

Weather

No change in temperature

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind is likely at few places over Chittagong, Sylhet and Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Khulna divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, the Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.4 degrees Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest 22.4 degrees at Rangpur.

The sun sets today at 6:43 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:11 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	33.7	26.7	72	67
Chittagong	32.0	26.2	82	85
Rajshahi	35.4	25.4	80	63
Khulna	34.5	25.0	75	77
Barisal	31.6	24.5	81	78
Sylhet	34.5	25.4	82	61
Cox's Bazar	33.2	26.0	-	77

Sham reception

From Page 1

Hanif garlanded the cricketers and took them to the dais amid applause and slogans for Bangladesh and its cricket heroes who waved back to the crowd. Aminul Islam also waved a national flag.

Soon after, the cricketers took their seats with the mayor, state minister for sports Obaidul Quader and deputy minister for local government, rural development and cooperatives and BCB president Saber Hossain Choudhury, the prime minister mounted the rostrum. A beaming premier shook hands with the captain, the vice-captain and a few others. The cricket team sat in the front row, punctuated by the PM and the mayor.

People from the ruling party who gave the occasion a flair of a party program largely influenced the 'public reception'. A large number of banners of AL and its front organisations could be seen all around. However, apolitical banners and placards were on display, too. The huge parade square, an unusual spot for public show, looked deserted in most parts.

"We demand trial of Bangladesh Football Federation under section 302 of the Kr PC for killing five infant pitches (at the Bangabandhu National Stadium)".

"Good luck Bangladesh" and "What a victory!" - read some of the banners and placards in the ceremony.

A BCL Dhaka city north banner stated, "We've just landed in World Cup cricket, it won't end here. Bravo Bangladesh." The huge banner was prominently displayed in the deck of the large podium, giving an impression: The ruling party's student wing of Dhaka city north zone is the sponsor of the dais.

However a decent DCC banner, "Hearty congratulations to the Bangladesh team on its historic achievement in World Cup cricket," replaced the BCL banner, later, following a directive by the mayor.

"It's a victory of the Bangalee nation and of Sheikh Hasina" read another BCL banner near the podium. A Krishan League banner said "Warm felicitation to the Bangladeshi cricketers who defeated Pakistan in World Cup cricket under the efficient leadership of Sheikh Hasina". It was first hung on the left side of the dais obstructing a section of the audience to see it. It was later shifted to another site but still remained close to the podium.

A BCB banner read, "Victory of Bangla, victory of the Bangalees".

Fresh air

From Page 1

The back screen of the dais carried a well-decorated banner saying, "Public reception to the national cricketers for their historic achievement in the World Cup".

A large number of national flags were flying across the audience while patriotic songs were being played from record players. Drums beats contributed to the merrymaking. Ministers, AL leaders including MPs sat with the audience on the left side while representatives of some small parties, different organisations were seated just behind the cricketers, accompanied by the premier, sports minister and the BCB president.

Before the reception formally began, tension spread among a section of the audience as dried tall reeds (*shau*) was set on fire several times, causing thick smoke to float across the area. Fire fighters sprayed water to put out the fire.

Conductor of the program made repeated appeals not to go for such dangerous practice to express joy. "Some youths are setting fire to have fun. But it may cause danger and hamper the function," Asaduzzaman Noor warned over the microphone.

Several hundred colour balloons were released from a corner of the crammed audience. This gave a relief to the audience who was still awaiting the cricketers' presence braving the scorching summer sun.

A young man caught attention of the audience by spraying orange (*jafran*) colour smoke from a hand machine.

The reception formally began with recitation from the Holy Quran at 11.23 a.m. Besides the cricket team, the mayor also gave DCC crests to the premier and the sports minister for their contribution to national cricket.

Besides giving cheques of Tk three lakh to each of the cricketers, the premier gave another Tk 1.5 lakh to man-of-the-match Minhaluz Abedin. Tk one lakh to another man-of-the-match Khaled Mahmud Sujan; And Tk 50.00 each to Mehrab Hossain Opi and Naimur Rahman Durjoy, for their outstanding performance. A Tk three lakh cheque was kept ready for Coach Gordon Greenidge. But he had not come back with the team.



BNP leader Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP, greets Aminul Islam Bulbul, captain of Bangladesh World Cup cricket team, when they arrived at Zia International Airport yesterday.

— Star photo

Roundtable on environment

Immediate action plans needed to check pollution

By DU Correspondent

Experts at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need for creating awareness among both the urban and rural people to check environmental pollution.

"We should take immediate steps to create awareness among the rural people alongside the city dwellers so that pollution in the rural areas do not deteriorate any more," the experts observed at the roundtable on "Environment and The Challenges of 21st Century" at a city hotel.

