

Weather

Moderate rain likely

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

Met office said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and Mongla and the lowest 24.2 degrees at Mymensingh.

The sun sets in the city today at 6.50 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.18 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	32.0	27.9	82	88
Chittagong	32.6	25.5	76	78
Rajshahi	32.6	27.5	91	97
Khulna	31.5	27.5	84	71
Barisal	32.7	24.8	86	85
Sylhet	28.4	26.0	85	95
Cox's Bazar	31.7	25.4	88	88

What's on today....

Opening screening: The opening screening of 'In the Name of Safety' a video documentary on safe custody made by Tareque and Catherine Masud will be held. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 5 pm. The video is a joint production of Ain-O-Salish Kendra (ASK) and London-based TVE International. The 25-minute documentary will be followed by a brief discussion to be presided over by Justice Habibur Rahman.

Film show: The Dhaka University Film Society (DUFS) will screen four English movies on the 7th day of its ongoing 8-day long Oscar Film Week '99. Venue: Central Public Library auditorium. Time: 10:30 am, 1:00 pm, 4 pm and 6:45 pm and the films to be screened today are: Life is Beautiful, Scent of a Woman, The Piano and Ben Hur.

Delegates conference: A delegates conference of Bangladesh Deshio Chikitsak Samity will be held. Venue: Jatya Press Club. Time: 10 am. Chief guest: Mohammad Nasir, Minister for Home, Post & Telecommunications while Engineer Mashraf Hossain, Minister for Civil Aviation, Tourism will be the keynote speaker.

Certificate giving ceremony: The certificate giving ceremony of the week-long workshop held by Chinese artist Cheng Bai Ping will be held. Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Venue: Academy training building. Time: 5:00 pm.

Founding anniversary: Bangladesh Journalist Association will observe its 2nd founding anniversary by holding a seminar on "Role of Journalists in Improving the Standard of Health and Education." Venue: BIRDEM auditorium, Shahbagh. Time: 5:00 pm.

Religious confce on Eid-e-Miladunnabi

Merajul Mominat, a non-political religious women organisation, will hold a religious conference at Mohammadpur Preparatory Girls' High School and College auditorium at 2:30 pm today on the occasion of holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi, reports UNB.

Rotary News

Joint meeting

The first joint meeting of the Rotary Club of Dilkusha will be held today, Officers' Club, Baily Road, Dhaka at 7:00 pm.

Weekly meeting

The 742nd regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club Dhaka Central will be held today at 01:30 pm at "SURMA" Dhaka Club Ltd. Rotarians are cordially invited to visit for make-up and fellowship, says a press release.

Razzak calls for united efforts for development

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak yesterday said the present government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was fully engaged in a continuous task to ameliorate the lot of the country's general mass, reports BSS.

In this respect, he sought all-out cooperation of the people and said, "we as the servant of the people are trying to carry out balanced development in all areas of the country."

The minister was addressing the members of the Dhaka-based Greater Faridpur Employees Welfare Council here with Prof Dr Hedayetul Islam presiding over the function. Lt. Col (ret'd) Faruk Khan MP and Secretary of the Water Resources Ministry were also present on the occasion.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina delivers her address on "Peace and Cooperation in the South Asian Subcontinent: Bangladesh's Perspective on SAARC" at Royal Institute of International Affairs in London yesterday. Lord Wright of Richmond, Chairman of the Institute, listens on.

'Bangladesh committed to cause of int'l peace'

Bangladesh is committed to the cause of international peace and security and prepared to work constructively with the member-states in the promotion of the goals of the UN charter, according to a message received here from UN, reports UNB.

This was stated by Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the UN Anwarul Karim Chowdhury while participating in a debate on "Maintenance of Peace and Security and Post-conflict Peace Building: Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration for Ex-Combatants in a Peace-keeping Environment."

He observed that inter-state war and foreign occupation have been on the decline since the end of the Cold War. However, intrastate conflicts, social strife, deprivation, abuses of human rights, ethnically and xenophobic continue to pose problems that result in violence and impinge on international peace and security.

Bangladesh actively participated in the debate in the UN headquarters in New York, according to a message received here yesterday.

The Ambassador said after a war or conflict the maintenance of peace and security in a country or a region cannot be ensured in an environment of poverty, hunger and ignorance, economic deprivation and lack of accountability in the use of political power.

Chowdhury said maintenance of international peace and security would depend on large measures on favourable confidence for durable peace after a military conflict. The transition from peacekeeping to peace-building would obviously need the close attention of the international community.

In this regard he cited the experience of Bangladesh which negotiated an end to the longstanding problem in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in December 1997 with the signing of a peace accord.

He mentioned that following the signing of the accord the former combatants had disarmed themselves by surrendering their weapons to the government. They were being successfully integrated in the society.



Ahsan Habib's death anniversary today

The 14th death anniversary of one of the major Bengali poets Ahsan Habib will be observed today.

The Ahsan Habib Smriti Committee (The Ahsan Habib Memorial Committee) has announced the Poet Ahsan Habib Smriti Puraskar to mark the occasion. Noted short story writer Mahmudul Haq has won the prize in prose while Poet Shamsul Islam won the prize in poetry. A prize of Tk 10 thousand each will be distributed on January 2 next year.

Born on January 2 at the village Shankarpasha under Proppur district in 1917, Ahsan Habib died on July 10, 1985. The poet made his debut in Bengali literature with his poetry publication "Ratrishesh" in 1947. His evolution as a poet was later evident in the poetry collections Chhaya Harin Sara Dupur, Ashay Bashati, Megh, Bale Chaitre Jabo, Dui Hata Dui Adim Pathor and Bidirno Darpane Mukh. Ahsan Habib was the literary editor of a daily newspaper. He also wrote short stories, novels, rhymes and translated various literary pieces.

