

100-year master plan a must for city's dev: Khoka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka at a view exchange meeting yesterday stressed the need for taking a 100-year master plan instead of a 20-year plan considering the future needs of the city.

long-term plan and government should finance Rajuk from its national budget to prepare it," he said. The meeting was organised by Rajuk seeking opinion of experts and public representatives about the draft plan, which was submitted recently.

He also suggested shifting the container terminal of Bangladesh Railway at Kamalapur outside Dhaka to reduce the city's traffic congestion and setting up a new railway station at the western side of the city.

the media immediately so that people can come up with good suggestions. Ward commissioner Haji Altaf Hossain demanded setting up another waste treatment plant to reduce the pollution of the river Buriganga.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia addresses a meeting of the four-party alliance at the residence of former Jai Jai Din editor Shafiq Rehman at Eskaton Garden in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

City Jubo League leader shot by extortionists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A city Jubo League leader and phone-fax trader was shot by extortionists at Sutrapur in the city last night. Identified as Monwar Hossain Manu, 35, a Jubo League leader of Ward-82, of KB Road, was shot in his chest and shoulder five times and was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition.

Warrants for arrest of 3 war criminals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C/nawabganj

A Chapainawabganj court yesterday issued warrants for arrest of three alleged war criminals in the martyred freedom fighter Haider Ali Master murder case. The accused are Giasuddin Chairman, 60, and Jamshed Ali, 60, of Bashbari village in Nachol upazila and Khoka, 55, of Jobai village of Shaphar upazila in Noagaon district.

They also set her house on fire. Since then, no trace of Haider Ali had been found. Jarina also mentioned that she did not file any case earlier as no war criminal was tried after the War of Liberation and lodged the case now hoping to get justice as a neutral caretaker government is in power.

Passengers stuck as bus service withdrawn

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Thousands of Munshiganj-bound passengers yesterday had to face huge sufferings as a private bus service Dhaka Transport Line has withdrawn its services to Muktarpur, five kilometres away from the town. Later, the bus service was reinstated in the evening with the intervention of the joint forces and deputy commissioner.

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi division in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy to heavy rainfalls are also likely at places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.



Table with 3 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Monitor polls in neutral way CEC urges election observers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Alliance for Election Monitoring (NAEM), a newly formed election observer, yesterday exchanged views with the Election Commission (EC) on election monitoring in the upcoming election.

CEC at the view exchange meeting underscored the need for monitoring election in the neutral way. NAEM Secretary Sharmeen Murshid placed a report explaining activities of their organisation. Seven NGOs on September 7 launched NAEM with an aim to strengthen citizens' vigilance over electoral process and institutionalise democracy.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rashida Khatun, a teacher of MM Sunrise Pre-Cadet and High School at Munshipara in Satkhira, has been suffering from leukaemia, a type of blood cancer, says a press release. She is now undergoing treatment under the supervision of Dr Manjur Morshed of the haematology department at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

AL-BNP clash leaves 25 injured in Munshiganj

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

At least 25 people were injured in a clash between the activists of Awami League and BNP at Nowabda Dhalkandi village under Sadar upazila in Munshiganj yesterday. Quoting locals police said the clash erupted centre cutting away of 'dhoncha' by a group of BNP activists from the field of an AL activist Kalu Dhali. Witnesses said both the groups locked into the clash equipped with sharp weapons.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao hold a bilateral meeting at Eastern Hall in China yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

15 lakh girls still out of primary school Speakers tell consultation meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 15 lakh primary age girls in the country still remain out of school, speakers at a national consultation meeting on 'United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI)' said yesterday.

reach class ten and only 40 percent of girls can pass the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations," said Tasneem Athar, deputy director of CAMPE, at the inaugural session of the two-day meeting at a city hotel.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biswas Noor Mohammad, retired conservator of forest, passed away due to cardiac arrest at his residence at Uttara on September 14 at the age of 60, says a press release.

Abul Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abul Hossain, a Language Movement veteran, freedom fighter and president member of National Awami Party (NAP), passed away at Dhaka Central Hospital in the city on September 15 at the age of 73, says a press release.

Food shop, oil mill fined in Chittagong

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court during separate drives in Chittagong yesterday fined a food shop and an oil mill Tk 70,000 for preserving food items in unhygienic condition. The court fined KDS Food Products Tk 50,000 for preserving its brand 'Pure Baghbari Ghee' in the very unhygienic condition in Asadganj area.

They also revealed that although the rates of enrolment of boys and girls in primary schools are the same, the enrolment of girls at the secondary level is still significantly low. "It is found that only 50 percent of children enrolled in class six can

The low achievement rates for girls at the primary level put them at a disadvantage when they enter the secondary school, Tasneem added. During the 90s, Bangladesh recorded remarkable achievement in primary education with net and gross enrolments and completion rates all increasing by over 20 percent. Girls' enrolments increased by over 30 percent during the period. However, during the past several years' progress has stagnated, said the speakers.

The drop-out rate has increased from 33 percent in 2002 to 47 percent in 2006, they pointed out. They attributed the poor quality of schooling to poor attendance, high drop-out rate and low achievement. However, Bangladesh can take pride as it has achieved gender parity in terms of enrolment in primary education, they added.

that children badly need play-grounds in the city, but many open spaces are being grabbed by vested quarters even during this caretaker government.