She termed Bangladesh's win over Pakistan as another victory after 1971.

"We're a brave nation.

United, we can make any im-

possible a possible... I believe,

our cricketers will one day win

the World Cup," Hasina said,

advising them to prepare for the

goal with firm determination

and confidence.

In the 75-minute ceremony,

the mayor, sports' minister and

BCB president also spoke.

Awami League general secre-

tary and LGRD minister Zillur

Rahman; Party's city unit act-

ing general secretary Akhtarul

Alam; JSD secretary Hasanul

Hasnul; CPE president Manzurul

Ahsan Khan; Quamrul

Hasan of Workers' Party; Dilip

Barua of Samyabadi Dal; Abdus

Samad Azad of Gano Azadi

League; Parliamentary stand-

ing committee chairman of

sports' ministry Jyoti Abedin

Hajari; Bangladesh Olympic

Association president and

army chief Lt. Gen. Mostalzur

Rahman; BCB president, chiefs

of navy and airforce;

Bangladesh Football Federa-

tion secretary Harunur Rashid;

DU VC Prof AK Azad Choudhury; Ahad Choudhury of MuktiJoddha Sangsads; Prof. Abdul

Mannan Choudhury of nirmul

committee; Zafar Imam of dis-

trict sports association; Cul-

ture activist Ramendu Majumdar;

Captain of the country's

first cricket team Shamim

Kabir; Journalist Kazi Shahed

Ahmed; and local MPs -- Dr H B M Iqbal and Kamal Ahmed Majumdar also greeted the cricketers with bouquets.

"It has now been proved that

a range of serious illnesses and disabilities threaten the lives of our children in Dhaka city because of their continuous exposure to lead pollution," said Nurun Nahar Rahman, Professor of Pharmacy Department of Dhaka University.

She said awareness, educational activities and proper government policies to regulate the transport system would help us to face the challenges caused by pollutants in the 21st century.

Dr Ali Hossain of Bangladesh Chest and Heart Association emphasised the need for finding out the causes and immediate solution of environmental pollution.

He said owners and operators of motor vehicles should be made aware of the need to stop excessive emission of gas and suggested introducing a package of incentives to encourage them to use environment-friendly vehicles.

"Unplanned construction and setting up of industries also contribute to air and water pollution in the city."

Economist MSA Sarwar said environmental pollution is the result of various development theories which according to him were introduced to raise productivity. "Rapid rate of birth is also a factor contributing to pollution."

He said relevant government agencies should take stern action against air polluters and conduct health awareness campaigns across the country.

Rubul Amin Majumder, President of Sandhini Eye and advisor of ROHE, stressed the need for taking steps at micro level and involvement of young people to help contain the problem.

He said people who spend more time on city roads as part of their jobs are most vulnerable to a wide range of health problems.

Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam of the English Department of Dhaka University conducted the roundtable.

are being manufactured and used in the country every year but nobody is thoroughly aware of the adverse effects of these.

Prof Mostafizur Rahman of Dhaka University criticised the politicians for their lack of seriousness in solving the problem.

He said many organisations have placed recommendations after conducting research but proper steps are yet to be taken to implement those.

