

WORLD WATER FORUM CONFERENCE

Dhaka for global treaty on use of int'l river water

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh moved a proposal at the World Water Forum Conference in Stockholm to strike an international framework treaty for proper use of water of international rivers and water bodies by the UN member-states, as disputes in this regard prevail in different corners of the globe.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Dr Hasan Mahmud, who attended the conference in the Swedish capital from August 18 to 20, told reporters yesterday that the proposal from the 'water community' will be placed before Copenhagen conference on climate change in December.

Mahmud said the world contains fixed amount of water which is being recycled. It is important to have proper water management since the use of water is on the increase.

"The issue is particularly important for Bangladesh as some 57 common rivers are flowing through the country," he added.

He observed that the present international treaties are not enough as there is no binding treaty for use of water bodies.

During his stay in Stockholm, Mahmud had bilateral meetings with the environment minister and the development cooperation minister of Sweden and sought cooperation in protecting the environment in Bangladesh.

He also sought cooperation in waste management in Dhaka and Chittagong and generating electricity from litter, which rot and stink on roadside.

The minister said the environment ministry will launch pilot projects on waste management in residential areas of Dhaka and Chittagong.

Under the project, three types of disposable sacks will be supplied free of cost for depositing different types of wastes -- degradable, re-useable and recyclable -- so these leftovers could be reused after treatment.

The state minister during his meeting with the Netherlands counterpart also sought assistance for the dredging of rivers in Bangladesh.

'Impose restrictions on car to ease traffic jam'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a sit-in programme yesterday urged the government to impose restrictions on private cars to reduce traffic congestion in the city.

They also called for steps to ensure better public transport service to inspire the people to use them instead of private cars.

They made the remark at the sit-in programme jointly organised by

Paribesh Bachao Andolon, Citizen Rights Movement, Nirapad Development Foundation, Protyasha and WBB Trust organised the sit-in in front of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday.

The speakers also suggested introducing such transport that can carry more passengers but occupy less

road space.

Imposing restrictions on rickshaws and poor quality buses are leading many people to use private cars, they said, adding that it is possible to reduce traffic congestion by imposing restrictions on private cars, introducing quality bus service and encouraging people to walk or use cycles.

They also placed several demands, including construction of separate lanes for bus service, reducing import tariffs on bus, imposing congestion charges on cars and restricting issuance of licence for cars.

Abu Naser Khan, chairman of Paribesh Bachao Andolon, Ibnul Syed Rana, chairman of Nirapad Development Foundation, folk singer Abdul Kuddus Boyati, Maruf Rahman, project officer of WBB Trust, also spoke.

'Implement Nat'l Women Dev Policy immediately'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Karmojibi Nari (KN) yesterday observed the Resistance to Violence Against Women Day or Yasmin Day 2009 with a call for implementing the National Women Development Policy 2008 immediately.

There is no alternative to implementing the policy to ensure women empowerment, said KN leaders at a rally at Muktangan in the city.

Karmojibi Nari Executive Director Rokeya Rafik Baby, Director Mahmuda Imam, Programme Officer Sheikh Shamima Sultana, and Towhidur Rahman, president of Bangladesh Poshak Shilpa Samik Federation, also spoke on the occasion.

The trial of the rape and murder case of Yasmin was a

milestone for the movement to eliminate violence against women.

They stressed the need for ensuring women's safety and security to establish a society where men and women will enjoy equal rights.

At the rally KN placed some recommendations for women's development, including ensuring one-third women representation in all sectors, formulating an act to eliminate all sorts of discrimination against women, imposing a ban on Fatwa, considering women repression as violation of human rights and updating the existing laws regarding violence against women.

Following the rally, a procession was brought out, which ended in front of the National Press Club.

FLEXING MUSCLES FOR TENDER



Juba League and Chhatra league cadres brawl at Abdul Gani Road in front of the Food Bhaban in the city yesterday while the police look on. The brawl began at the Bhaban over submission of tenders. (Story on Page 1)



Eleven killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Eleven people were killed in separate road accidents in Comilla, Chapainawabganj, Munshiganj, Chittagong and Bogra in last two days.

