

Weather

Temperature unlikely to change

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:26 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:00 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	29.5	24.5	83	88
Chittagong	34.0	25.2	78	78
Rajshahi	28.8	24.5	82	88
Khulna	29.5	23.4	100	98
Barisal	30.5	24.0	95	96
Sylhet	31.0	23.2	84	89

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Phone : 871272-3, 881289, Mobile : 018218404

Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation

Adamjee Court (5th Floor)
115-120, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000
Ref. No. BSFC/DP-2/Mills/1999/ Date: 10-10-1999

Tender Notice For Polarimeter

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation (2nd Floor), 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000 from bonafide suppliers/importers for supply of "Polarimeter" on free delivery at mills site basis. Tender schedule along with detailed terms and conditions will be available during office hours with Additional Chief Accountant (Cash), Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation, Adamjee Court (4th Floor), 115-120, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000 on cash payment of Tk. 250/- (two hundred fifty) only per set (Non-refundable). No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening the tender. Tender will be received on 28.10.1999 up to 11.00 AM and will be opened at 11.05 AM on the same day in presence of tenderers (if any). The Corporation reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

S.F.156
DRP-23139-18/10
G-1873

M A Zaman
Additional Chief (Purchase)

Directorate General Defence Purchase

Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in local currency are invited from bonafide Manufacturer's/Dealer's Supplier's/Indenter's (Enlisted Firms and Firms applied for enlistment in DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Army.

Sl No	Name of Items & Qty	Date of Selling		Date of Opening	Currency	Tender No
		From	To			
a.	Shoes Canvas PVC Sole Size-6 to 10. (1,76,500 pair).	27.10.99	25.11.99	29.11.99	Local	2232/P-6
b.	Shoes Brown Size-5 to 11. (6,165 pair)	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	2231/P-6
c.	Plume Red and Green (10,400 Nos)	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	2230/P-6

2. Tendered schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (not-refundable) during office hour between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hrs and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in the presence of tenderers (if present).

ISPR/Misc/99/698
DFP-23200-18/10
G-1872

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For Director General

Bakhrabad Gas Systems Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla)
Comilla, Bangladesh

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International Tender Notice

Tender No. BGSL/FP/CFE-67/99

Description of Materials	Cost of Tender Documents (Non-refundable)	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
FLOW COMPUTER	US\$ 40.00 or Tk. 2,000.00	28.11.1999 at 11:00 hrs.	28.11.1999 at 11:15 hrs.

- The procurement will be financed under Cash Foreign Exchange.
- Eligibility : Manufacturers/Suppliers having proven experience of similar works /supply.
- Where tender documents will be available : BGSL Offices at:
 - Head Office Complex, Chapapur, Comilla, Bangladesh.
 - Liaison Office, House No. 3, Road No. 2/A, Banani, Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh.
 - Sales Department, 137/A, CDA Avenue, Sholashahar, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
- Selling time of tender documents : 26.10.1999 to 25.11.1999
- Place of tender receiving : BGSL's Liaison Office, House No. 3, Road No. 2/A, Banani, Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh.
- Bid Bond Amount : 25% of the total quoted amount.
- For further information and clarification please contact : Dy. General Manager (Purchase), BGSL, Comilla, Bangladesh. Fax No. 880-2-886317, 880-2-9569199. E-mail: bgslo@citechco.net.

BG-69/Oct99
DFP-23194-18/10
G-1871

Metropolitan

Midias Mini Mart

Mr. Tofail Ahmed, Hon. Minister for Commerce & Industries

Date: 22nd October, 1999

Minister for Commerce and Industries Tofail Ahmed speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Midias Mini Mart Baily Road Branch in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

5th Int'l Congress on AIDS in Asia opens tomorrow

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 22: Asia's largest AIDS conference has a heavy topic on its agenda. How to control the epidemic in countries where experts say the virus is growing at a faster rate than anywhere in the world, reports AP.

When some 3,000 experts, activists and AIDS sufferers begin meeting Sunday for the 5th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, their defined task is to curb HIV's spread in the next millennium in nations that are often hush-hush about sex.

About 95 per cent of people living with the HIV virus live in the developing world, the vast majority in Africa. But experts see Asia as the next trouble spot.

In the last year, at least half of the new cases worldwide came from South and Southeast Asia, said Marina Mahathir, president of the Malaysian AIDS Council and chair of the four-day conference.

About 7 million people in the Asia-Pacific region are living with AIDS or HIV. The number might pale in comparison to the nearly 21 million cases in Africa, but the 'trend is upwards and that is what's worrying,' Mahathir said in an interview.

The UN Aids Programme said in a statement that Asia has the most rapid rate of growth in HIV infection, where the virus is primarily transmitted between heterosexuals and by injected drugs. India has more HIV-infected people, about 4 million, than any country in the world, the UN said.