Shamsuddin Mollah's death anniversary today

The eighth death anniversary of eminent politician, parliamentarian and journalist Advocate Shamsuddin Mollah will be observed today, reports BSS.

Different socio-political organisations have taken elaborate programmes to observe the day.

Faridpur District Awami League will hold Qurankhawni, Milad Mahfil, feeding of the destitute and discussion to mark the occasion. Shamsuddin Mollah Smriti Sangsad will also hold discussion and Milad Mahfil at Bhangra, the village home of late leader. Shamsuddin Mollah, a close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, actively participated in all major political movements against autocratic Pakistani regime. He was the general secretary of Faridpur district Awami League from 1960-68 and became president of the district unit in 1968-69. The late lawmaker served as the president of erstwhile East-Pakistan Journalists Union from 1966-68. He was also president of Faridpur Press Club. Mollah was elected an MNA in 1970 and Member of Parliament in 1973.

BFUJ 'Demand Week' begins today

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will observe 'demand week' from today to press home its several demands including a national policy for the newspaper industry in the country, reports BSS.

The BFUJ's demands also include implementation of the 5th wage board award and payment of regular salary in all news agencies and newspapers in the country. Appointment of an inspector to supervise the implementation of wage board award is another demand, a BFUJ press release said here tonight.

Other demands are issuance of appointment letters to journalists, general employees and press workers under the existing labour law, stopping retrenchment and repression of newsmen and introduction of pension scheme in all newspapers and news agencies in the country.

As part of its programme, the BFUJ will hold rally and procession and also submit memorandum to deputy commissioners in Dinajpur, Bogra, Rajshahi, Jessore, Khulna, Chittagong, Dhaka and Mymensingh till July 17.

The BFUJ Secretary General Akhter Ahmed Khan urged all concerned to observe the demand week in a befitting manner, the press release said.

2 rivers above danger level

Only two rivers are flowing above danger levels yesterday while most rivers in the country's four basins are continuing to rise and fall at respective points, reports BSS.

According to general river condition, the Padma at Bhagyakul and the Surma at Sunamganj are flowing above their danger marks by 2 cm and 15 cm respectively.

A report of the flood forecasting and warning centre (FFWC) said the Brahmaputra-Jamuna continued to fall at all points while the Ganges registered rise at upstream points.

The report elaborating the upstream situation of the Ganges said that the Padma recorded further rise by 11 cm at Pankha, 10 cm at Fajshahi and 12 cm at Hardinge Bridge while it registered fall by 8 cm at Goalundo and by 4 cm at Bhagyakul.

Rivers in the Meghna and South Eastern Hill Basin registered both rise and fall, it said adding, the Buriganga in Dhaka and the Lakhya at Narayanganj recorded slight.

The monsoon is fairly active all over Bangladesh with light, moderate and heavy rainfall over all river basins recorded during the last 24 hours till 09:00 hrs yesterday.

Significant rainfall experienced during the period were 121.0 mm at Chilmari, 110.0 mm at Sunamganj, 86.0 mm at Durgapur and 48.7 mm at Pan-chagarh, among other places.

Prize distribution ceremony of cultural contest

The prize giving ceremony of an Islamic cultural contest marking the 'holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi' was held at the Islamic Foundation auditorium yesterday, reports UNB.

Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury was present at the function as chief guest while Tasmina Hossain MP as special guest. Woman Commissioner of Dhaka City Corporation Begum Nasibun Ahmed presided over the function.

Speaking on the occasion, the Agriculture Minister said there is no difference between women and men in Islam. Islam ensured a distinct entity of women providing full freedom in all walks of life, including services and businesses.

Referring to the effort to suppress the women through misinterpretation of religion, Matia Chowdhury said those who misinterpret the religion never say that everybody has to give mothers identity in the life after death.

She mentioned that the first believer of Islam was a woman and the first martyr of Islam was also a woman.

She urged the women to come forward in all spheres of social and religious life.

Fifty-nine contestants were given prizes on eight events, including Arabic handwriting, story telling, recitation of Islamic poem and hamd-naad.

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Sr. General Manager (Purchase), BCIC, BCIC Bhaban (16th floor), 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka invites sealed quotation under 2 (two) envelope system against Tender Enquiry No. PUR-3.1501/98-99 dated 01-07-1999 for 30,000 MT (±10% at buyer's option) Rockphosphate (65.5% BPL Min.) on C&F (C) Chittagong liner term basis under Cash Foreign Exchange. Offers shall be received up to 11.00 AM on 08-08-1999 and shall be opened immediately thereafter. Tender documents will be available on payment of Tk. 750.00 per set (non-refundable) from (i) Controller of Accounts, BCIC, Dhaka (ii) Sr. General Manager, BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong.

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Dhaka WASA Tender Notice

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ম্যানহোলের ঢাকনা চুরি রোধ করুন

Tenders are invited from Dhaka WASA enlisted 1st, 2nd & 3rd class mechanical & electrical contractors/bonafide automobiles workshop owners for modification of brake and clutch system of 5 (five) truck Mounted Generators of the SOC Division at an allotted cost of Tk 77,821/-. Tenders will be received up to 12.00 Noon of 26-7-99 and will be opened on the same day at 2.00 PM in presence of the tenderers or their representatives (if any).

Schedule of tender will be available at the office of the Chief Accounts Officer of Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka and all Mods zone offices of Dhaka WASA. Other details will be available at the office of the undersigned.

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