They urged the authorities to take steps to recover the park and take action against the persons responsible. Signatories to the statement include Prof Anu Mohammad, sports personality Rakibul Hasan, cultural personality Fakir Alamgir, media personality Shykh Seraj, former whip Abu Sayeed Khan, journalist Khanoker Shahadat Hossain, president of Khilgaon Samajik Sangstha Manir Hossain Khan and founder chairman of Pallima Sangsad Md Hafizur Rahman Maina.

The eminent personalities said several eminent personalities yesterday called on the authorities to take steps to free a children's park at Khilgaon in the city from the control of Ansar and VDP forces. The Ansar and VDP forces took control of the park on January 31 last year and fenced the park with CI sheets amid strong protests from local residents, they said in a joint statement. Recently boundary wall was constructed around the park.

The Ansar members also beat up the protesters and filed false cases against them, the statement said.



Inam Ahmed speaks at a programme to mourn innocent victims of Georgia-South Ossetia conflict at Russian Cultural Centre in the city yesterday. Russian Embassy organised the condolence meeting.

DMCH staff protest transfer of 35

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than hundred employees of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) yesterday laid siege to the administrative block following a mass transfer order from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. About 35 employees of the hospital, including nine doctors and eight nurses, were enlisted for being transferred as per the recommendation of the director of the hospital. The employees alleged that the transfer list was prepared with the help of the corrupt people of the hospital and was sent to the ministry. As soon as they came to know about the order of 'mass transfer', they informed it to the authorities concerned on Monday. As the authorities did not take any action

regarding this, they demonstrated in front of the room of the Deputy Director Dr Kazi Enamul Kabir from 10:00am to 11:00am yesterday. The agitating staff demanded withdrawal of the transfer order by the next 24 hours and announced to go for tougher agitations if their demand is not met. However, the situation became normal following the interference of Administrative Officers Dr Mohammad Fayzullah and Sohrab Uddin Khan. They held a meeting with the agitating employees and assured them that steps would be taken soon to this end. Deputy Director Dr Enamul Kabir, who is also the acting director, said that the application would be sent to the ministry soon to withdraw the list.

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that children badly need play-grounds in the city, but many open spaces are being grabbed by vested quarters even during this caretaker government.

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LIBERATION WAR Call to recognise contribution of Senator Kennedy, George Harrison, Indira Gandhi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Barrister Masood R Sobhan, a senior lawyer of the Supreme Court, has urged President Iajuddin Ahmed to formally recognise the contribution of US Senator Edward M Kennedy and singer George Harrison who stood by millions of people of Bangladesh during the War of Liberation in 1971.

He also called for formally recognising the contribution of Indira Gandhi, former prime minister of India, during the liberation war.

Barrister Masood made the appeal to the president in a letter on September 10.

He urged the president to invite Senator Kennedy, who has now been suffering from brain cancer, and his family members to the Victory Day celebrations this year to formally accept our gratitude.

"When the plight of the refugees started, India gave them shelter and food. But when the number of refugees increased reaching several millions, India could not cope with the problem as it did not have enough resources and it was Senator Kennedy, who at that time as the chairman of the Democrat-controlled Senate's Refugee Committee allotted fund of the US government for the refugees. Simply put, he arranged food to feed millions of people of Bangladesh for such a long period of time," Barrister Masood said in his letter.

"It is imperative to make a move fast to give a formal and befitting recognition to the person who most selflessly stood by the people of this country and lessened their sufferings in the refugee camps in India with most needed financial support and also helped create this independent Bangladesh."

"Singer George Harrison organised a concert in the UK to raise fund for Bengalis. He supported and recognised the cause of the people by naming it 'Concert for Bangladesh'," Barrister Masood said.

Tk 10cr VoIP equipment seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and civil administration officials seized a huge quantity of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) equipment from a godown of Maim Food Products in Bogra yesterday. Acting on a tip-off, Rab raided the Maim Food Product godown and seized huge quantity of VoIP equipments worth around Tk 10 crore, Rab sources said.

ACI money yet to be recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tk 46 lakh looted from the ACI staff was not recovered till yesterday night, though three days have already elapsed. Sources said members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Detective Branch (DB) and regular police forces have been carrying out separate investigations to recover the money and arrest the robbers. Earlier, police detained three ACI staffers who were present during the incident while Rab men picked up two security guards in Nicketan in Gulshan for interrogation. DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed said, "We have urged businessmen and their organisations for taking police escorts. But their unwillingness to take any help of police results in such incidents of robberies." Armed muggers looted around Tk 46 lakh in cash and pay orders and cheques worth about Tk 50 lakh from ACI Assistant Manager Biplob Kumar Chakraborti at Gulshan Link Road when he was on way to deposit the money to a bank at around 11.30am on Sunday.



Thai Ambassador to Bangladesh Chalermphol Thanchitt poses for photograph with participants of the Bangladesh-Thailand 36th anniversary Joint Art Exhibition at a press conference at Drik Gallery yesterday. The exhibition will continue until September 27.