Five per cent of all Cambodians — or nearly one of every 25 adults — has HIV or AIDS. In Thailand, the first Asian nation heavily affected by the disease, 2 per cent of the population is infected, according to UNAIDS.

In Malaysia, the number of documented HIV cases since the first case was reported in 1985 has jumped to 31,000 up from 6,000 cases in 1993.

The grim scenario is almost the opposite of what's happening on the other side of the globe. In North America and Western Europe, the rate of infection has been brought under control after massive prevention campaigns, according to the United Nations. Of those infected, fewer are dying with the availability of anti-retroviral drugs.

All the sophisticated new drugs are really a dream for most people," Mahathir said.

Asia's two-year economic crisis has compounded problems faced by already poor nations, unable to afford expensive medical treatment, Mahathir said.

Much of the conference will focus on the region's religious and cultural taboos which have stood in the way of AIDS prevention.

Denial is a very major problem," said Mahathir, the daughter of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who is credited with putting AIDS on the public health agenda in this Southeast Asian nation. "A lot of our societies are very conservative and would rather not talk about it."

ASEAN disappointed at US rejection of CTBT

MANILA, Oct 22 : The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is disappointed by the US Senate's rejection of a landmark nuclear test ban treaty, ASEAN Secretary General Rodolfo Severino said today, reports AFP.

"Obviously, it's very unfortunate. ASEAN has been repeatedly opposing nuclear tests of any kind," he told foreign correspondents here.

He said the Senate's rejection of the accord is a "cause for great disappointment and concern."

The US Senate earlier this month voted overwhelmingly against ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, sparking worldwide condemnation.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

'Proposed security forum won't override ARF'

A proposal by the Philippines to form a new security forum in Asia will not override the functions of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the body's secretary general Rodolfo Severino said today.

President Joseph Estrada's call to review the functions of the ARF, the region's foremost security forum, is one of the topics that would be discussed in next month's Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) informal summit here with the leaders of China, Japan and South Korea, he said.

"This is a Philippine idea. This has been talked about," Severino told foreign correspondents. "There are things to which ARF is too big and ASEAN is too small."

However, he said ARF will "go on" and in fact is slowly moving into "preventive policy" the second of its three-point mandate, the other two being confidence building and conflict resolution.

ARF includes ASEAN members Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam as well as the group's Asian and Western dialogue partners such as China, Japan, India, South Korea, the United States, Canada and Russia.

On Thursday, President Joseph Estrada called for a review of the security set up, saying the holes "left gaping by the Cold War" must be filled and new parameters of regional security "must be defined."

Extradition of Bin Laden ruled out

US ready to work with Taliban to end terrorist networks

WASHINGTON, Oct 22: United States, which is seeking extradition of international terrorist mastermind Osama Bin Laden from Afghanistan, has said it is prepared to work with the Taliban militia to end terrorist networks in the war-torn country, reports PTI.

We are prepared to work with the Taliban to end Afghanistan's terrorist networks, Assistant Secretary of State Karl F. Inderfurth said at a bereuter subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee Wednesday.

Enumerating how US would cooperate with Taliban, Inderfurth said Washington would be willing to make arrangements at the border to take charge of Osama bin Laden to have him tried.

The US would also help in installing a broad-based government, pursue other concerns such as the militia's appalling human rights policies, especially the treatment of women and girls and check the cultivation of opium on a large scale and narcotics trafficking.

After a welter of charges and countercharges and denials that the US at any time backed the Islamic militia, Inderfurth finally admitted that an early stage, the Clinton administration had a lack of understanding about the goals of the Taliban movement.

It came out of nowhere he said and, given the fighting and chaos in Afghanistan, the question arose, might this be an answer to instability?

However, Inderfurth said, the administration soon realized that the Taliban was not the answer.

He added: the international community has sent a clear message: the choice between co-operation and isolation lies with the Taliban.

Meanwhile, Taliban militia on Wednesday ruled out extradition of Bin Laden to the US despite the threat of UN sanctions.

Afghanistan won its freedom thanks to fighters like Osama bin Laden. That's why a handover of Bin Laden to America would amount to a betrayal of Islamic principles, Taliban's Foreign Ministry said.

And that's why we can't do it, at any price, it said, in a statement to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, a copy of which was released by the Taliban's embassy in Abu Dhabi.

A PTI report from Abu Dhabi says: It said the Taliban had offered to put Bin Laden on trial and that the Saudi dissident who has taken refuge in Afghanistan came forward for trial, but no evidence was produced against the suspect.

If America had documents proving Bin Laden's involvement in terrorist operations, it should have submitted them to this court, it said.

The Taliban also condemned the threat of sanctions against Kabul if it fails to extradite bin Laden by November 14, saying the UN Security Council was being abused by the US.

