



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet division and the regions of Kushia and Jessore during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country, Met office said, adding that rise in day temperature is expected over the country.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 19.2 degree Celsius at Chuadanga.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.15 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.50 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	33.8	21.5	71	43
Chittagong	33.7	26.6	74	77
Rajshahi	32.8	21.5	53	52
Khulna	34.5	22.8	76	52
Barisal	34.6	22.4	63	49
Sylhet	30.2	19.6	79	63
Cox's Bazar	34.0	24.5	78	77

Businessman abducted, 2 shot at Fatikchhari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two shopkeepers were shot by unidentified gunmen at Dhurong Bridge in Fatikchhari upazila on Friday night.

A businessman was reportedly abducted from Bibrhat area the same night.

The bullet-hit shopkeepers were identified as Abul Kashem and Nizam Uddin, both hailing from Painsindia.

They were shot at 10:00 pm on Friday when they were returning home from a nearby Bazar after closing the business for the day. They were admitted to a clinic in Chittagong city.

Apparel businessman Amjad was kidnapped at 8:00 pm the same day. The identity of the abductors or the fate of Amjad could not be known till writing of this report at 6:15 pm yesterday.

Tight security

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Inspectors will petrol round the clock during hartal.

Meanwhile, a total of 1300 Special Armed Forces, 1900 Riot Police, 750 Traffic Police, 400-Ordinary Reserve Force, 240-Protection Force, 300 Armed Police, 100 Women Police and 440 Special Task Force will also be deployed.

About 1000 Police Personnel will remain standby in the police control room and 300 others will be on duty in the night during hartal hours.

Besides, over 200 Ansar force will also be deployed in the capital as auxiliary force during the hartal hours.

Remove discrimination

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He said, "Our country is not capital-deficient, there is Tk 70,279 crore on fixed deposit, neither is it technically deficient as I'm yet to meet a foreign engineer who is more qualified than ours."

He said, "Our policy makers have failed to provide an enabling environment for growth of the private sector and supported multinational companies saying that Bangladesh is capital-deficient, public sector inefficient and private sector lacking in technology and management."

Khan said, "If local private sector with financial capability were allowed to participate in the energy sector in general and in Petrobangla's tenders in particular

Hasina calls for unity

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Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, seven best freedom fighters who were posthumously awarded Bir Shrestha and paintings depicting the liberation war.

Singers of the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, the wartime radio station, rendered popular patriotic songs while the children presented attractive dances.

Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Hasina listed various steps her government has taken for the welfare of the freedom fighters and promised to do more.

Blaming the post-1975 regimes for neglecting the best sons of the soil, the freedom fighters, and distorting the nation's glorious history, she said with the party that led the liberation war back to power the nation has now come to know the correct history. "No one can extinguish any more the spirit of the war. Conspiracies were on for long 21 years since 1975 to erase the nation's 24-year struggle and the nine-month war to liberate the motherland. The younger generation was not allowed to know about the fact that they belong a brave nation," she said adding no nation can prosper without a proper knowledge of its history.

Hasina stressed the need for a national unity to achieve economic freedom in the new century.

The state-owned BTV and private ETV broadcast the programme life.

8 pirates held

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gang and arrested eight of them including Ebadullah the gang leader and seized a rifle and three bullets from their possession at about 2 am yesterday.

Some of the gangsters, however, managed to escape.

Police said the gang was involved in robbery, killing and kidnapping for ransom in the coastal areas for long.

The network of the gang was spread up to the mangrove Sundarbans forest in Khulna district.

Ebadullah was accused in over 50 criminal cases including murder, robbery and kidnapping.

Hundreds of locals gathered at Chokoria thana premises on hearing the arrest of Ebadullah and brought out a procession demanding his exemplary punishment.

Ershad expels 3

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and some other leaders of JP faction led by Nazir Rahman.

Abu Jafar told this correspondent the liaison body meeting resolved that Ershad-led JP faction was working in favour of the government and against the four-party alliance.

Therefore, the meeting decided that no new representation should be accepted, he said.

Nazir Rahman was relieved of the post of JP secretary general on March 23 as he opposed Ershad's move to send party MPs back to the parliament. When they attended parliament sitting on Thursday, Ershad expelled them.

