

Weather

Downpour likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or strong 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 Chittagong.

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	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

Metropolitan

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 4275 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 guidelines, 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.

BCL activist expelled for threatening newsman

By DU Correspondent
Pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatria 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 Rahman 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 Chhatria League and Chhatria Shibir on the campus on May 15.

300 bottles of phenisidyl seized in city

A joint team of police and BDR with the help of sniffer dogs yesterday recovered nearly 300 bottles of phenisidyl 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 phenisidyl 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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