

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 degree 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	85
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

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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 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 Sabir Hossain Chowdhury, the prime minister mounted the rostrum. A beaming premier shook hands with the captain, the vice-captain and a few others. The cricketers 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 Penal Code 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 Krishak League banner said "Warm felicitations 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 overlooking 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". 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 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 latrine (shawn) 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 Minhajul Abedin Nannu; Tk one lakh to another man-of-the-match Khaled Mahmud Sultan; and Tk 50,000 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.

Speaking on the occasion, Captain Bulbul expressed his gratitude to the nation and thanked the PM, the sports minister and the BCB president for their support to Bangladesh cricket.

He made a special reference to Sheikh Hasina who he said maintained constant contact with the team when they were in England. "She encouraged, inspired and advised us all the time."

The captain also demanded of the prime minister to give the cricketers a permanent stadium.

In her turn, Sheikh Hasina promised her government's all-out support for further promotion of the game in the country. "A cricket stadium will be ready for the players when they start practicing, next," she said without specifying. In this regard, she added, steps were underway to build cricket stadiums at every divisional town to discover new talent.

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

"We're a brave nation. United, we can make any impossible 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 secretary and LGD minister Zillur Rahman; Party's city unit acting general secretary Akhtarul Alam; JSD secretary Hasanul Haq Inu; CPB president Manzurul Ahsan Khan; Quamrul Hasan of Workers' Party; Dilip Barua of Samyabadi Dal; Abdus Samad Azad of Gano Azadi League; Parliamentary standing committee chairman of sports ministry Jomil Abedin Hajar; Bangladesh Olympic Association president and army chief Lt. Gen. Mostafizur Rahman; BCB president, chiefs of navy and airforce; Bangladesh Football Federation secretary Harunur Rashid; DU VC Prof AK Azad Choudhury; Adaf Choudhury of Muktiaddha Sangsad; Prof. Abdul Mannan Choudhury of nirmul committee; Zafar Imam of district sports association; Cultural 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.

UNICEF adviser Monjurul-ul-Karim emphasised on forming a 'work force' involving the younger generation which should be backed by efficient and experienced people of the society.

He condemned the government for not recycling city's solid waste materials to check environmental degradation caused by unplanned dumping of such garbage.

"It has now been proved that

organisation is also looking seriously into the widespread arsenic pollution in Bangladesh's underground water, the lone source of drinking water."

Paribesh Raksha Sapoth (Paroshi), BEN's liaison NGO in Dhaka, has formed three different committees to make 2000 Environment Conference a success. Former finance minister MA Muhiut will head its steering committee. BUET professor Aunur Nishat the technical committee while Dr Nazrul Islam of DU and the Centre for Urban Studies will lead its logistics committee.

Nightmare

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was hit for three sixes and 21 runs off one over.

Australia's innings was built around a high-class 83 from Mark Waugh.

He and Gilchrist put on 97 in 20 overs for the first wicket after Azharuddin elected to field in overcast conditions. All the rest of the Australian top order contributed, with Captain Steve Waugh reaching 6,000 one-day runs on his way to 36 off 40 balls. He later also took two wickets.

Australia now play Zimbabwe on June 9 and South Africa on June 13 while India play Pakistan on June 8 and New Zealand on June 12.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of India's innings in the World Cup Super Six match at The Oval on Friday.

INDIA:				
S Ganguly	b Fleming	8		
S Tendulkar	c Gilchrist b McGrath	0		
R Dravid	c Gilchrist b McGrath	2		
A Jadeja	not out	100		
M Azharuddin	c S. Waugh b McGrath	3		
R Singh	c Reiffel b Moody	75		
N Mongia	run out	2		
J Srinath	c Gilchrist b S. Waugh	0		
A Kumble	c Gilchrist b S. Waugh	3		
V Prasad	lbw b Fleming	10		
D Mohanty	run out	0		
Extras	(lb3, w4, nb3)	10		
Total (48.2 overs)		205		
Fall of wickets:	1-1, 2-10, 3-12, 4-17, 5-158, 6-181, 7-186, 8-192, 9-204			
Bowling:				
McGrath	10	1	34	3
Fleming	9	1	33	2
Reiffel	10	1	30	0
Moody	10	0	41	1
M Waugh	1	0	7	0
Warne	6.2	0	49	0
S Waugh	2	0	8	2



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 along with 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.

