

Weather

Mercury may fall further

Prevailing dry weather is likely to continue over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over Rajshahi, Sylhet, Khulna and Dhaka divisions and the river basins elsewhere over the country during the period, the Met Office said.

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in Percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

PM for boosting trade with Egypt

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said there is a scope for expanding trade and commerce between Bangladesh and Egypt, says UNB.

She said this during a meeting with the newly-appointed Egyptian Ambassador to Bangladesh, Mohammad Molye M Youssef when he called on the Prime Minister at her official residence Ganabhaban yesterday.

Welcoming the new Ambassador, the Prime Minister said there is a scope for the expanding trade and commerce between Bangladesh and Egypt. Egypt can import vegetables, fish, poultry, medicine and electronic goods from Bangladesh.

During the meeting, the Egyptian envoy conveyed the greetings of Egyptian government and the people. He said the relations between Egypt and Bangladesh is very old and late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were very good friends.

The envoy informed the Prime Minister that after coming to Bangladesh, he visited Bangabandhu Memorial Museum and witnessed photographs of his eventful life and tragic death.

Youssef said he would try his best to further improve relations between the two countries during his stay here.

He also informed that Egypt is happy on Bangladesh's becoming a member of UN Security Council. Egypt wants peace and amity is established worldwide.

Rivalry between publishers cloud situation Printing of NCTB textbooks likely to be delayed

Rivalries between two associations of publishers and printers likely to delay the availability of textbooks in the new session, reports UNB.

The rivals are unleashing propaganda against each other resulting in confusion of students from class six to nine-ten, who also do not know as to from where they are to buy the books.

Officials at National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), however, categorically said none should get confused in procuring the books as many of these are already in the market.

They said that at present, there is a stock of more than one crore copies of books, including 10 lakh in the buffer stock of the board, while another 10 lakh are in the shops and wholesale depots.

Bangladesh Textbook Printers and Marketing Association said its 194 members, who have been publishing textbooks since 1997 on tender, have a stock of 8,280,270 copies.

The association developed a bitter rivalry with Bangladesh

Book Publishers and Sellers Association, which was a monopolist in publishing NCTB books and marketing those without any tender, until before 1997.

Through tenders, this year the publishers' group got a contract for only 15 books while the printers got 45. The NCTB is going to publish 1.2 crore copies of books for the academic year 2000.

Sources said that the number was fixed after the NCTB had found that the stock from the previous years was more than one crore with the stock of Textbook Printers Association calculated on May 23, 1999.

Of the 60 books, to be printed for this year, eight will have minor changes, mainly correction of spellings. Only the geography book for class nine-ten will have a new version with massive changes.

"It means there will be only one new book, the Geography textbook. The eight others will have some minor corrections, but the students could also use the old ones," said an official at the NCTB.

