

Weather

Temperature may rise

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

Met office said day temperature may rise slightly over the country during the period.

The country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessor and the lowest 24.3 degrees at Chittagong.

The sun sets in the city today at 6.50 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.17 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/ Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	32.8	70
Chittagong	33.8	67
Rajshahi	33.6	79
Khulna	33.8	81
Barisal	32.0	84
Sylhet	32.8	78
Cox's Bazar	32.0	75
	Max	Min
	Morning	Evening

Obaidul Quader tells Sangsad

Bangladesh expects test status in cricket by June

Minister of State for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that Bangladesh is expected to get test status in cricket by June next year, reports BSS.

Replies to a supplementary to a starred question by BNP lawmaker from Chandpur, Alamgir Haider Khan, the minister said five of the nine test playing countries have already supported Bangladesh's bid.

He said none had opposed Bangladesh's plea for getting test status. He said West Indies, South Africa and New Zealand cricket teams would visit Bangladesh to play with Bangladesh cricket team.

Obaidul Quader listed various steps taken by the government to improve the standard of cricket and said lump sum allocation of Tk 20 crore had been provided for this purpose. Besides, he said Tk 14 crore had been allocated for the development of infrastructural facilities of cricket.

He said plan had been taken up to construct an international cricket stadium in Dhaka which was already approved by the executive committee of the National Economic Council. An indoor training complex at Kalabagan in Dhaka is being built for the development of cricket, he added.

The minister said the four divisional stadiums under construction would be earmarked for cricket and indoor training facilities would be created there. Besides, he said training for cricketers under 13, 17 and 19 was being taken at grassroots level.

He said steps were taken to hire a good foreign coach to provide high standard training to cricketers. Inter school cricket competition would be introduced soon, he added.

HERE and THERE

DU Economics Dept Alumni Assoc

A general meeting, election and reunion of the Dhaka University Economics Department Alumni Association was held on Sunday, says a press release.

Sheikh Ahmed, Managing Director of the Bangladesh Krishibidhan Board presided over the function.

Former students of the Department of Economics A M Abdulla Siddiqui, Bangladesh High Commissioner in India Mostafa Farouk Mohammad, Abbas Uddin Afsari, Fazul Haq Mia and Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain took part in the reminiscence session.

It was also addressed by Dr Mohammad Ali Rashid, Dr Faridul Haque and Professor Farid Uddin Ahmed. A cultural function was also held. A council of executives for the year 1999-2001 was elected. The members of the council are: President Dr Mohammed Farashuddin, Vice-Presidents Shoaib Ahmed, Zadehuzzaman Farouk, Prof Farid U Ahmed, Mr Syed Mahmudul Haque, treasurer Dr Faridul Haque, general secretary Dr Ali Taslim, joint secretary Shafiqul Islam Khan, Monowar Hussain, members Prof A H Wahiduddin Mahmud, Prof Ayubur Rahman Bhuiyan, Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury, Syed Manzur Elahi, Mushtaqur Rahman, Badirul Rahman, Abdul Khaled, Prof Mamta Uddin Ahmed, Prof M A Rashid, Golam Rahman, Dr Kazi Shahabuddin, Abul Kashem, Delwar Hussain, Prof Abu Ahmed, A M Masruro Ahmed, Habibullah Bahar, Abbas Uddin Afsari, Anisatul Fatema Yusuf, Nurul Amin, Ziaul Haque Khandker, A S M Rashidul Haq Shameem, Fatem Zohra, Bilkis Ara Shireen, Kamaluddin Talukder, Delwar Hussain Malder, Mosud Mannan.

Handloom Board Officers' Assoc

Dr M A Azim Jahangir and Shafi Uddin Siddique were elected president and general secretary respectively of Bangladesh Handloom Board Officers Association (BHOA), reports BSS.

The election was held re-

cently to elect a 17-member executive committee of the board for the next two-year term.

The other office-bearers of the organisation are: Emdadul Kabir Siddique (Sr vice-president), Md. Hafiz Uddin (vice-president), Zahirul Huq Mukul (assst. general secretary), Syed Rafiqunabi (finance secretary), Tapan Kumar Dhar (office secretary), Md. Abul Kalam (secretary), Md. Md. Ahsan (cultural and sports secretary) and Abu Md. Mozaahur Islam (organising and publicity secretary).

Shibchar Thana Samity

By DU Correspondent

Shibchar Thana Association has decided to award scholarship to the meritorious students of Shibchar Thana, studying in various city schools, colleges and universities.

The decision was taken at a general meeting of the executive committee of the association held at its temporary office at Gulshan in the city with association Chairman Syed Mosharrif Hossain in the chair, said a press release yesterday.

Mosleh Alam Chowdhury, Principal Mozibur Rahman, Lutfar Rahman Khan, Dr MA Mannan, Sheikh Salauddin spoke in the meeting.