Leading scientists, policy makers and front-ranking intellectuals of the country participated in the roundtable organised by Rural Organisation of Health and Environment (ROHE).

The government along with the NGOs and various rural organisations should go for immediate action plans to contain environmental pollution as it is worsening day by day," they suggested.

They said steps should also be taken up at rural level to check the pollution there which is still at low levels. "If we don't take proper initiatives now, the rural people will soon have to face dire consequences."

Expressing resentment at the government's lack of seriousness in this regard, they said that existing laws are not being enforced properly.

Referring to Dhaka as one of the most polluted cities in the world, they said all our lives will be in danger if the pollution is not checked immediately.

UNICEF adviser Monjurul-ul-Karim emphasised on forming a 'work force' involving the younger generation which should be backed by efficient and experienced people of the society.

He condemned the government for not recycling city's solid waste materials to check environmental degradation caused by unplanned dumping of such garbage.

"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.

World Bank estimates that 15,000 people may die in the city every year due to lead poisoning. Fifty tonnes of lead are dispersed annually over the capital mainly through octane, a fuel which contains a higher level of lead than normal petrol, according to a research study revealed recently.

Inaugurating the roundtable discussion, executive director of ROHE Aminur Rahman said that at the end of this century, "we are virtually standing on a coter of pollution."

He identified the tannery industries in the city's Hazaribagh area as a major activity contributing to the pollution in the city. "Many of the chemicals like sodium sulfide, sodium metabisulfide, acid dyes and formal acid being used in these tanneries are extremely hazardous to human health," he observed.

According to a recent study, he said, tanneries at Hazaribagh alone generate 7.70 million litres of liquid waste and 88 mt of solid waste everyday.

Noise pollution has become an integral part of the city and it has been found that from 5 to 7 per cent of the patients who visit ENT specialists are affected with permanent loss in hearing to some degree or the other caused by the high level of noise around us," he said.

Prof Firoz of BUET said, "we have policies, rules and regulations to contain environment pollution but these are not being implemented effectively."

He said various chemicals

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.

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

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.

Ruhul Amin Majumder, President of Sandhani 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.

Environment Day today

The World Environment Day will be observed in Bangladesh today as elsewhere across the globe, reports UNB.

The theme of this year's observance of the day, fixed by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is "Our Earth - Our Future - Just Save It!"

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the eve of the day calling for concerted efforts to prevent environmental degradation and maintain ecological balance.

The Environment and Forest Ministry has chalked out an elaborate programme to mark the day.

Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury will lead a colourful procession from Shishu Academy to Osmani Memorial auditorium at 8:30 am in the morning today.

A discussion meeting will be held at the Osmani Memorial auditorium at 10 am. The Environment Minister will attend it as chief guest while Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif and UN Coordinator in Bangladesh David E Lockwood as special guests.

A three-day Environment Fair will be inaugurated at 11 am at Osmani Auditorium. An open discussion will also be held there.

JS body discusses 30 audit objections of BR

A meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts was held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan yesterday, reports APB.

Presided over by the committee chairman SM Akram, the meeting discussed 30 audit objections of Bangladesh Railway of the 1987-88 fiscal.

Called by the Audit and Comptroller General, the objections involved over Tk 10.28 lakh. After an elaborate discussion, several decisions were taken to settle the objections.

The meeting also reviewed the report of the sub-committee constituted for looking into some audit objections regarding railway lands, with Col (Retd) Shawkat Ali as its convener.

Truck hijacked in city

By Staff Correspondent

A flour-laden truck was hijacked from Shanir Akhra under Demra thana in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

According to police the truck was coming from Chittagong, but it was intercepted by an other truck carrying three miscreants at about 2 am.

The gang beat up Kamal, the driver, and others who were on the other truck.

After tying them up, the gang sped away with both the trucks.

Kamal, filed a case with Demra thana in this regard. However, none was arrested on this connection till last night.

