

Staff reporter The Cabinet Purchase Committee on Wednesday approved five proposals, including the Bhairab River Re-excavation Project in Meherpur to be implemented by Dockyard and Engineering Works Ltd, a company run by Bangladesh Navy. A meeting of the Cabinet body, chaired by Finance Minister AMA Muhith, gave nod to the proposals. The Dockyard and Engineering Ltd will carry out the Bhairab River re-excavation works at a cost of Tk 70.65 crore. The Cabinet body also approved the Water Resource Ministry's proposal for appointing a project management and design consultant for Muhiri Irrigation Project. The Asian Development Bank will provide fund for the project. Power Division's proposal for procuring consultancy services for Barapukuria 275 MW coal-fired thermal power plant (3rd unit) also got the Cabinet body's clearance. Steag Energy Services, India won the consultancy job along with its associates Steag Energy, Essen, Germany and BCL Bangladesh at a cost of Tk 27.88 crore. The Railway Ministry's proposal for raising the cost to implement Laksam-Chinki Astana Double Line project also received its approval. The ministry proposed increasing the contractor's contract value by 23.55 percent. As a result, the whole project cost will go up by Tk 306.43 crore to Tk 1607.65 crore from the existing price of Tk 1301.21 crore. CRM Joint Venture, a local firm, has been working as the project contractor. The Cabinet Purchase Committee approved the tender offer of Oberthur Technologies, a French company, for production and distribution of 9 crore (90 million) Smart National Identity Cards (Smart NIDs) under an Election Commission project.