



PHOTO: AFP

From left: An Iraqi woman sits in the trunk of a Baath party official's German car while fleeing their neighbourhood fearing revenge in Baghdad; Iraqis loot the house of a Baath party official in northern Baghdad as US troops entered the teeming northeast Shiite suburb of Saddam City without resistance; the mother of Iraqi two-year-old Hassan Nasser cries next to his bed at a hospital in Basra; and a US soldier steps on a picture of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad yesterday.

City sweats on power outage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 City residents experienced frequent power outages throughout yesterday although official figure of load shedding is very low.
 It was a dreadful day for the city dwellers, specially children and elderly persons, who grumbled over the power trouble. After the sweltering summer heat and energy-sapping humidity, the frequent power disruptions were too much.
 The temperature rose to 35.3 degrees

Celsius yesterday.
 Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA) Control Room said the usual demand for power in the city is 1,200 megawatt (MW) and it was supplying 1,111 MW in the evening.
 It claimed that the total load shedding yesterday was 36 MW. And in the evening, it was 20 MW.
 But many residents in Mirpur, Tejgoan, Paribagh, Kamalapur, Basabo and Baridhara said power outage in their areas was frequent. "There was no electricity for about an hour in the

morning and for about an hour in the evening, too," said a resident at Tejgoan.
 Officials said DESA is capable of meeting the power demand. But sometimes it has to snap power supply to save transformers from damage as the transmission system is overburdened.
 DESA Chairman MA Rab on Friday said DESA transmission lines are in a bad shape due to lack of necessary repair and maintenance, which some times causes power outages.

Withdrawal of funding won't affect health services: Saifur

UNB, Dhaka

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said withdrawal of donors' funding to the country's Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSP) would not affect the health services.
 "Rather, it'll be more reinforced," he told newsmen following the inauguration of a 3-day national health conference at Hotel Sheraton in the morning.
 Saifur said the health sector has been carrying out three billion dollars programme for the last five years and it will have another three billion dollars in the next three years.
 Withdrawal of US\$100 million to US\$200 million for any excuse would not affect a population of 140 million too much, he felt.
 The World Bank has decided to suspend US\$123 million fund from the government's HPSP due to "failure in implementation" of the reforms as per the donors' prescription.
 Inaugurating the conference, the Finance Minister said the government has decided on a reassessment of the HPSP, as it was forced upon without relevance to the basic objectives of the health sector. "Unfortunately, it was not implemented in the last five years."
 The major irrelevance was to tag

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Ban may go on women seeking jobs abroad

RAFIQ HASAN

The government is likely to withdraw the ban on sending female workers abroad, especially to the oil-rich Middle East countries.
 Bangladeshi female workers have a huge scope of household jobs in these countries.
 Sources said the expatriate welfare and overseas employment ministry will place a proposal at today's meeting of the cabinet committee on manpower export to withdraw the ban imposed in 1998.
 The ministry thinks that if the ban is withdrawn, at least two lakh female workers could get employment in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and other countries in the region within a short time.
 Ambassadors of some of those countries in Dhaka, while talking with government officials on various occasions, expressed their desire to hire female workers on a large scale.
 People in those countries prefer Muslim women for household work because they want their children to be looked after by women of the same religion. Several lakh non-Muslim women are now engaged in such activities, the sources mentioned.

The ban was imposed following allegations of physical abuse of female workers abroad. Now, only female doctors, nurses, engineers and highly skilled workers can go abroad for jobs.
 Meanwhile, the ministry has also proposed evolving some mechanism to protect female workers from sexual abuse. It would set up monitoring cells at Bangladesh missions in those countries to monitor the situation and take action if any allegation is received.
 The cabinet committee formed about two months back is going meet for the first time today. Minister without portfolio Harunur

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Summer diseases creep upwards

Over 300 hospitalised since Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the weather gets hot and humid, seasonal diseases like viral fever, cough, dysentery, dehydration and diarrhoea have been reported in the city.
 Doctors say mostly children are being attacked.
 At the Cholera Hospital in Mahakhali, more than 300, mostly children, have been hospitalised since Sunday for diarrhoea and dysentery alone.
 "In case of viral infection the patient suffers from fever for two to three days and the temperature goes very high. The patient should be

prescribed Paracetamol," says Child Specialist Professor Md Sirajul Islam.
 "If needed anti-biotic can be given. Precaution should be taken so that the patient is not exposed to too much cold."
 Dr. Islam suggested taking plenty of liquid food as well as other normal food and fruit juice in case of diarrhoeal attack to keep body fluid in balance. Green coconut, wood-apple, cucumber are also helpful.
 "In case of children the flow of urine should be normal. If the child does not urinate for five to six hours parents should consult

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PHOTO: STAR

Indian captain Saurav Ganguly talks to his deputy Virender Sehwag during practice (left) and South African opener Herschelle Gibbs and his teammates do stretching at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in the city yesterday. The teams are in Dhaka to play triangular TVS Cup starting tomorrow. (More on Page 8)

RAT nets six 'gangsters' after shootout

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two members of the Rapid Action Team (RAT) and three gangsters were injured in a shootout at Aminbazar Truck Stand in Savar yesterday.

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THIS WEEK ON Star WEEKEND MAGAZINE

Strangers In Their Own Land

SWM's Pahela Boishakh issue focuses on the continuous struggle of indigenous communities to preserve their culture against the domination of mainstream society.

One to die for throwing acid on lawyer

COURT CORRESPONDENT

One person was sentenced to death by a tribunal yesterday for throwing acid on a lawyer in the city's Dhanmondi area on October 7 last year.
 ATM Fazle Kabir, Judge of the Tribunal for Control of Acid Crime, Dhaka, passed the verdict at a packed courtroom in presence of the convict.
 The tribunal found Mohammad Sadeq Hossain of Jinzira under Keraniganj Police Station, Dhaka, guilty of throwing acid on Advocate Sudhir Ranjan Ghotak and delivered the judgement.
 The judge took his seat at 12.30pm and wanted to know Sadeq's father's name. Later, he (judge) read out some

important points of the 38-page judgement.
 The judge also fined Sadeq Tk one lakh as compensation for the victim, and directed the deputy commissioner (DC) to realise the money from the property of the convict and to give it to the victim.
 The convict can file an appeal with the High Court against the judgement within 60 days.
 Advocate Sudhir Ranjan Ghotak, the victim, was present in the court. He said that he was satisfied with the judgement but he lost his eyes forever.
 In the case filed with the Dhanmondi Police Station, it was

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Bangladeshi buds sit to set world record

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi children yesterday joined others in more than 100 countries to participate in a 'mass lesson' aimed at setting a Guinness World Record.
 The lesson is simple. "Girls and women need equal opportunity to learn."

More than 180,000 children in these countries were given the lesson, organised at schools, colleges and universities, adult education centres, churches and village halls. The new world record would help increase support for equal education for girls and women, organised said.

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
April 10		6-19 pm
April 11	5-41 am	

Prayer Timings		
April 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-25	6-31
Esha	7-35	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation