

# Roadmap okayed for stemming greenhouse gas emissions

AP, Bangkok

Delegates from 120 countries approved the first roadmap for stemming greenhouse gas emissions yesterday, laying out what they said was an affordable arsenal of anti-warming measures that must be rushed into place to avert a disastrous spike in global temperatures.

But a US official raised concern about the economic costs.

The report, a summary of a study by a UN network of 2,000 scientists, said the world has to make significant cuts in gas emissions through increasing the energy efficiency of buildings and vehicles, shifting from fossil fuels to renewable fuels, and reforming both the forestry and farming sectors.

The document made clear that nations have the technology and money to decisively act in time to avoid a sharp rise in temperatures that scientists say would wipe out species, raise ocean levels, wreak economic havoc and trigger droughts in some places and flooding in others.

Under the most stringent scenario, the report said the world must stabilize the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere by 2015 eight years from now at 445 parts per million to keep global temperatures from rising more than 3.6 degrees over preindustrial levels.

Delegates said the approval of the report should conclusively debunk arguments by skeptics that combatting global warming was too costly, that it would stifle devel-

opment in poorer countries, or that the temperature rise had gone too far to change.

"If we continue doing what we are doing now, we are in deep trouble," said Ogunlade Davidson, the co-chair of group responsible for finalizing the report this week.

Delegates hailed the policy statement as a key advance toward battling global warming and setting the stage for an even stronger international agreement to replace the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse emissions when it expires in 2012.

"It's stunning in its brilliance and relevance," Rajendra Pachauri, chair of the group responsible for the report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said of the study. "It's a remarkable step forward."

"Clearly, the signs that the IPCC assess will have a direct and profound influence on the discussion that take place and the direction toward (a post-Kyoto) agreement," he said.

The United States was pleased that the report "highlights the importance of a portfolio of clean energy technologies consistent with our approach," said the head of the US delegation, Harlan Watson.

But James Connaughton, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, raised concerns about reaching the lowest emission targets proposed in the report, saying "it would cause a global recession."

"Our goal is reducing emissions and growing the economy," he said. SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

Driver Sirajul Islam, robbed of his CNG-run auto-rickshaw as he fell unconscious after taking sherbet from a roadside vendor yesterday, being taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

## Yunus hopes all Bangladeshis to have access to micro-credit by 2010

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus yesterday hoped that all Bangladeshis will have access to microcredit by 2010, as he turned his full attention to his brainchild after stepping aside on Thursday from his efforts to form a political party.

He however refused to speak on politics when asked by reporters after he had spoken as the chief guest at a reception given to him by Chittagong University Economics Students Association (CUEESA) in the Darbar Hall at Bangladesh Rifles Headquarters in the capital yesterday.

His speech was focused on reminiscing about his days as a SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

RAMNA LAKE

## Work on foot over-bridge suspended in face of protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Public Works Department (PWD) has finally suspended the construction of the foot over-bridge over the Ramna Lake in the face of protests from the environmentalists.

Talking to The Daily Star over phone on Monday, Md Sharifuzzaman, additional chief engineer of Dhaka zone, confirmed the news. "Now we are awaiting detailed instructions from the high officials for removing the earth that SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Bush no more a most influential man

Time Magazine drops him from list

AFP, New York

US President George W. Bush has been dropped from Time magazine's list of the world's 100 most influential people for the first time, in a further sign of his flagging political fortunes.

While Osama bin Laden, Pope Benedict XVI and even Borat creator Sacha Baron Cohen managed to find a spot on the fourth annual list due to hit newsstands Friday, the magazine decided that Bush just didn't make the grade anymore.

"I think Bush by this point in his presidency probably has less influence than the position should grant him automatically," Time's Deputy Managing Editor Adi Ignatius told AFP, explaining the decision to ditch Bush.

"He's a lame duck ... but his influence is below that of a normal lame duck figure. We just thought Bush was at a low ebb in terms of his influence." SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Arrested Jubo League worker dies in Teknaf health complex

UNB, Cox's Bazar

A local Jubo League worker, who was held by navy personnel Thursday noon, died at Teknaf Health Complex in the early hours of yesterday.

The dead was identified as Jahangir Alam, 32, son of late Mia Hossain of Shikdarpura village under Teknaf upazila.

Police said navy personnel picked up Jahangir from his house and handed him over to the Teknaf police at around 7:00pm in a critical condition.

He was admitted to the health complex where he died at about 12:30 am.