Chanchal murder

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rior motive, the complainant and the victim's mother said.

She said IO of DB is biased and threatened witnesses. The IO pressed witnesses for implicating some innocents BNP leaders in the murder, the complainant said.

Accused Nadim and Karim have now been turned into witnesses. DB will submit charge sheet against seven persons who are quite innocent, she said.

Tendulkar

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Venkatasai Laxman, who made a career-best 83, as the hosts dominated the Australian attack after being asked to bat first.

Tendulkar completed 10,000 runs in his 266th match and 259th innings when he reached 34 not out by driving leg-spinner Shane Warne for a single to deep mid-off.

He raised his bat to acknowledge a standing ovation from 25,000 fans before Warne and Australian captain Steve Waugh congratulated him. Tendulkar slammed 19 fours in his 125-ball knock.

Glenn McGrath dismissed Tendulkar by having him caught at square leg by Damien Fleming.

Tendulkar now has 10,105 runs at an average of 42.63 with a best of 186 not out against New Zealand at Hyderabad two seasons ago.

His record, topped by 25 Test hundreds, will be hard to surpass as he is currently far ahead of his contemporaries.

His nearest rival is compatriot Mohammad Azharuddin (9,378 runs in 334 matches), who has been banned for life for his alleged involvement in match fixing.

Of the three batsmen in the 8,000-club, only one Mark Waugh of Australia is presently playing.

Two batsmen, Allan Border of Australia and Sunil Gavaskar of India, have surpassed 10,000 runs in Test cricket, but Tendulkar is the first to do so in the limited-overs game.



The Dalai Lama (C) accompanied by Master Chinhsin (L), head of the Buddhist Association, greets people upon his arrival at Chiang Kai-shek International Airport in Taoyuan yesterday. The Dalai Lama is on a 9-day visit for religion activities, and will meet Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian in political meetings that are certain to enrage China. (Story on Page 9)

60-hr hartal begins today

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is being represented in the liaison committee".

About the PM's address, Bhuiyan said it is "totally non-political, indecent, irresponsible and unwanted", and it proves the ruling party has become unbalanced.

He demanded immediate release of all arrested opposition leaders and activists including Islami Oikya Jote Chairman Azizul Haq, Fazlul Haq Amin, ARM Abdul Matin, JCD general secretary Shahabuddin Laltu and Chhatra Shibir publicity secretary Mohinul Islam.

After the briefing, JP Joint Secretary General Maidul Islam told The Daily Star that the "pro-Nazir faction" of the party would remain in the alliance and maintain its unity at any cost.

Maidul, JP joint secretary for long, has not yet faced any action from either of the factions since split of the party.

He said jailed former president HM Ershad has joined hands with the government under five condi-

Khaleda: AL polls debacle

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save themselves. Arrest of Islami Oikya Jote chief Azizul Haq under false cases is a part of that conspiracy, she claimed.

"None will be able to create a split in the 4-party opposition alliance. The unity will continue till formation of the next government," a confident Khaleda said.

The former prime minister bitterly criticised the government's "misdeeds, corruption, politicisation of the administration and repression" and also listed its "failures" in different sectors.

She said the AL had once introduced BKSAL by amending the Constitution. Now, it has virtually re-introduced one-party system by resorting to repression on the people as it has no scope to amend the Constitution, she said.

Ministers, MPs, leaders and activists of AL are responsible for creating a law and order situation in the country, she alleged and claimed that AL cadres have "lakhs of illegal arms".

She said, "Sons and relatives of ministers and MPs have surpassed their fathers in terrorist activities, killing and illegal occupation of public and private property".

Notorious criminals and terrorists are frequently seen in processions led by ministers and MPs but police are not taking any action against them, she claimed.

"I want to know why terrorist and killer Dr Iqbal is not arrested ... Under which law he is moving freely?"

The BNP Chairperson alleged that ruling party men misappropriated Tk 400 crore in the MIG purchase deal and another Tk 200 crore in the frigate purchase deal. "The Prime Minister is involved in the two major deals", she said.

Khaleda further alleged that the Prime Minister took charge of the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry to "misappropriate money and get commission and to hand over country's natural resources to others".