In this respect, he mentioned a survey that 30 per cent stu-

CCC polls results

- 442 votes, nearest contestant Nur Hossain (2741 votes). Ward No-13: Mohammad Hossain Hiron (5676 votes), nearest contestant Mohammad Wahedur Rahman (2202 votes). Ward No-14: Postponed on High Court order. Ward No-15: Mohammad Giassuddin (3264 votes), nearest contestant Abdur Razzak (2787 votes). Ward No-16: Sved Golam Hayder Minto (1372 votes), nearest contestant Faruk Khaled Chowdhury (215 votes). Ward No-17: Mohammad Shahidul Alam - Unopposed elected. Ward No-18: Mohammad Ishak (3225 votes), nearest contestant Haji Mohammad Yusuf (2627 votes). Ward No-19: Postponed due to disturbance in one centre. Ward No-20: Alhaj Peyer Mohammad (2471 votes), nearest contestant Chowdhury Hasan Mohammad Hasni (2038 votes). Ward No-21: Abdul Naser (3147 votes), nearest contestant Pinku Dev Roy (3032 votes). Ward No-22: Abdul Malek (4888 votes), nearest contestant Jamshedul Alam Chowdhury (2691 votes). Ward No-23: Alhaj A S M Jafar (3649 votes), nearest contestant Zahurul Hoq (1529 votes). Ward No-24: Sirajul Islam (5018 votes), nearest contestant Mohammad Solaiman (2633 votes). Ward No-25: Fayeze Ahmed Commissioner (2364 votes), nearest contestant Mohammad Kabir Ahmed (1769 votes). Ward No-26: Mohammad Hossain (5279 votes), nearest contestant Mohammad Sajedul Islam Majumder (1003 votes). Ward No-27: Jalal Uddin unopposed elected. Ward No-28: Postponed due to disturbance in one centre. Ward No-29: Mohammad Ali Box (2652 votes), nearest contestant Mohammad Shahidul Islam (2172 votes). Ward No-30: Hazi Mohammad Abu Jafar (5414 votes), nearest contestant Mohammad Jahangir Alam (1137 votes). Ward No-31: Tarek Solaiman Salim unopposed elected. Ward No-32: A K M Sha-habuddin (4616 votes), nearest contestant Anwar Hossain Mamun (1269 votes). Ward No-33: M Zahir Alam Dovash (5218 votes), nearest contestant Afazullah Khan (735 votes). Ward No-34: Mohammad Jalal Uddin (3651 votes), nearest contestant Mohammad Moshir Rahman (1811 votes). Ward No-35: Hazi Mohammad Nurul Hoq (2196 votes), nearest contestant S M Harun Rashid (1604 votes). Ward No-36: Mohammad Saiful Alam (4786 votes), nearest contestant Jahangir Alam Chowdhury (3677 votes). Ward No-37: Hazi Mohammad Zakaria (4300 votes), nearest contestant Syed Mohammad Enamul Hoq (3627 votes). Ward No-38: Hazi Mohammad Alam (3699 votes), nearest contestant Mohammad Kazi Ahmed Shah Chisthi (1188 votes). Ward No-39: Mohammad Aslam (4423 votes), nearest contestant Kazi Mazharul Hoq (1571 votes). Ward No-40: Alhaj Sharif Ahmed (4453 votes), nearest contestant Nurul Absar (3760 votes). Ward No-41: Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury (4842 votes), nearest contestant Nurul Absar (2735 votes). Reserve posts for females: Ward No-1: Ferdous Begum (8343 votes), nearest contestant Shamim Ara Khanam (7692 votes). Ward No-2: Jobaia Nabils Khan (13688 votes), nearest contestant Shahanur Nahar (10574 votes). Ward No-3: Hasina Jafar unopposed elected. Ward No-4: Shanaj Malik (6962 votes), nearest contestant Abida Sultana (3729 votes). Ward No-5: Postponed on High Court order. Ward No-6: Postponed due to disturbance in one polling centre. Ward No-7: Momtaz Khan (6344 votes), nearest contestant Chitra Biswas (3295 votes). Ward No-8: Nilufer Begum elected unopposed. Ward No-9: Rehana Begum (Ranu) (17262 votes), nearest contestant Inun Nahar Nababin (6959 votes). Ward No-10: Rabeya Rahman unopposed elected. Ward No-11: Postponed due to disturbance in one centre. Ward No-13: Anzali Kunda (8146 votes), nearest contestant Anjuman Ara (7831 votes). Ward No-14: Shahanur Begum (11533 votes), nearest contestant Nuru Nahar Begum (7691 votes). The polling postponed in two centres will be held after Eid-ul-Azha.

HERE and THERE

Millennium 2000 art exhibition

Welcoming the new millennium 2000, some amateur art students of Benuka Lalitkala Academy organised an art exhibition on January 1 at House No 40 B, Road No 11, Dhanmondi, says a press release.

Afzal Hossain, a renowned TV artiste, inaugurated the exhibition at 10 am. It remained open till 8 pm.

A total of forty-five pieces of art works of seven students were put on display at the exhibition. The amateur artists of Benuka Lalitkala Academy whose painting works were exhibited are: Dola, Urmil, Nayan, Shaista, Mitra, Shuvo and Akil.

A large number of people, including some distinguished artists, visited the art exhibition and encouraged the young

artists of tomorrow. These artworks undoubtedly unveiled their creative efficiencies, the press release added.

Shaheed Selim Trust

The Shaheed Selim Trust yesterday demanded the trial of Jatiya Party Chairman Hussain Mohammad Ershad for a bid to split the country into eight parts, reports BSS.

Chairman of the trust Hafizur Rahman said Ershad at a function on January 2 demanded eight provinces, which was a conspiracy to divide the country.

Rahman also demanded the trial of Ershad for his alleged involvement in killing Shaheed Selim in 1984. Police ran over a truck on Selim February 28, 1984.

Bangabandhu's Homecoming Day Jan 10

Bangladesh Awami League has chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the Homecoming Day of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on January 10 in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

In observance of the day, national and party flags will be hoisted atop at the party central office and all unit offices across the country and Bangabandhu Bhaban in Dhaka at 6 am, a party press release said yesterday.

The party leaders and workers will assemble and place wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Bangabandhu Bhaban at 8 am.

A rally will also be staged to mark the day after the holy Eid-ul-Fitr.

Awami League general secretary and Local Government Minister Zillur Rahman has urged leaders and workers of Awami League and its front organisations to observe the day.



Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of the ruling party, took out a colourful procession yesterday to mark its 52nd founding anniversary.

BCL founding anniversary observed

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the ruling party, yesterday observed its 52nd founding anniversary through various programmes.

The programmes started with placing wreath at the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and cutting cake at the Curzon Hall premises at the Dhaka University yesterday.

Later, BCL activists brought out a colourful procession on the Dhaka University campus at around 11:00 am.

The procession was followed by a rally at the Aparajeyo Bangla, which was participated by a number of leaders and activists of different units of BCL.

Addressing the rally, BCL leaders greeted all for the coming Eid-ul-Fitr.

They also urged all activists to join its reunion programme on January 30 at the 'Altan Maidan' (Ground) with a view to face the challenges of the 21st century.

Among others, Bahadur Bepari and Ajay Kar Khokon addressed the rally.

JSD-backed BCL

The JSD-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday held various programmes marking its 52nd founding anniversary.

The BCL placed wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar following a pre-dawn procession to pay tribute to all martyrs.

Later, they brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus and held a rally at Arts Building premises at noon.

Among other, Obaidur Rahman Chhunnu, Karim Sikder, Munir Ahmed Lenin, Majharul Islam Liton and M A Masud Hossain attended the rally.

Boy smokes his way to a livelihood

JHENIDAH, Jan 4: It was not an option but rather hunger, that earned nine-year Selim the title of 'wonder boy', with smoking being the medium of his wonder, reports BSS.

Born in a very poor family in Shaikupa village of Jhenidah district, Shakhawat Reza Selim had to find a way of livelihood for survival when he understood that unlike millions of other children of his age, there was none to provide him with food.

In his search for a livelihood, Selim found 'smoking' his bread. He has learned to enthrall onlookers by smoking cigarettes and releasing the smoke through his ears as well as his mouth and nose in various patterns.

His acrobatic skills of climbing trees and hanging with legs up and hands down or walking on hands further add to attracting spectators.

Selim says his show earns him enough money to support not only himself, but also his unemployed parents and an elder sister.

Obituary

M A Halim Hawladar, a freedom fighter from village Darul of Bakerganj thana under Barisal district died yesterday at his Mirpur residence, says a press release.

He was suffering from diabetes. Bangladesh Muktioddha Sangsad in a statement condoned his death and expressed sympathy for the members of his family.

Azizul Haq Chowdhury, General Manager of Petro-bangla and Chief Executive of GTCL, died on Monday of a cardiac arrest at Shubwardy Hospital, says a press release.

He was buried at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard yesterday.

His quikhuani will be held at his residence at Banani Housing Complex, Road No 2, Amnail after Asr prayers on Friday.



Afzal Hossain, a TV artiste, inaugurated a day-long art exhibition at a residence at Dhanmondi on January 1 organised by some students of Benuka Lalitkala Academy to mark the new millennium.

GEO 2000 launched FM stresses on integrated approach towards dev

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday emphasised the need for pursuing an integrated approach for sustainable development, reports BSS.

He was addressing at the launching ceremony of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) 2000 at a local hotel in the city jointly organised by Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), Department of Environment (DOE) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Environment Secretary Sayed Marghub Murshed, UNDP Resident Representative Andre Klapp, former Advisor Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Director General of DOE A R Khan, Chairperson of Coalition of Environmental NGOs Khushi Kabir, BCAS Director Dr Atiq A Rahman spoke on the occasion while BCAS Chairman A Z M Obaidullah Khan presided.

The Foreign Minister urged that efforts be made for widest possible circulation of the contents of GEO 2000 and said UNDP deserved credit for this excellent publication in which some concerns of humanity have been brought to the forefront.

He said the GEO 2000 has remained us once again of the interdependence on this planet while it has taken up some of the most important environmental issues, examined the

global repercussions, and analysed the concerns of specific regions of the world.

Azad said global warming may have devastating consequences and if the sea level should rise by half a meter by the end of this century, as predicted, a part of Bangladesh would go under water.

He said devastating impact of millions of ecological refugees is mind-boggling and the issues of fresh water are also of concern to us. "While we have too much water in the monsoon period, there is not enough to share in the dry season. As a consequence, we have areas in which the process of desertification may have begun," he added.

Arsenic pollution in sub-soil water in Bangladesh has also been flagged. Azad said and added, the demand for water can only increase, not only for human use but also for agriculture and other needs.

He said provision and management of fresh water will pose an immense challenge for us in the coming years.

Azad said rapid urbanisation in Bangladesh is bringing with it a host of problems and the air quality index of Dhaka city is a cause for concern.

He said awareness creation and supportive action by civil society can greatly complement governmental efforts to combat environmental problems.

