

Weather

Downpour likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at a few places over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Moderately heavy falls at places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions are expected during the period, according to Met Office. The country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and the lowest 23.2 degrees at Chuadanga.

The sun sets today at 6.37 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.13 am. Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.6	24.8	82	74
Chittagong	33.6	24.3	70	73
Rajshahi	34.3	25.0	73	66
Khulna	34.0	25.0	77	67
Barisal	31.6	25.0	92	77
Sylhet	34.5	23.5	72	62
Cox's Bazar	33.2	24.8	71	91

Dhaka achieves success in various fields: Asian Survey

Bangladesh government achieved positive success in helping the poor and the unemployed, strengthening the local government and improving communications between different parts of the country in 1998, reports BSS.

Asian Survey, a prestigious bimonthly reviewing contemporary Asian affairs, in an article said the government of Sheikh Hasina also took positive steps in curbing gender violence, according to a message received in the city yesterday. Elora Shehabuddin, a Bangladeshi scholar who did graduation from Harvard University and is now doing Ph. D in Princeton University in the

USA, wrote the article published in the "Asian Survey" in its January-February issue. The article said that 1998 was a difficult year largely due to colossal damage and destruction caused by the century's worst floods.

"Despite accusation of inefficiency from opposition political parties, the government's emergency assistance reached the needy in time to avert the famine forecast by the media," it said.

The rural poor, the most vulnerable group received free rations of food for several months to enable them to rebuild their lives, the article added.

The Bangladesh government has launched an Employment Bank aimed at providing credit to the educated unemployed youths for income generating project, the writer said.

The article mentioned that the government has taken steps to decentralise power by establishing a four-tier local government to better involve and benefit the people.

"The four-tier system at village, union, upazila and district levels have been an important step towards involving the people in the task of nation-building and democratic development."

It said that the participation of women both as voters and candidates in the union parishad election in December 1997 was exciting and impressive.

"Women were directly elected to the three seats reserved for them in each one of the country's 4276 Union Parishads where some women were also elected as UP chairpersons", the article added.

Elora quoting an official of the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) said at least 90 per cent of the female candidates were members of the NGOs.

"In addition to the decentralisation of power, the achievements of the present government included the opening of the 4.8 kilometre Bangabandhu Bridge over the mighty river

Jamuna on June 23 and signing of the Peace Accord with the tribals ending two-decade old insurgency in Chittagong Hill Tracts," the article mentioned.

Dhaka protests violation of border guidelines

Bangladesh on Thursday lodged protest with India over its violation of the border guidelines, reports BSS.

Pinak R Chakraborty, Deputy High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, was called in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a protest note was handed over to him, sources at the ministry said.

The protest was registered following construction of defence structures by the Indians near Tetulia in Panchagarh district in northern Bangladesh.

Dhaka asked the deputy high commissioner to stop the construction and suggested New Delhi to resolve the dispute by holding flag meeting between the two countries.

As per the Indo-Bangladesh border guideline, none can go for construction of defence structures within 150 yards of the zero line. The guideline has been violated as India started constructing defence structure near border, the sources said.

Tension prevailed on Wednesday when members of Border Security Force of India were seen erecting trench near the Majhipara border of Tetulia Thana.

BCL activist expelled for threatening newsman

By DU Correspondent
Pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday expelled an activist who had threatened assault on the Dhaka University correspondent of Daily Prothom Alo.

A statement signed by Sajjad Hossain and AKM Azim, president and secretary respectively of BCL DU unit took the action.

Sawkat, a third year student of Department of Library and Information Science and resident of Sir AF Rahhman Hall of the university had threatened Borhanul Karim, the correspondent on Sunday after he wrote a report in the daily regarding illegal stay of outsiders at the residential halls.

CU classes suspended till May 31

From CU Correspondent.
CHITTAGONG, May 21: The Chittagong University authorities have extended the suspension of classes and examinations till May 31.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the Syndicate yesterday with Vice Chancellor Professor Abdul Mannan in the chair.

Earlier, the authorities had suspended all classes and examinations till May 20 following a gunfight between Chhatra League and Chhatra Shibir on the campus on May 15.

300 bottles of phensidyl seized in city

A joint team of police and BDR with the help of sniffer dogs yesterday recovered nearly 300 bottles of phensidyl in a pre-dawn raid in Kamalapur area in the city, a DMP press release said, reports BSS.

It said two dogs, Duke and Ben, of the squad helped some 300 Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), Armed Police Battalion (APBN) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) men led by a DMP deputy commissioner to seize.

The 295 bottles phensidyl from a slum and nearby rickshaw garage in the area.

The press release said nine persons were arrested during the crackdown in several slums in the city.

ACSR executive committee election today

The Annual General Meeting and election of executive committee of Association for Correction and Social Reclamation (ACSR) will be held today at its central office in Mirpur, reports UNB.

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UNOPS

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME II
(BGD/97/014)

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FROM SUITABLY QUALIFIED BANGLADESHI NATIONALS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSTS IN THE ABOVE-MENTIONED PROJECT, A GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT, EXECUTED BY THE BANGLADESH RURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD (BRDB) WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES (UNOPS).