Khaleda

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BNP didn't attend the last three meetings of the committee.

He said the committee has lost its effectiveness as it didn't give any importance to Opposition's proposals. Not a single BNP proposal was discussed in the Sangsad in the last eight sessions.

Anwar said the BNP leaders informed the Speaker that they were always ready to attend the Business Advisory Committee meetings and did not want to boycott those in any situation.

He said the committee had earlier decided that the CHP agreement would be discussed in the House but the Speaker didn't allow it.

Anwar said this time the opposition leaders told the Speaker that they wanted to discuss in the Sangsad price hike of essentials, law and order situation, power-water-gas crises and other issues of public interest.

He said that they requested the Speaker to discuss those with the ruling party and inform them the outcome of the discussion. The Speaker agreed to their proposal, he added.

Three jailed for misappropriation of FWP rice

NETROKONA, June 4: Three people, including a former UP chairman, have been sentenced to various jail terms for misappropriating rice of Food for Work Programme (FWP), reports UNB.

Of them, former Chairman of Nayeekpur Union Badruzzaman Manik and Project Officer Abul Kashem Siddique have been sentenced to 10 years in jail each while former Upazila Chairman Mohammad Muhiuddin Ahmed three years rigorous imprisonment (RI).

The court also fined Muhiuddin Tk 2,62,744, in default, to suffer two years more.

According to prosecution, the accused collected 4,998 maunds of rice in 1986 and distributed it among earth filling work on a road from Kalzani Ferryghat to Agrar Ferryghat. But they used only 2,026 maunds of rice for the work.

They were also found guilty of misappropriating of some 644 maunds of rice out of 1,000 allotted for re-excavation of Gontabail Canal in the thana.

District Anti-Corruption Bureau filed separate cases against them and the judge handed down the verdicts after examining the records and witnesses.

Beyond the boundary

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satisfied with putting a strong batting line up into having the first use of a user friendly batting wicket, India proceeded to tackle Waugh and Gilchrist with the most inept display of quick bowling seen this side of the Suez.

The first three wickets fell almost two hours after Azhar won the toss and took his decision, fatal as it turned out to be. It was no surprise that the part time bowlers got those wickets. The quickies failed miserably. Three quarters of the way into the Aussie innings, India had resigned itself to chasing whatever the Australians would put on the boards. By then the Australians looked well and truly on their way to a massive total. I did mention in my column yesterday what the scenario was likely to be. Although I shall refrain from saying I told you so, Mark Waugh did get his 80 plus and Australia were in excess of 280.

My predictions continued enjoying a purple patch when McGrath dealt the single most telling blow that sank India to the floor for count that all but knocked it out of this competition. The Aussies were in a hurry, because they actually won the match in the very first over. This is not a tournament that Tendulkar would want to remember with any fondness. He may as well start plotting his revenge. Of course, he has a few years in which to plot properly. The next World Cup is in 2003.

With Tendulkar gone early, the Aussies went hunting in earnest. David, Ganguly and Azhar were dismissed with an ease that was almost obscene to the onlookers.

Greenidge

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like ministers Kader or Sabir, he also forgot to remember Gordon, who was once given an honorary citizenship after the ICC triumph.

Sources said Hasina expressed her dissatisfaction after the Team Management axed Gordon following his controversial statement over country's Test status and performance. She had also desired Gordon be brought to the function.

"We tried to locate him in London. But he was not found," said Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Vice-President Tanveer Mazhar Islam Tanna, manager of the Bangladesh team in the current World Cup.

Like Tanna, other BCB officials tried to suggest that Gordon had been missing since he was delivered with the marching orders. But Internet reports show he had talks with several London newspapers after his exit from the team.

Many cricket fans said Gordon was strongly criticised for his statements embarrassing the country. "But what BCB could do when Tanna had said Bangladesh has no chance of winning a single match," questioned one.

Gordon reportedly left the squad during the crucial Bangladesh-Pakistan encounter on May 31 and later the same day, also the hotel, after he was given a sacking letter ahead of the match.

Talking to the press in London, BCB President and Deputy Minister Sabir Hossain Chowdhury denied that Gordon was axed. He said Gordon had only been withdrawn from the squad, but remains Director (Coaching) of BCB.

