

Staff reporter

The Cabinet on Monday approved the draft of a Power Division proposal on the 'Speedy Supply of Power and Energy (Special Provision) (Amendment) Bill, 2014' subject to vetting of the Law Ministry for extending the law by another four years till October 11, 2018.

The approval came from the regular weekly meeting of the Cabinet held at Bangladesh Secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said that the law was first enacted in 2010 for two years for taking quick decision on speedily enhancing the power and energy production. Later, its effectiveness was extended by another two years till 2012.

He said that the implementation of the law has proved very fruitful as it was not possible to meet the countrywide growing demand of power and energy under the traditional procurement laws and rules.

On October 12, 2010, the government first enacted the speedy supply law for two years for 'quick disposal' of contracts in power and energy sector to meet the demand for power and energy within a short time.

In September 2012, the government then first extended the Speedy Supply of Power and Energy (Special Provision) Act, 2010 for two years which will expire on October 11 of this year. The day's Cabinet meeting also approved in principle the draft of the 'Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council Bill, 2014' with some amendments repealing the Bangladesh Nursing Council Ordinance, 1983 which was promulgated during the military rule.

The Cabinet Secretary said that the draft law has been given approval in principle in line with the earlier Cabinet decision on transforming ordinances promulgated during the military rules into laws drafting those into Bengali with necessary reviews and amendments and making those time befitting.

According to the proposed law, midwifery has been incorporated in it alongside nursing as well as recognizing of degrees by the Council.

Under the law, the Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council will be formed headed by the Health Secretary and comprising chiefs of the concerned departments and directorates.

Besides, a seven-member Executive Committee of the Council will be formed, also headed by the Health Secretary.

Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said that the law has schedules on which institutions are currently giving certificates and degrees on nursing and midwifery while the interested new institution would require approval of the Council before awarding certificates and degrees on nursing and midwifery professions.

Under the proposed law, the government has been entrusted to formulate rules while the Council to formulate regulations.

Besides, the Cabinet was apprised about the participation of the Bangladesh delegation headed by the Commerce Minister at the 8th meeting of the 'South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) Ministerial Council' held in the Bhutanese capital Thimphu on July 24, 2014 and the participation of Bangladesh delegation, headed by the State Minister for Science and Technology, at the first meeting of the Joint Coordinating Committee for implementing the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant held in Moscow on July 22-23, 2014.

Ministers and State Ministers attended the meeting while concerned Secretaries were present.