Results of UNIC essay writing competition

The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Dhaka announces the results of an essay-writing contest organised in observance of the 25th anniversary of Bangladesh's entry into the United Nations, says a press release.

Students from fifty different colleges and universities took part in the contest entitled the Role of UN in the Development Efforts of Bangladesh. A total of ten prizes will be awarded to the winners which include certificates and cash money.

First prize winner of the contest is Wahidul Islam Mamun, M A Final Year, Department of History, Dhaka University. Second prize goes jointly to Md Shahidul Haque, BEd (Hons), IER, Dhaka University and Amina Sikdar, IA (2nd yr), Singair College. Third prize winners also jointly are Kazi Shamsuzzaman, MA, Department of English, Jahangirnagar University and Rahima Akhtar, IA (2nd yr) Professor Abdul Majid College, Comilla.

Winners of other five special prizes are Nasrin Tahmina Aziz, ISC (2nd yr) Holy Cross College, Md Abdul Manik (Pulak), MSS (Final yr), Department of Social Work, Rajshahi University, Fardousi Sarkar (Mukta), Department of Social Welfare, Eden University College, Abu Ali Faridi, ISC (2nd yr) Adamjee Cantonment College and Md Shahabul BSS (2nd yr), Islampur College, Jamalpur.

Winners have been requested to contact UNIC Dhaka for the details of the prize distribution.

5 NGOs get Tk 62 lakh from UK

British High Commissioner in Bangladesh, Mr David Walker CMG CVO, presented cheques totalling Tk 62 lakh 48 thousand to five non-government organisations (NGOs), at an informal ceremony held at the High Commission in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The recipient organisations were: Naria Unnayan Samity (NUSA), Bangladesh Institute of Apiculture (BIA), Shushilan, Prantik and Community Development Library (CDL).

The British High Commission funding will help these NGOs carry out rural development programmes. A total of 1,760 people will directly benefit from these programmes, while 1,500 more will be indirectly benefited. Most of the beneficiaries will be women.

CDL's programme is designed to strengthen the development movement in the country through effective information dissemination and communication.

Survey on city dwellers finds 90 pc appreciates idea of ban on autorickshaw

Ninety per cent of the respondents in a local survey appreciate an immediate ban on autorickshaw for its contribution to air pollution, says a press release.

The survey titled 'The Environment we live in' was carried out by Environmental Society (ES) of East West University to find out from city dwellers which part of the city environment they find most disturbing.

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) should play the most critical role in managing the city environment, think 58 per cent of the respondents of the survey, while 91 per cent are not satisfied with the performance of the Traffic Police.

In another interesting revelation, 94 per cent appreciate the idea of imposing a Green Tax, to help protect the environment from further degradation. Eighty-five per cent want to get involved with environmen-

tal policy-making process and 44 per cent are for a 'Citizen Committee' as their preferred platform for the issue.

The survey also found that 45 per cent consider traffic jams to be the most bothering aspect of the physical environment of the city while 30 per cent think that plying of different types of vehicles on the same road is the real cause of frequent traffic jams.

Nine per cent held traffic jams as the main cause of pollution while seven per cent hold the same responsible for noise pollution.

The survey was designed by S S M Sadrul Huda of the Faculty of Environment and Management of East West University and was supervised by Dr Md Musa, Pro Vice-Chancellor at the university. 230 city dwellers of different backgrounds and age groups participated.

Biman celebrates founding day

Biman, the national flag carrier, celebrated its 28th founding anniversary yesterday with great enthusiasm, reports BSS.

The founding day was marked with the formal hoisting of national flag at Biman headquarters 'Balaka' at Kurmitola by Managing Director of Biman Air Commodore Rafiqul Islam. Senior executives, all categories of officials and employees attended the function.

Describing the current year as the 'most prospective' for the airlines, Rafiqul Islam said with the induction of two new wide bodied air crafts in the Biman fleet, the national carrier is now in a better position to maintain flight schedules and improve passenger service, a press release said.

Speaking briefly on the occasion, Commodore Islam called upon all to put in their sincere and dedicated efforts to make Biman a truly international and commercially viable airlines in the region.



Bangladesh Mohila Parishad brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the molestation of a young woman at the Dhaka University campus on the New Year and Millennium Eve.



JCD, student wing of the main opposition BNP, brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the molestation of a woman on the Dhaka University campus on New Year's Eve.



Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzaq handing over a crest of the BWDA at a farewell reception at the WAPDA auditorium to A K M Shamsul Haque, Chairman, BWDR who retired from service on January 2. Water Resources Secretary Dr A T M Shamsul Huda was also present on the occasion.