

42 lakh students to get stipend

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved the "Secondary Education Stipend Project" Phase-2 involving Tk 791 crore under which some 42.44 lakh poor students studying at secondary level would get stipends.

For the first time, poor male students at the secondary level are going to get the stipend.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education will implement the project by June 2017 covering some 217 upazilas of 53 districts.

Under the project, students of class VI and VII will receive monthly Tk 100 as stipend while class VIII students will get Tk 120, and students of class IX and X will get Tk 150.

Besides, the students from class VI to VIII will get monthly Tk 15 as tuition fees while those in class IX and X will get Tk 20.

The students will also get Tk 750 at a time as fees for SSC exams.

The minister said 30 percent of female students and 10 percent of male students in each class will get the stipend.

He also said there are some conditions to be followed while giving the stipend. The annual income of the parents must

be below Tk 50,000 and the amount of their land property should be less than seven decimals. Also, the student must have at least 75 percent class attendance.

Besides, the students must get minimum 33 percent marks in annual exams in class VI and VII while those in class VIII and IX must get minimum 40 percent marks.

Another condition for availing of the stipend is that the students will have to be unmarried till appearing at the SSC or Dakhil exams.

The minister said the stipend will be provided to eligible students through completely digital method like mobile banking or bKash or any other suitable method.

The Ecneec meeting also approved another project titled "Installation of Prepaid Gas Meter for TGTDC" worth Tk 719 crore under which some 2 lakh prepaid gas metres would be installed in some 12 areas of the capital. The areas are: Badda, Gulshan, Tejgaon, Cantonment, Mirpur, Kafrul, Khilkhet, Uttar Khan, Dakhkhin Khan, Uttara, Prubachal and Jhilmeeel.

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited would implement the project by December 2018.

Yesterday, the Ecneec okayed four other projects involving Tk 3,887 crore.