feet area and the rest will be 850 square feet. The price of the flats has initially been fixed at Tk4,800 per square feet, but it is subject to change in future if necessay. The project was initially conceived in 2011 with the deadline in 2016. The plan was later revised and the deadline has been

extended to 2020. Quoting the prime minister, the planning minister said the flats would be available for purchase to Dhaka citizens in middle- and low-income groups. People from the extremely poor groups will get special consideration. The population of Dhaka is projected to reach 2.5 million by the end of 2050, and the project will help tackle the ever growing need for affordable housing, he said. Ecnec approved a total of eight projects, including the housing project, with a total budget of Tk15,221.75 crore on Tuesday. Of the costs, the government will fund Tk3,767.84 crore, while different development partners will contribute the remaining Tk11,453.91 crore. Of these projects, one is aimed at generating electricity from solid waste in Narayanganj city. Titled “Solid waste collection and removal management in Narayanganj City Corporation, the project has been approved with a budget of Tk191.18 crore, of which Tk57.35 crore will be provided from the city corporation's own fund. The projected deadline of this project is 2019. Planning Minister Kamal said this power generation plan was also a pilot project. “If this project is successfully implemented, we will use it to convert solid waste to electricity around the country,” he told reporters. Another project that has been approved is the installation of 132kV transmission line between Bakerganj and Barguna, to be implemented by the Power Grid Company Ltd at the cost of Tk143.15 crore. The deadline for this project is 2019 as well. The other five projects are: widening and strengthening of Jamalpur-Kalibari-Shorishabari Road at the cost of Tk219.67 crore, to be finished by 2020; infrastructure development of different areas under Chittagong City Corporation at the cost of Tk120 crore by 2019; infrastructure development of “Grameen Bazar” across the country with the estimated cost of Tk1,730 crore, to be implemented by 2020; the amended second phase of secondary education stipend distribution with a budget of Tk1,330.15 crore, to be implemented by 2019; and implementation of national single window and strengthening modernisation, to be implemented by 2020 at the cost of Tk585.39 crore, funded by the World Bank.

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