A correspondent in Comilla reports: Two people were killed and five others injured in a road accident at Kalakochuya on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Comilla yesterday.

The dead were identified as Rezanul Choudhury, 35 and Monir Hossain, 40.

Police said the accident

occurred when a Chittagong-bound passenger bus collided head-on with another bus, leaving two dead on the spot and five others injured.

The critically injured were sent to Comilla Medical College Hospital.

Our correspondent in Chapainawabganj adds: One person was killed in a road accident on Chapainawabganj-Sonamasjid road at Baroghoria under Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila yesterday.

The victim was identified

as Badruddoza Badal, 60, of Nayalavanga village.

Witnesses and family sources said five people including Badal were injured when a Katsat-bound passenger bus collided head-on with a 'Nosimon' at about 7:00am.

He succumbed to his injuries at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

A correspondent in Munshiganj adds: Two people were killed in a road accident at Hasara on Dhaka-Mawa road in Munshiganj yesterday.

Irene Akhter Meem, 16, a student of Hasara Kali Kishore

High School, and a pedestrian Sanjeeb Chandra Mandal, 35, were killed when a truck ran over them.

After the accident agitating people ransacked 15 to 20 vehicles, including cars of Upazila Nirbahi Officer and Assistant Superintendent of Police.

Staff correspondent in Chittagong adds: Two people were killed and 15 others injured when a passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch at Patiya upazila in Chittagong yesterday.

One of the dead was identified as Shamsul Alam, 40, a

teacher of local Jami Juri Madrasa, while identity of another aged around 42 years could not be known immediately.

Source said the accident occurred when a speeding Cox's Bazar-bound passenger bus fell into a road roadside ditch while saving a cow accident on the road at Bhaliyar Dighi at around 4.30pm.

The injured were sent to BGC Trust Hospital and Patiya health complex.

Staff correspondent from Bogra adds: Four people were killed in separate road accidents in Bogra in last two days.

The dead were identified as Mafu, 30, Amena Beowa, 65, Peren, 60, and Palash, 30.

Mafu was killed when a truck hit him near Fotki Bridge under Shahjahanpur upazila yesterday morning.

Amena Beowa and Peren were killed when a truck and a passenger bus collided head-on at Baghopara Sunday night.

Palash was killed when a passenger bus at Seujgari in the town hit his motorcycle.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH.COM

Some 175 Bangladeshis who were rescued from the sea near the Andaman Nicobar islands in December on their way to Malaysia finally return home through Benapole border yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

Applications for British passports to be received in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A pilot project for receiving applications for British passports in Sylhet was launched yesterday.

Addressing a press conference at a city hotel in connection with the launching of the project, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Stephen Evans said the project would run for six months on experimental basis.

Replying to a question he said the people concerned will be supplied with new British Bangladesh a prosperous passports as well as the country too.

renewal of expired ones will also be done here within 10 days.

He sought media cooperation for making the pilot project a success.

Evans said Bangladeshi origin community has been playing a laudable role in the development of British society for long.

"We are proud of their contribution in the field of British economy, industry and other sectors, he said, adding these people are also contributing enormously to make the country a prosperous country too.

The high commissioner said the existing close relation between the peoples of Bangladesh and the UK was established by those who had their journey from this region in the early 18th century.

By now, the Bangladeshi origin community has been integrated into the British society in a big way, he added.

He said of the half a million British-Bangladeshis, about 70,000 to 80,000 people do stay in Sylhet at any time of a year.

"We have things to do for their betterment," he added. Services at the regional

office of the British High Commission in Sylhet has been improved to a great extent, he said, adding, "We will make further improvement."

The envoy said Sylhet is important to the UK as more than 90 percent of Bangladeshi origin people are from this region.

"I am also proud of this community for their massive contribution in the local bodies of the UK, he added.

About the forced marriages among the UK immigrant families and others, he said these are declining now.

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