People of all walks of life have started raising their voices against

Kafco quagmire

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(GSPA).

The clause says, "(Contract) Start Date shall be 1 May 2005 or such earlier date as the Parties (Kafco and BGFL) may agree."

The original clause clearly says, "Kafco will enter into a new Gas Supply and Payment Agreement for a period from 1 May 2005 to 31 July 2015 with BGSL in substitution for the existing Gas Price and Payment Agreement and the Gas Supply Agreement..."

The secretaries asked the BGFL to initial the contract immediately. When the BGFL went through the contract and detected a number of deviations from the contract approved by the prime minister, it refused to go ahead. But, the top bureaucrats started pressuring the BGFL, which eventually initialled the agreement, said sources in Energy Ministry and the BGFL.

The ERD and Industries secretaries flew off to Singapore late last week where the final contract is supposed to be signed. However, none could confirm whether the final contract would be signed now.

Under the new contract also gives Kafco the flexibility to purchase gas either at 15 per cent lower or higher rate. There was no such provision in the original agreement approved by the prime minister.

In another modification, the new contract says, "The buyer (Kafco) shall at all times be entitled to benefit from conditions and prices for the sale of gas more favourable than those contained in this Agreement, that may be agreed from time to time between the seller (BGCL) or any other company directly or indirectly owned by the government... and any other private owner of a fertiliser plant in Bangladesh which is permitted to export, and the Prevailing Contract Price will be revised accordingly."

However, the approved contract simply said, "Kafco will be assured of the benefit of any gas price agreement with any other privately owned plant more favourable than the applicable Kafco price."

The approved contract sug-

Boy hurt in bomb blast

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Aman, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Abdus Salam and others were also in it.

The trouble began when the procession was returning to the Naya Paltan party central office after parading streets in Fakirpool, Baitul Mukarram and Paltan areas.

The angry activists then torched two rickshaws and damaged some shops and two vehicles in Bijoynagar area. Later, a luxury bus was set on fire at Arambagh, allegedly by some unidentified miscreants.

Three vehicles were set ablaze at Kalabanga, near the US embassy at Baridhara and at Mohakhali. An auto-rickshaw was torched at Jurain.

At least a dozen bombs were exploded at Rampura bus stand.

A car of Narayanganj district AL leader Nazama Rahman was damaged at Jurain, allegedly by some local BNP activists, police said.

Unidentified miscreants threw petrol bombs at five vehicles at Mirpur-1, one at Kazipara and another at Karwanbazar. A bomb was hurled at a vehicle at Farmgate.

Three other components of the four-party opposition alliance -- Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote -- and some other smaller parties also brought out separate torch processions.

The faction of JP led by Nazir Rahman Manzur brought out a torch

Cricket team

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manager Mahabubul Anam at a press briefing Saturday.

Coach Trevor Chappell meanwhile said: "I will be very pleased with the players if everybody puts in the best effort they can provide on the tour. Hope the players will enjoy the tour, the hospitality of the Zimbabwean people, the different culture and play very good cricket in the process." (Details on Page 13)

The Daily Star roundtable on good governance

FROM PAGE 1

They are deprived of justice and sometimes even denied their fundamental rights to lodge first information report (FIR) with the police when assaulted or victimised otherwise, they added.

The bureaucracy has also contributed, and still does, to the situation, as it routinely flouts the rules govern its services, the speakers said. The most troublesome, however, is the lack of accountability in financial matters, compounded by non-existence of internal auditing and effective supervision, they added.

The speakers also underscored the need for an active role from the civil society and the media towards achievement of transparency and good governance in all spheres.

While introducing the theme, Anam observed that the issue of good governance dominates every aspect of life and that there is a tendency towards more and more violations of law.

Even Parliamentary Standing Committee concealed facts on the MIG-29 deal, for which he had to go to court, he informed.

Dr Hossain cited a number of instances where basic right to file a complaint with police was denied by police.

He said that he had to go to the High Court for directing the officer-in-charge of Feni police station to accept the case of journalist Tipu Sultan. The complaints by students of Jahanagirjamaar University, who were raped, were not accepted, despite the fact that the alleged rapist boasted of a century in rape, he said.

