



Kazi Nazrul Avenue in the city remains congested with vehicles throughout the afternoon everyday. The photo was taken around 4:00pm yesterday. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Plan to widen 3 roads to cut mishap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain yesterday said the government took a plan to widen and straighten three roads connecting Dhaka and Bhanga; Faridpur and Barisal; and Joydevpur and Hatikamrul to reduce accidents and improve transportation network.

The construction would hopefully begin by 2012, he said while speaking at an inaugural session of a workshop titled "Feasibility study for preparing priority roads project" at a city hotel.

Roads and Highway Department organised the workshop and the feasi-

bility study was done by Asian Development Bank (ADB).

He said opinion of experts would be taken on the study and then donor agencies would be asked for funds as the recent budgetary allocation for the ministry did not meet the ministry's expectation.

Mentionable, length of Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga road is 60 kilometre (km), Faridpur-Barisal road is 128 km and Joydevpur-Chandra-Tangail-Hatikamrul road is 110 km.

The project also aims at linking Jamuna Bridge and the proposed Padma Bridge to the network, he said.

The minister opposed the study's report on Barisal-Faridpur road where it mentioned that it is not possible to upgrade it to four lanes before 2016.

He said the four lanes would drastically reduce the number of accidents and facilitate transportation of goods.

The minister said the study was prepared keeping in mind the need to enhance transport efficiency and safety of traffic flow and pedestrians, particularly during rush hours.

Mozammel Haque Khan, secretary of Roads Division of the ministry; Sitangshu Bikash Saha, the project's director; and Lee Ming Tai, ADB project officer; addressed the workshop.

Improve quality of tea PM urges tea estate owners

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the tea garden owners to introduce modern technologies in their gardens and factories to improve the quality of tea and increase its production.

Hasina made the call when a delegation of Bangladesh Tea Association met her at the Prime Minister's office (PMO) in the morning. The association chairman Md Safwan Chowdhury led the team.

Hasina said the tea estate owners have to incorporate modern effective technologies for increasing production and improving quality of tea so that after meeting local demand, tea can be exported in large numbers.

Press Secretary to Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad told the journalists.

The prime minister reminded the tea

garden owners of the past glory of tea industry of Bangladesh when huge volumes of tea used to be exported.

"The past glory of the cash crop has to be brought back," she said.

Listing various measures taken and implemented by the present government for development of tea industries and tea workers, she said government's assistance to this sector will continue.

In this regard, she mentioned her government's steps for providing ration to the tea workers.

Land Minister Rezaul Karim Hira, Imran Ahmed MP, Hafiz Ahmed Majumder MP and Laila Rahman Kabir were in the delegation.

Principal Secretary to the PM M A Karim, Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office Molla Waheeduzzaman and PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad were present.



Akikunnessa Ahmad's 29th anniversary of death today

METRO DESK

The 29th death anniversary of Akikunnessa Ahmad, a noted writer and pioneer in progressive women's movement in the late 40s, will be observed today, Friday, June 17, says a press release.

She was the wife of renowned litterateur, journalist, and politician of the sub-continent late Abul Mansur Ahmad and daughter of eminent Islamic thinker and litterateur Maulana Ahmad Ali Akalavi.

Her significant literary works include "Adhunik Stree" (modern wife) and "Adhunik Swami" (modern husband).

Special prayers will be held at her children's homes on Saturday, June 18, to mark the death anniversary.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Shamsul Akanda, a former teacher of the village Santiram in Sundarganj upazila, passed away yesterday due to old-age complications.

He was 95 and is survived by his wife, seven sons, and four daughters.

Akanda was buried at his family graveyard after Namaj-e-Janaza at a local mosque.

NIZAMUL MURDER Main accused arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Azam Ali Bayati, the main accused of businessman Nizamul Islam Nio murder case, from city's Banasree on Wednesday night.

According to Azam's information, Rab recovered a pistol and two bullets from a ditch in city's Meradia.

Rab said acting on a tip off, they arrested him from in front of Banasree Ideal School around 11:05pm.

During preliminary interrogation, Azam confessed that he and his associates Yunus, Swapan, Baharul and Bijoy were involved in killing Nizamul.

Nizamul was shot dead by miscreants in Khilgaon on May 24 while another man was wounded.

China keen to help build deep-sea port

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Deepwater Port Authority (DPA) in China yesterday expressed hope that they can help Bangladesh build a deep-sea port here.

DPA President Wan Daning conveyed this to Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, who is now on an 8-day visit to China, during her tour to the newly built Yangshan Deepwater Port in Shanghai.

The foreign minister informed the port officials that Bangladesh is planning building of a deep-sea port in Sonadia, Chittagong.

The Bangladesh foreign minister was invited to visit Yangshan Deepwater Port, a mega project of about \$10 billion, built on a reclaimed island connected by about a 35-km long sea bridge with the mainland.

The DPA president, while briefing Dipu Moni on the latest state-of-the-art facilities, expressed interest to work with Bangladesh in the construction of the deep-sea port, said a press release of the foreign ministry.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni arrived in Shanghai on Wednesday (June 15) on her way to Beijing for an official meeting invited by her counterpart Yang Jiechi.

She will hold official talks with the Chinese foreign minister in Beijing on June 22 and will also call on Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping.

Upon her arrival in Shanghai, the foreign minister was received by the high officials of the local Foreign Affairs Office and the Bangladesh ambassador in China.

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