JS budget

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provision for deferring the Upazila Elections.

Members have already submitted a huge number of call attention notices on matters of urgent public interest.

The Parliament Secretariat has so far received over 90 questions addressed to the prime minister, a reply during the prime minister's question-answer session on every Tuesday.

The secretariat has also received nearly 1,900 questions to be replied by the ministers on the activities of different ministries. An obituary reference will also be adopted by the House when it meets at 9:30 am. Immediately after the inaugural session, a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee will be held in the Sangsad Bhavan with the Chairman of the committee Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury in the chair.

The meeting which was previously scheduled to be held today at 7:30 pm has been rescheduled at the request of the opposition leaders to enable them to attend the meeting.

A delegation of the opposition parties under the leadership of Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury called on the speaker last night and expressed their keen interest to attend the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee, which they have long been boycotting.

Partisanship

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anything for us. In his limited capacity, Minu bhai had given jobs to 15 of our men. We will remember his contribution forever," he added.

Tushar was backed by another former JCD leader, Iqbal Kabir Sagar. But the ex-VP of the BUET students' union was not satisfied with what Minu did to the pro-BNP engineers. "Why not all the 19 from the BNP? Who are the rest four?" he said.

Sagar however expressed doubts whether the 15 engineers would be with BNP with the change of power.

behold. Not all the hype and hoopla of the world could save India from disintegrating. The team that was supposed to be positive, hungry and destined to reach the final were then brushed aside by the Aussies, who showed true grit and savage aggression in their approach to winning this most important of matches. They have not harmed their cause at all in the Super Six. Jadeja and Robin Singh prolonged the inevitable, as well as India's agony, but the outcome was never in doubt, after Azhar had inexplicably led his team out in the morning.

It was a sorry caricature of a match that could have reached great heights. It was not meant to be, after the Indian tank blundered atrociously after the toss. It is a fact, Tendulkar holds the key to India's batting success. With him gone cheaply, it was a matter of time before the law of averages caught up with the two in-form batsmen. Since nothing is going right for Azhar, he was not really expected to do much. India had somehow roared its way into the Super Six, what was surprising was why it should have bowed out with a whimper. Apple Singh could have the answer, but he was nowhere in sight. Azhar perhaps could have explained the whole comedy at the presentation ceremony, but I was too disgusted to watch.

Australia deserves all the breaks it has got so far, because it has the resilience and the collective ability to put their performances where their mouths are. Getting an act together at the right time is not an easy feat to do. The Aussies have perfected it to a fine art. They batted well and, for good measure, bowled with a venom no snake charmer in India had the antidote for.

After all the Indian promises of the past few days, it was a sickening anti climax. Had it not been for the euphoria of the Bangladesh team arriving yesterday, cricket was at its lowest ebb. For the statisticians, Jadeja got the first hundred of this competition. Ironically, again by an Indian. More importantly, what a waste.

Terrorist held with pistol in city

Motijhe's police yesterday arrested an accused from Ranna area and recovered a pistol loaded with 14 bullets from his possession, reports BSS.

A team of Motijheel police, acting on a tip off, arrested Syed Zahir Ahsan Zahid, an accused in the attempt to murder Director (Administration) of Ansar Headquarters Col Nazrul Islam. Zahid, along with his accomplices had shot at Col Nazrul on April 15 this year in Motijheel.

Zahid, said to be the leading leader of a terrorist gang, is an accused in different criminal cases filed with different police stations.

Schoolgirl abducted in Uttara

By Staff Correspondent

A schoolgirl was allegedly abducted by a gang of youths while she was returning from her school in the city's Uttara area Wednesday night.

The father of the victim, a resident of Rana Bhola area in Uttara, yesterday filed a case with Uttara thana under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 1995 accusing the five.

Police quoting the FIR said, the gang of five, led by one local youth Monir, abducted the thirteen-year-old girl at about 2:30 pm.

Water Board

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needs of projects concerned. The kind of practice may pave the way for misappropriation in the wake of huge inflow of money than needs," the report said.

WDB incurred a loss of Tk 1.67 crore