"There is no accountability at the home ministry, police and even university authorities," Dr Kamal added.

The eminent jurist noted that

even home minister's directive did not work in the case of 'George's Bahini' of Natore.

If black money in politics and the gunmen of politicians and MPs, who fire on processions to kill, are checked, he warned, there cannot be a free and fair election.

The caretaker government must take them into account to ensure it, Dr Kamal added.

Syed Yusuf Hossain noted that institutionalisation of democracy, effective parliament, strong media, accountable administration and independent judiciary would make it possible to have good governance. There must be a strong civil society for good things to be rewarded. "We have a responsibility. Every organisation has a role towards good governance," he observed.

The CAG functions as an oversight body along with the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament, he informed. "We have started giving training to government officials and started performance audit of organisations and departments of the government - energy, health and education. A performance audit cell has also been created and is getting adequate response."

The CAG further noted that most of the public sector organisations are not aware of internal audit. Citing examples in the United States, he said that he has already proposed to the government to introduce internal monitoring for better accountability. He said nine ministries have been selected this year and quality assurance team has also been proposed for better monitoring.

Professor Sobhan spoke of cumulative degeneration of governance in our country. "The misgovernance in our society exists for quite a long time."

He said law and order at the grassroots has totally collapsed and law-enforcing agency has been operating on commercial basis. The responsibility of police depends on how much money the party is willing to pay for it, he said. Otherwise, the lower-level officials are hardly taking any case, he noted.

Professor Sobhan stressed the need for a pro-active civil society, which would react strongly to every instance of wrongdoing in the society. "Political parties would not come up to respond to any societal problem, if they do not see any political benefit out of it."

According to him the incidence of not recording crime started long ago when one Abu Mahmud was assaulted by NSF men during Monaim Khan's period.

He observed that governance in Bangladesh was much better than that of Pakistan and many other African countries. "But we are not satisfied, we have to compare with other advanced nations."

Professor Ahmad said the condition of the governance in the country is reflected in the chaotic traffic system in Dhaka. He observed that the traffic rule in our country was being violated by everyone including the prime minister, ministers and other high officials.

He cited the incident when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's car drove along the wrong side of the road to avoid traffic congestion.

More than seventy per cent of road space is taken by rickshaws, pullers, and big car owners "are the most active offenders of traffic rule," Professor Ahmad said.

He underscored the need for building a coalition of civil society to ensure good governance and also suggested that there should be some indicators to measure the quality of governance.

In many countries there are some identified lobbying groups but that do not exist in our country, he said. "We also observe lobbying and creating pressure on the government but the groups are not registered. They work in the dark."

He also blamed the civil society for not being able to fight against all these miss deeds. "The civil society must raise the voice."

The PARC chairman stressed the need for a balance of power among the three organs of the state for good governance.

Shamasul Haq said the charter of citizen should be introduced in our country where the right of the citizens would be clearly defined. He put accent on political will and commitment for good governance.

Haq also underscored the need for primacy of law over all aspects of life. He said the tendency of being above the law should be changed.

Former CCAG M Hafizuddin said the institution of governance in our country is not in a proper shape. He observed that the Bureau of Anti-Corruption should be an independent body and it should be busy with big corruption cases.

Kazi Fazlur Rahman blamed

the electoral process for generating corruption. Once a person is elected, nobody is asking about the ceiling of Tk three lakh maximum election expenditure of a candidate, he said adding that the career of an MP begins with the violation of law.

Underscoring the need for a code of conduct he said the ministers and parliament members must be made to understand that they cannot break the law.

Badiuzzaman said there should be a consensus among major political parties on important issues. "If the government ban plying of auto-rickshaws in the city which pollute the environment, the opposition would start protesting the action."

He said most of the big corruption cases get stay order from the higher courts. The investigating officers of the BAC know that there would be hardly any trial of those big cases. As many as 80 such big cases are pending with the BAC, he informed.

Syed Humayun Kabir cited a number of success stories in the country despite having bad governance over the years.

He mentioned achieving self-sufficiency in food production, increasing literacy rate, lowering population growth and child mortality rates as success stories.