

Draft prepared for integrated transport system

Huda tells workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A draft on Integrated Multi-Modal Transport Policy (IMTP) has been prepared for a fully integrated transport system ensuring smooth vehicular movement.

The draft was prepared by a cabinet committee which was formed under the chairmanship of the communications minister in February last.

The government decided in January this year that an IMPT should be prepared incorporating water and air transports with the land transport system.

This was stated by Communications Minister Nazmul Huda at the inaugural session of a 'Stakeholders' workshop on the draft on Integrated Multi-Modal Transport Policy' at a city hotel.

He said lack of coordination among the various modes of transport is mainly responsible for traffic congestion, environmental hazards and public harassment.

The minister said unplanned construction of roads and highways, embankments and culverts by previous governments without proper assessing their impact has created the situation.

Mentioning the heavy deluge across the country and unprecedented waterlogging in the capital this year, he said lack of integration between land and waterways worsened the situation.

Huda said the goal of IMPT is to create an integrated transport and information system that permits seamless, efficient and transparent passenger and freight logistics at national, regional and global level.

He said the policy will help reduce the cost of transporting readymade garments in the post-Multi Fibre Arrangement era.

Besides, it will also help maintain environmental balance and minimise the intake of cultivable land, he added.

Huda said Bangladesh should exploit its geographical position by taking initiatives in regional road, rail, water and air ways to provide improved strategic access for neighbouring states and thereby generates additional revenues for the country.

The minister urged the stakeholders of government and non-government sectors to critically analyse the draft so that it can contribute to sustainable development in communication sector.

The draft will be finalised in next three months, he added.

PM goes to Comilla today

UNB, Comilla

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will arrive here today on a daylong visit.

She will visit the Gomoti river erosion-hit area and distribute relief among the flood victims in Daudkandi, Muradnagar and Debidwar upazilas.

The prime minister will also address two public meetings at Riazuddin Pilot School in Debidwar and Muradnagar DR High School.

'Sarbashreshtha Bangalee' launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A poetry book titled 'Sarbashreshtha Bangalee' by Ayet Ali Patwari was launched in the city yesterday.

Published by the Agami Prakashani, the book contains 70 poems on the War of Liberation and the contribution of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury presided over the publication ceremony at the Liberation War Museum and Dr Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir was present as chief guest.

Poet Farook Mahmud, Oratika Rosy, Nasir Ahmed and Osman Gani, publisher of the Agami Prakashani, also spoke.



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia hands over a cheque to Kaniz Fatema, daughter of slain police constable Abdul Kader, at her office yesterday. Kader was killed by criminals in June.

'Free country from 2-party polarisation'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Communist Party (CPB) President Manjurul Ahsan Khan yesterday said the country has to be freed from two-party polarisation.

Addressing a rally at Muktagong in the city, he said left forces must emerge to save the country.

Manjurul Ahsan said the basic problems of the country cannot be resolved until the left parties come to power.

"We do not believe in politics of showing trump card, rather the people are our main trump card," he said, adding that his party wants a fair post-government movement.

He called upon all sections of people to join hands in ongoing out-government movement as the alliance government has taken the country on the verge of ruin.

The CPB chief asserted that the government cannot stop the mass surge through mass arrest.

He alleged that the government has totally failed to control price-hike and rehabilitate the flood-affected people.

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal central leader Abdul Sarker said although people's sufferings have reached its peak due to further spell of price-hike, the government is

totally indifferent to it.

Organised by Left Democratic Front, the rally was also addressed by its leader Bimol Biswas and Siddiqur Rahman.

Later, a procession was brought out that paraded different city streets.

Biggest haul of marijuana

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) recovered about 93 kg of marijuana from a train on Sunday night.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of DNC with the help of Bangladesh Railway Control Room seized the biggest haul of marijuana during a raid on inter-district train Parabat at 10:30pm and arrested one Shahid Miah.

Another team seized 68 bottles of Phensidyl, 500 gram of marijuana, seven gram of heroin and five beer cans and arrested 13 people from different areas of the city the same day, said a press release.



PHOTO: STAR

The advisory council of Awami League organised a discussion on August 21 grenade attack on party President Sheikh Hasina at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi division and at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna, Sylhet, Chittagong and Barisal divisions till 6.00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Patuakhali and lowest 24.5 degree Celsius at Srimangol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:49pm today and rises at 5:49am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.1	26.3	79	80
Chittagong	33.1	26.8	77	88
Rajshahi	33.0	26.0	83	97
Khulna	35.0	27.0	75	72
Barisal	33.0	26.0	84	97
Sylhet	33.5	26.2	78	84
Cox's Bazar	33.6	27.0	78	85

Female garment worker murdered, two electrocuted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Body of a female garment worker was recovered at Mirpur while two persons including a boy were electrocuted at Pallabi in the city yesterday.

Police recovered the body, aged around 18, from an abandoned plot in West Manipur. There were marks of injuries on her body.

An identity card, found from her possession, suggested that she was an employee of a garment factory.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

In Pallabi, Atiqur Rahman, a CNG-run three-wheeler driver, and Mahmudul Islam Raju, 11, were electrocuted.

Witnesses said an electric wire fell on them when Raju was hanging his clothes on it before going for a bath at a house on Road No 12.

Locals rushed them to DMCH where the doctors declared them dead.

In Dhanmondi, mob beat a mugger when he was trying to flee after snatching a bag from a woman.

Police rescued Shahidullah, 22, and send him to DMCH for treatment.

Armed cadre of outlawed party injured in attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An armed cadre of an outlawed party was severely injured in an attack at his house at Chuknagar Bazar in Dumuria on Sunday night.

Local people found Swapan Sarker of New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP) lying on Baliakhali bridge in an unconscious state. He was admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital in the morning with his hands and legs broken and eyes damaged.

Police said the attackers identified themselves as members of Rapid Action Battalion but Commanding Officer of Khulna unit of Rab Colonel Imdadul Haque expressed his ignorance about the incident.

Khulna Police Super Habibur Rahman said investigation was going on to find out the identity of attackers.

Swapan, an accused in three murder cases, is an accomplice of Mrinal, slain founder of NBCP. He is now on bail.