The district police superintendent visited the health complex yesterday and sent the body to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Family members of the victim alleged that the navy men severely beat up Jahangir in their custody that caused his death.

Navy officials could not be reached over phone for comments.

Police said Jahangir was an accused in two cases and obtained bail from court in both the cases.

## CNG-run three-wheelers ignore new fare rate

MAMUN AL MOSTOFA

CNG-run autorickshaw drivers in the capital are not following the new fare structure for these three-wheelers alleging that they are forced to pay the owners much more than the government-fixed amount.

The government-fixed new fare structure and drivers' daily payment to owners came into effect on Tuesday.

In a field survey on Thursday, more than 50 drivers in different city areas told this correspondent that they were compelled to pay the owners Tk 550 to Tk 600 per day while the government has now set the ceiling at Tk 450 instead of Tk 300 previously.

Drivers alleged that most autorickshaw owners in Jatrabari, Ghundighar, Mirhazirbagh, Madartek, Dhupkhola, Purba Jurain, Kafur, Kachukhet and Lalbagh were realising Tk 600 a day from them.

They also mentioned the names of a number of owners who are ignoring the government-fixed rate.

Citing an instance, some drivers said a group of retired security men, who own autorickshaws under the banner of a company with its office near Paka Masjid Check Post in Dakkhin Kafur, maintain two ledgers - one showing Tk 450 as daily deposit by each driver and the other showing Tk 100 each under miscellaneous heads.

Seeking anonymity, they alleged that they have been asked to tell any outsiders that they pay only Tk 450 each to owners.

Under the new fare structure, initial charge has been set at Tk 15 for any distance up to two km as against Tk 12 previously. Fare for the first two km has been raised to Tk 13.50 from Tk 12 and that for each extra km to Tk 5.50 from Tk 5. Waiting charge now is Tk 0.75 per minute, up from Tk 0.50 per minute earlier.

Many of the autorickshaw owners were charging Tk 20 to 50 as garage charge per day, drivers alleged.

A group of autorickshaw drivers went to Jatrabari Police Station on Thursday to protest that owners

were charging more than the newly fixed ceiling.

Officer-in-Charge of Jatrabari Police Station Kazi Ahsan Habib however said police could not take any action as the drivers did not make any written complaint.

Meanwhile, calibration of meters of three wheelers in the city started on Tuesday under five companies. Proprietor of Distribution One, a metre distribution company, said they calibrated 2,000 meters till Thursday and hoped the process would be completed within this week.

A number of drivers expressed annoyance that it takes hours to get a meter calibrated. Faruk, a driver from Jatrabari, said he came at 9:00am and got the job done at 3:30pm.

When contacted, General Secretary of Dhaka District Autorickshaw- Tempo-Mishuk Vehicle Sramik Union Golam Faruk said that at a meeting organised by Bangladesh Road Transport SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Redwan's property attached

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

The law enforcers yesterday attached moveable properties of former state minister and LDP presidium member Redwan Ahmed from his house at Matadda village in Chandina upazila.

Chandina police went to Redwan's house at the instruction of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, as the LDP leader did not appear before the court in a case filed against him with Uttara Police Station under the Narcotics Control Act.

During the three hours raid from 10:00am to 1:00pm, police attached nine items including furniture. During the raid, no one but Redwan's mother was in the house.

Redwan's name was on the second list of 50 graft suspects.

Prayer Timing		
May 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-34	6-38
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Royal warns of violence if Sarkozy wins

Rightwinger leading in French poll battle

AFP, Paris

Socialist Segolene Royal warned yesterday that France could slide into violence if Nicolas Sarkozy wins the presidency as the rightwinger extended his poll lead on the final day of the hard fought campaign.

Royal, seeking to become France's first woman leader, said she was "issuing an alert" that a Sarkozy victory could "trigger violence and brutalities across the country."

"His candidacy is dangerous. That is why I am asking voters to think twice," Royal told RTL radio in one of her final declarations of one of the most hotly contested elections in decades.

Three new polls showed Sarkozy pulling ahead of Royal with 53 percent and up to 54.4 percent of votes against 47 and 45.5 percent for the Socialist.

The candidate of President Jacques Chirac's governing party gained between half a percentage

point to 2.5 points from polls done before a heated television debate Wednesday evening.

Royal described her rival as "the candidate of the hard right", backed by big media and financial interests and who had been unable to campaign freely in the troubled suburbs.

Sarkozy dismissed Royal's attacks as "outrageous" and said she was upset by her drop in the polls. SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