The Meritorious and interested students have been requested to collect the scholarship forms from the temporary office of the association (60/D Gulshan (South, Road No-131) within July 30. The last date of submitting the form is August 10.

Smuggled sarees recovered

By Staff Correspondent

Smuggled sarees worth about Tk ten lakh were recovered from old city's Patautai area yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a preventive team of Customs, Excise and VAT of Dhaka (South) in cooperation with police seized the smuggled sarees from a shop at Patautai area, said a press release last night.

Solar eclipse in Aug may help solve old mystery

The total eclipse of the sun, on August 11, will help scientists understand a question that has been puzzling them for 50 years: why the sun's outer atmosphere — the corona — is so hot, reports UNB.

According to a London Press Service (LPS) report, United Kingdom scientists have been investigating the corona's heat since the 1940s by using large ground-based telescopes and spacecraft but the exact reason remains elusive.

It is known that magnetic fields are involved but whether the heating process is by magnetic waves or tiny explosions called nanoflares is the subject of much debate.

The experiment relies on the latest electronic digital cameras linked to a specially adapted computer. The cameras are similar to those in video camcorders but are faster and more sensitive. The computer will "grab" and process data from the camera at ultra-high rates (50 frames per second).

The set-up, known as the solar eclipse coronal imaging system (Secls), will be the fastest digital astronomical camera in the world.

Prof Ken Phillips from Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Oxfordshire, Southern England, and Peter Gallagher from Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, will take the equipment to the Black Sea coast in Bulgaria, where the total eclipse will last two minutes. They will be joined there by collaborators from Poland.

The experiment will investigate what causes the sun's atmosphere to be so hot — two million degrees Celsius — far hotter than the sun's surface, which comparatively is only 6,000 degrees.

Rapid changes in the sun's magnetic field are thought to be the source of the heating and the Secls instrument should be able to detect these oscillations for the first time. It is only during an eclipse that the sun's outer atmosphere, the corona, is visible from earth; usually,

the brightness of the sun obscures it.

Prof Phillips, who recently returned from testing the equipment in Poland, explained: "We only have two minutes of total eclipse to gather all the data so it is crucial that there are no hitches. We are going to the Black Sea coast because the chances of clear skies are very good but if we miss this one the next total eclipse in the world will be in Africa in 2001."

The research is funded by the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC), the UK's national astronomy funding body, as well as the Leverhulme Trust.

PPARC is government funded and provides researchers from UK universities with access to world-class facilities and funds the UK membership of international bodies such as the European Laboratory for Particle Physics, CERN, and the European Space Agency.

Uzbekistan Airways celebrate one year in Dhaka

Benison International CSA (Cargo Sales Agent) of Uzbekistan Airways in Bangladesh, celebrated the 1st anniversary of Uzbekistan Airways in Dhaka on Sunday at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, says a press release.

Country Manager of Uzbekistan Airways, Allayar Hasanov, Consular general of the consulate office of Republic to Uzbekistan in Dhaka, Ahmed Khakinov and a distinguished guest from Birman, Civil Aviation & Freight Forwarding companies were present at the ceremony.

On the occasion, the country manager announced the starting of the Second Frequency from July 9 according to which Uzbekistan Airways will operate two flights a week, one on Sunday and the other on Thursday night.



Allayar Hasanov, Country Manager of Uzbekistan Airways in Bangladesh, (L) and Moin Rashid, Managing Partner of Benison International CSA Uzbekistan Airways in Bangladesh, (R) celebrate the 1st anniversary of the airlines at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel recently.

Two flyovers to be built in city soon

Construction of two flyovers would start soon and few more overbridges will be built to lessen the traffic jam in the capital, reports UNB.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman said this in Parliament yesterday, replying to Abul Kalam Azad Siddiqui (BNP-Tangail).

Acknowledging that the city was facing severe traffic jam, he said the government had taken steps to withdraw all illegal rickshaws from the city roads.

However, the minister said, the government has no plan to make the city completely free from rickshaws.

He informed the House that some 79,000 licenced rickshaws have been plying in the capital although Abu Lais Mubin Chowdhury (JP-Sylhet) claimed the number to be 5 lakhs.

"But, it is true that a huge number of illegal rickshaws ply in Dhaka city and the government has taken steps to catch those illegal rickshaws," the minister said.

To eliminate permanent traffic jam at Jatrabari, the entry point to Dhaka, the government has decided to set up a bus-truck terminal on the other side of Kanchupur bridge, he told M Fazil Azim (BNP-Noakhali).

Scholarships for working students

The government has undertaken a scheme to provide scholarships to working students for their higher education through the Children's Welfare Trust, reports BSS.

Nearly 500 students will be selected in the first phase under the programme beginning in January 2000, said an official handout today.

Regular students to be chosen on merit from primary level will get Tk 400 per month while Secondary School Certificate (SSC) level students Tk 600. Money will also be provided separately as fees for SSC examinees.