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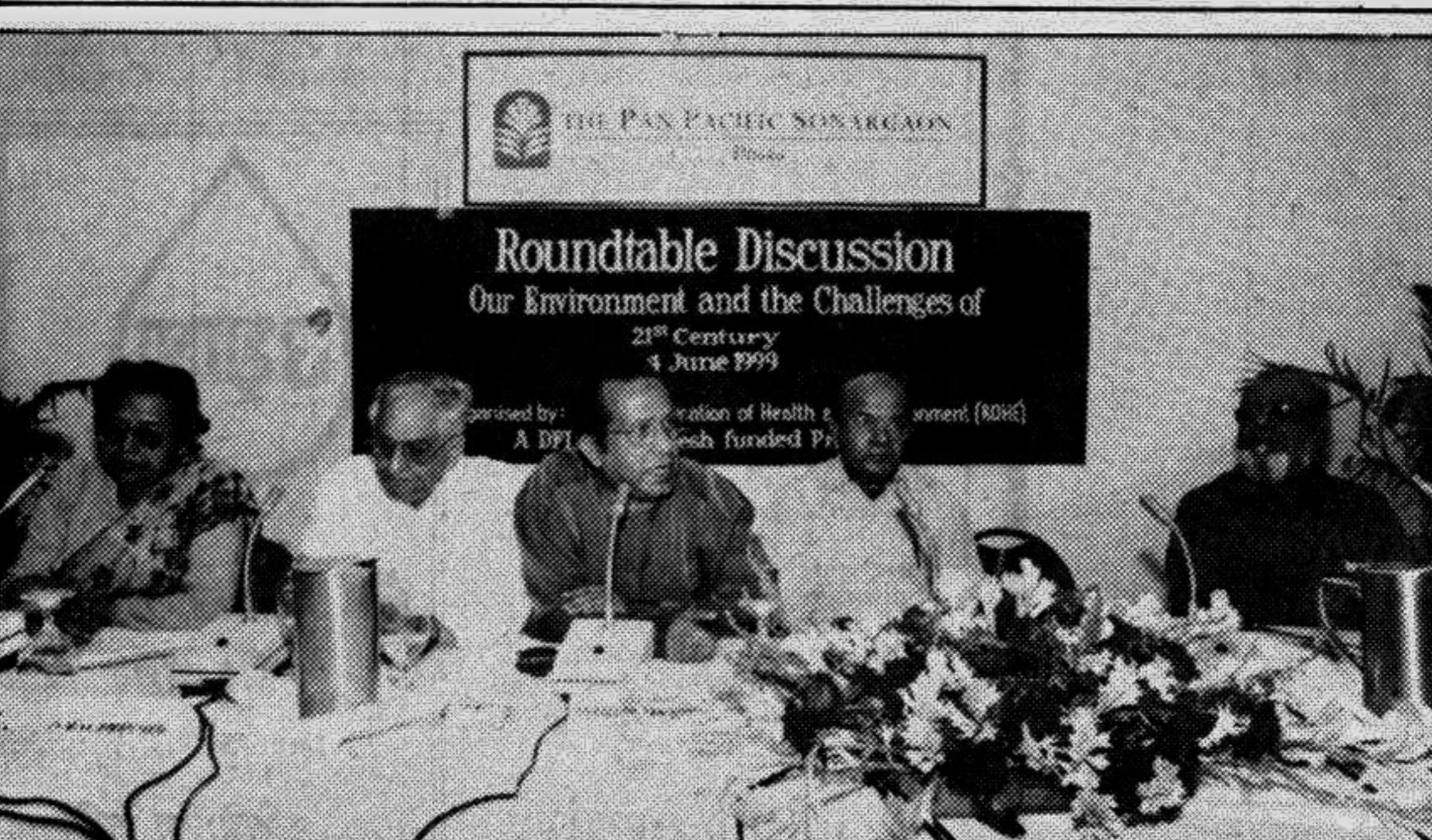
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450 arrested, 23 arms recovered in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, June 4: Police rounded up 450 criminals and recovered 23 firearms, 119 lethal weapons, few hundred rounds of bullet and 300 grams of gun powder from the district during the last four months, reports BSS.

According to police sources, one rifle, one single barrel gun, seven LG (local guns) and 14 improvised guns were included in the seized firearms while the lethal weapons comprise *randa*, *kirchi* and Chinese axe.

He expressed the hope that the cultural and friendship accords between Bangladesh and Iran would be renewed soon.

Prof Sayeed said both the countries had agreed to exchange information at government level so that Bangladeshi programmes for Radio Tehran could be objective and factual.

"Necessary measures are being taken to renew the agreement between Bangladesh Betar and Radio Tehran," he told newsmen.

His *chehulum* will also be held after Asr prayers at his Mirpur resident at No-9, Line No-16, Block-B of Section-11 on June 9.

Kashem died on April 28 at 5 pm. He was buried at the Intellectual Martyrs' Graveyard at Mirpur.

Dhaka, Tehran identify sectors for cooperation

Bangladesh and Iran have identified some specific sectors, including media, for cooperation to strengthen bilateral relations, reports UNB.

State Minister for Information Professor Abu Sayeed told this after he returned home yesterday morning from Tehran concluding a week-long visit.

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Describing his trip as a very significant and successful, Prof Sayeed said he discussed the concerned matters thoroughly with the Iranian authorities.

Manzoor ul Karim, adviser of UNICEF, speaking at a roundtable on "Our Environment and the Challenges of 21st Century" at a city hotel yesterday.

Purna Das Baul performs today

Noted India Baul singer Purna Das Baul will perform at the National Museum Auditorium today.

The High Commission of India in Bangladesh in association with the Association of the Bangladeshi Scholars Studied in India (ABSSI) is organising the performance.

Baul Samrat Purna Das represents the 7th generation of an authentic Baul family where tradition is passed down from father to son. Purna Das is credited for bringing the unique Baul traditions to Indian cities and also in the West.

Jamaat's rally tomorrow

Jamaat-e-Islami City Unit will hold a demonstration in the city tomorrow protesting the aerial and land attacks on Kashmiri militants struggling for liberation from India, reports UNB.

Jamaat has called upon the people to take part