A spokesman for Taliban chief Mullah Mohammad Omar, whose militia controls most of Afghanistan, has said that talks with a senior US official in Washington on Monday failed to make any significant headway.

What's on today

Clinical meeting: ZH Sikder Cardiac Care and Research Centre will hold a clinical meeting on "Heart Failure Trial". Venue: Centre premises at Monica Estate, West Dhanmondi. Time: 8:00 am.

BPS international conference: Bangladesh Physical Society (BPS) will inaugurate a 3-day long international conference on Material Science and Technology. Chief guest: ASHK Sadique, Minister for Education. Venue: BUET central auditorium. Time: 9:00 am.

Seminar: Bangladesh Ain Samity will hold a seminar on 'Independence of the Judiciary, and the Transparency and Accountability of Judges'. Chief guest: Abdul Matin Khasru, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 10:00 am.

Launching ceremony: The launching ceremony of 'Aid, Development and Diplomacy' by National Professor Muhammad Shamsul Haq and Prof Chowdhury Rafiqul Abrar will be held. Chief guest: Shah AMS Kibria. Venue: FREPD, Sonargaon Road, Palashi Crossing, DU campus. Time: 10:30 am.

Signing ceremony: The signing ceremony and press briefing on direct equity investment by Citicorp International in Ekushey Television Limited will be held. Venue: BRAC Inn, BRAC Centre, Mohakhali. Time: 10:30 am.

Seminar: Young Economists Forum (YEF) and Debating Club of North South University will hold a seminar on 'Transportation and its Impact on Bangladesh's Economy'. Chief guest: Tofail Ahmed, Minister for Commerce and Industries. Venue: IDB Bhaban, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 3:00 pm.

BPJA exhibition: Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association (BPJA) will hold the inauguration of a 3-day long photo exhibition on the recently concluded 8th SAF games. Chief guest: Obaidul Quader, Minister for Youth, Sports and Culture. Venue: BPJA auditorium. Time: 4:00 pm.

Publication ceremony: The publication ceremony of two books edited by Md Rafiqul Islam Khandakar will be held. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 4:00 pm.

Open discussion: Pabna Samity, Dhaka will hold an open discussion on EPZs. Venue: VIP Lounge of Jatiya Press Club. Time: 4:00 pm.

Publication ceremony: The publication ceremony of *Pushpapatre Nilkantha*, a compilation of poems by Mustafa Majid will be held. Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time: 5:00 pm.

NICVD symposium: National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) will hold a symposium on 'Treatment of Acute Coronary Syndrome: At the turn of the Millennium'. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 7:45 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Film Show: German embassy, Dhaka presents German Film Week'99. The *Tin Drum* by Gunter Grass will be screened on the first day today of the festival. Venue: Goethe Institut, House no 10, Road no 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:30 pm.

Miners lift rail blockade in southern Poland

WARSAW, Oct 22: Threatened with police intervention, hundreds of coal miners from the Solidarity trade union ended a two-day blockade of trains Friday that was prompted by anger over layoffs and mine closures, reports AP.

Miners removed tires and logs from the tracks in Tarnowski Gory, 280 kilometers (175 miles) south of Warsaw, after the government promised to hold talks with them, said the local Solidarity leader, Wladlaw Marszewski.

Another blockade in nearby Lazy also was expected to be lifted, Polish media reported.

Miners blocked the tracks in the industrial region of Silesia to protest job losses and closures from government efforts to restructure the ailing coal industry.

Leftist opposition leader Leszek Miller said the protest was the result of "lack of dialogue between the nation" and the Solidarity-led government of Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek.

Interior Minister Marek Biernacki and police had warned that the protesters would be removed by force Friday afternoon unless they left voluntarily.

"Poland is a law-abiding state, and law must be respected," Biernacki said.

Railway authorities filed a complaint with Silesia prosecutors saying the protest was illegal and made their work impossible.

Detours were opened Friday for international trains, but there were delays of up to two hours on most routes. Passengers were driven in buses around the blocked junctions.

Miners say the government does not have enough money to cover severance pay for thousands laid-off miners and therefore should slow the pace of restructuring.

"You cannot close down a mine like a kiosk," a protester told private Radio Zet.

The government argues that it has enough money and is funneling it to the laid-off miners.

Poland's leading hard-currency earner during communist times, the coal industry is still heavily subsidised despite market reforms launched in 1989.

A restructuring plan that took effect last year calls for the reduction of coal production to 110 million tons by 2002, from 137 million tons in 1998. It also would reduce coal mining jobs by 40 per cent to about 138,000.

But the industry is losing at least twice as much money as originally expected, prompting the government to adopt a plan to accelerate mine closures and to cut further 10,000 jobs by 2002.

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