The project aims to empower (a) the poor and marginalised (including women) to alleviate their poverty situation; and (b) village communities to define their development needs and thereby contribute to a bottom-up demand for development services which can be communicated through the union to the thana and incorporated into the formal local government level planning process. In accomplishing this, resources will be mobilised at all levels, co-ordination of development efforts by all key partners will be improved and linkages between village, local government and service delivery agencies will be strengthened. The project whose headquarter is in Rajshahi will be implemented in two thanas (Tanore in Rajshahi district and Gaibandha Sadar Thana).

1. NATIONAL PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR (1)

Duties: S(he) will be responsible for assisting and backstopping the National Project Director in all aspects of the project management. S(he) will be responsible for ensuring that day to day administration, management and implementation of the project, particularly that of the thana project offices.

Qualification: Minimum post-graduate degree in social science field, senior level male or female with extensive prior experience, minimum 7 years in community level development activities, WID programmes, government service, and local government, as well as management and administrative experience. Proficiency in spoken and written English and fluency in Bangla required. Computer literacy is compulsory.

2. TRAINING MANAGER (1)

Duties: S(he) will be responsible for managing all aspects of training required by the project. His/Her task will be to ensure that training requirements are accurately defined, that the best and most available curricula and training materials are assembled, and that the training courses that are delivered are of the high quality and appropriate to the needs of the trainees.

Qualification: Post-graduate degree in a relevant social science field with a range of skills in rural development with minimum 5 years of experience in training systems management, implementation and development and demonstrated experience in management. Proficiency in spoken and written English and fluency in Bangla required. Computer literacy is compulsory.

3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OFFICER (1)

Duties: S(he) will be responsible for management of all project monitoring and evaluation activities, supervision of any external contractors who may be hired by the project to assist in monitoring or evaluation, ensuring that all monitoring and evaluation reports are produced and circulated on time and developing and operating a monitoring system that captures the general features of social mobilisation and to impact on poverty alleviation.

Qualification: Post-graduate degree in a relevant social science with extensive prior experience, minimum 5 years, in M&E in the field with a range of skills in rural development and demonstrated experience MIS. Proficiency in spoken and written English and fluency in Bangla required. Computer literacy is compulsory.

4. CREDIT SPECIALIST (1)

Duties: S(he) will lead design and implementation of the project's activities aimed at enhancing access of rural poor to credit facilities and at encouraging the growth of micro-enterprises to enhance the income of local communities. To this end the Credit Specialist will work with managers and presidents of the beneficiary village groups/ organisations and field staff, in particular the Social Organisers of the project.

Qualification: Masters degree in economics or finance with minimum 5 years of practical experience in the field of rural micro-credit or finance. He/She shall perform all functions under the general guidance and direct supervision of the NPD and in close collaboration with the NPC. Proficiency in spoken and written English and fluency in Bangla required. Computer literacy is compulsory.

5. THANA PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR (2)

Duty station: Thana Project Offices - Tanore and Gaibandha Sadar (25%) with frequent travel to the rural areas (75%) of the project sites.

Duties: S(he) will be responsible to the National Project Co-ordinator and through him to the National Project Director for all project activities in the Thana to which they are assigned. In accordance with the workplans, the Co-ordinator will ensure that all staff work towards the project poverty alleviation and community empowerment objectives.

Qualifications: Post-graduate degree in a relevant social science field with extensive prior experience (minimum 5 years) in community level development activities, government service and local government, as well as management and administrative experience. Proficiency in spoken and written English and fluency in Bangla required. Computer literacy is compulsory.

6. SOCIAL ORGANISERS (19)

Duty station: Project site (Union level)

Duties: S(he) will be responsible for implementing project field activities to meet project poverty alleviation and social mobilisation and community empowerment objectives. S(he) will extensively utilise participatory techniques to help beneficiaries identify and prioritize their needs as well as to form new Village Organisation or Groups while maintaining a close collaborative working relationship with village groups, development agencies both NGO and government and encourage a build-up in co-operation between all parties and facilitate linkages between community organisations and local government.

Qualification: Maximum a Bachelors degree in a relevant field with good interpersonal skills, writing ability, and knowledge of rural development and women development. The incumbent should be prepared to handle financial responsibilities, leadership/managerial responsibilities, and reside at union level. Proficiency in spoken and written English preferred. Computer literacy will be an advantage. Applicants from the project district are highly encouraged to apply for this post. **PREFERENCE WILL BE ACCORDED TO WOMEN.**

GENERAL: The candidates are expected to have the ability to work under pressure and handle multiple tasks, have analytical ability and resourcefulness, should be detail- and quality-oriented, have superior inter-personal skills, time management skills, and be self-starters, willing to go beyond merely fulfilling assigned tasks and show initiative to contribute to the work flow by making suggestions where (s)he sees areas of improvement.

DURATION: Duration of all posts is 1 (one) year, which is renewable, based on the performance.

DUTY STATION: Unless otherwise specified duty station of all posts is: Project Head Office, Rajshahi (25%), with frequent travel to all project sites (75%).

Applicants should write "BGD/97/014" and mention the name of the post on the envelope. Applications with bio-data should reach the GPO Box 224, Dhaka 1000, no later than 6 June 1999.

ONLY SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED. MORE DETAILED AND SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE WILL BE PROVIDED TO SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES.

WOMEN ARE PARTICULARLY
ENCOURAGED TO APPLY