Bangladesh Scouts staff management confce ends

A two-day 4th Staff Management Conference of Bangladesh Scouts was held at the National Scout Training Centre, Mouchak, Gazipur recently, says a press release.

Manzoorul Karim, Chief National Commissioner, Bangladesh Scouts, Saiful Islam Khan, National Commissioner (Public Relations & Publications), Md Zainul Abedin (Planning & Implementation) were present on the closing ceremony and exchanged views with the participants.

The conference was inaugurated by Md Abdul Quayum Thakur, National Commissioner (Administration), while Habibul Alam, Bir Pratik, National Commissioner (Programme), Deputy National Commissioner Md Rafiqul Islam Khan, Jahangir Habibullah were present in the afternoon, 49 professional scout executives from all over Bangladesh were present at the conference and chalked out action plan for the year of 1999-2000, the press release added.

4th Berger Young Painters' competition

Berger Paints has announced its 4th Berger Young Painters' Painting Art competition '99 to promote the young painters of our country, says a press release.

The 2000 Berger Corporate Calendar will incorporate the six award winning paintings of the competition. The prizes for the competition are: First prize Tk 25,000, second prize Tk 15,000, third prize Tk 10,000 each for 4th, 5th, 6th positions.

There is no select topic for entry into the painting competition, size of the oil based paintings will have to be 24" x 24". For preliminary entry 5R size colour photographs of the paintings are to be sent. The participants must be Bangladeshis, between 18-35 years of age. 5R size colour photographs of the paintings should be sent for the preliminary selection. Participants must submit a copy of their SSC certificate certified by a first class gazetted officer along with a colour photograph.

One participant can submit more than one work. 40 paintings will be selected in the preliminary selection. The preliminary selected painters will be notified by mail after which they have to send the main paintings at their own expense.

All paintings have to be properly framed and submitted. The participant must write his/her name, father's name, address, age, at the back of the painting. In addition, the painter's bio-data and name in English must also be submitted.

The final selection will take place from the 40 paintings and six winners will be selected from those. An exhibition will be arranged with the selected 40 paintings. The 40 selected painters will be given a certificate. The 6 winners will be invited to the prize giving ceremony by mail. The six award-winning paintings will be treated as property of Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd.

The last date for sending the 5R colour photographs is September 15 at the following address: Sharmista Rahman, Unitred Ltd, Shareef Mansion (6th & 7th Floor), 56/57 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Phone: 9561991, 9552487, 9569484. Fax: 9568642.

DU MA students demand change of exam date

By DU Correspondent

A section of MA class students of Dhaka University brought out a procession on the campus yesterday morning demanding rescheduling of their final year examinations.

Meanwhile, sources in the university told The Daily Star that there was no possibility of shifting the date of examinations as the authorities had already shifted the date back by one month due to the BCS written examinations. The MA final year examination is scheduled to begin from early next month.

The students demanded rescheduling of their examinations by at least one month so that they could prepare for the examinations properly.

Screening of English films banned in 3 cinema halls

Three cinema halls in Dhaka and Narayanganj have been barred from screening English films for screening uncensored obscene packed films violating the rules, reports UNB.

The halls are Neptune and Atithi of Dhaka and Chhayanvani of Narayanganj.

The certificate of feature films, 'Hell Hole' distributed by M/s Cinecom International, and 'Final Score' by Heart Films International, have been cancelled for exhibiting the obscene ignoring the censor board rules, said an official board.

But sources said the National League for Democracy (NLD) leader would "not necessarily" be included in the 'initial stage' of the talks being considered.

The NLD won a large parliamentary majority in 1990 elections but the junta has refused to yield power or negotiate a handover with Aung San Suu Kyi, whom it ridicules as a 'lackey of the West'.

NLD deputy co-chairman Tin Oo told AFP the party's leadership including Aung San Suu Kyi would meet the special EU mission Tuesday at a 'British residence'.

The mission includes repre-

EU bid to broker political dialogue in Myanmar

YANGON, July 5: A special European Union (EU) mission is due to arrive here Tuesday to try to broker a political dialogue between the Myanmarese and the opposition party of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, diplomats said, reports AFP.

Diplomats were reluctant to expand on the meeting, saying publicity could jeopardise the process already on tenterhooks amid the bitter rivalry which has scarred Myanmar politics for a decade.

EU ambassadors in Manila on Friday said formal talks were possible but reiterated the need for the junta to improve its abysmal human rights record before channels could be opened.

"We are seeking new ways to approach the Myanmar government and we hope a dialogue on the political situation" can be started, said Finnish ambassador Pertti Majanen.

Previous talks between the junta and the NLD broke down in acrimony and distrust, leaving the elected government unformed and the junta firmly in power.

The NLD won a large parliamentary majority in 1990 elections but the junta has refused to yield power or negotiate a handover with Aung San Suu Kyi.

The EU has imposed aid sanctions and other restrictions on Myanmar in protest at the political impasse and widespread allegations of human rights abuses.