



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka
Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and the regions of Pabna, Bogra and Sylhet during the next 12 hours till 6pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country, Met officials said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 38.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest of 20.0 degree at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.19 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.39 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	34.7	26.8	69	65
Chittagong	34.5	26.0	73	75
Rajshahi	38.0	26.5	71	-
Khulna	34.5	26.0	77	73
Barisal	33.6	24.5	76	65
Sylhet	33.0	20.0	67	59
Cox's Bazar	34.5	24.0	69	75



Police keep watch on the last day of opposition-sponsored 72-hour hartal in Rajshahi city yesterday.

PM tells BGMEA leaders Prepare for global competition

UNB, Dhaka

Offering all help from the government, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told ready-made garment manufacturers and exporters to prepare for surviving tough global competition beyond 2004, when quota system will be gone.

"It's you who will have to take initiative. Whatever cooperation you need, we'll ensure," she told a BGMEA delegation that met her at her office.

The BGMEA leaders expressed their concern over the continuous hartals that seriously hampered their export trade and sought prime minister's help to keep export uninterrupted.

The delegation hoped the garment-sector-friendly government would complete its term for further growth of the vital industry.

Hasina advised them to take steps for backward-linkage industry for textile and attire their products

to changing fashions, colours and tastes on the global market.

The RMG sector, which has now emerged as the major export earner, faced serious setbacks in the past in absence of any prudent policy, she said.

But her government framed policy to help the sector grow, she told the businessmen.

The PM mentioned her government's unrelenting efforts to regain GSP facilities from EU countries for frozen food exports.

Referring to her EU tour, the prime minister said the friendly and historic relations resulted in assurance of duty-and-quota-free market access to the EU, and the same to the Japanese market.

The prime minister suggested that the BGMEA leadership should ensure dormitories for female workers, who constitute around 90 per cent of the workforce of the export industry.

BRAC has already been given Tk

10 crore at 1 per cent interest from Housing Fund to build dormitories for female workers and BGMEA can also avail of this fund, she suggested.

She also told them to look for a site for proposed Garment Village.

BGMEA president Kutubuddin Ahmed thanked the prime minister for her success in gaining duty-and-quota-free access of Bangladesh's apparels to the markets of EU, New Zealand and Japan.

He also thanked her for allotting two bighas of land for BGMEA complex and said they would shortly start construction at the site near the Hotel Sonargaon.

The BGMEA president demanded 10-year project loan from banks at 8-10 per cent interest to encourage investors in capital-intensive backward-linkage industry. He also sought a budgetary allocation of Tk 2000 crore to support establishment of composite textile mills.

Food poisoning kills girl in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

A baby girl died while five others of her family fell sick after taking poisonous food at Kullia village under Sadar upazila yesterday.

The dead was identified as Lima, 3, daughter of Tauhidul of village Kullia in Magura Sadar upazila.

Family sources said, six members of a family became seriously ill and started vomiting after taking rice yesterday morning. They were rushed to Magura Sadar Hospital when their condition deteriorated. Lima died on the way to hospital.

The sick identified as Tauhid, 28, Lavlu, 12, Shahim, 3, Rubel, 6, and Shukuron, 8, were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.

Arrest, counter arrest by BDR, BSF in Darshana border areas

UNB, Chuadanga

Tension heightened in the Darshana frontier areas over the arrest and counter arrest of Bangladeshi and Indian nationals by BSF and Bangladesh border guards.

Indian BSF recently arrested two Bangladeshi minors identified as Suman, 14, and Munni, 10, son and daughter of Ashraf Ali of the area while they were collecting shells from the river beach. In retaliation BDR also arrested four Indian nationals identified as Romesh, Manik, Joygopal and Bijon.

BSF are now driving away the farmers at gunpoint when they go to the frontier areas for cultivation. BDR took several attempts for holding flag meeting to ease the growing tension but BSF have not been responding.

BSF on March 25 abducted a youth Julliqar Junu from Chandpur village in Darshana upazila and tortured him to death. They even did not return the body.

Petronas proposal

FROM PAGE 12

asked Chevron and Texaco to strike a partnership deal with the Irish company for Block 9 and suggested that Petronas-Mobil go for Block 11 with Tullow.

Petronas-Mobil then concluded their negotiations saying they should be offered both Blocks 9 and 11.

Petrobranga last month invited Petronas to resume Block 11 negotiations along with Tullow.

In recent times, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) findings show that Block 11 may have some oil and gas potentials previously overlooked by all. Sources said that this had increased Petronas' interest in Block 11 and it had therefore agreed to come to Dhaka.

BTB

FROM PAGE 1

subscribers since 1998, expired on January 31.

Moreover, the BTB did not renew the contract without showing any reason.

The board floated a tender on December 20 last year, which was scheduled to open on January 4, during a long holiday of about 20 days.

One subscriber asked if the BTB does not want to renew the contract with the Lithi Enterprises Limited, then why it did not float the tender with adequate time.

Another subscriber said the issuing of the bills of three months January, February and March at a time would create tremendous financial burden on subscribers.

The BTB is now trying to prepare the bills of 6.24 lakh subscribers with the assistance from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

Early election

FROM PAGE 1

by the prime minister. She alerted the ruling party legislators against the BNP-led opposition's "ploy to create a situation to claim victory in their so-called agitation to topple the government," and asked them to ward off such attempts.

The prime minister claimed that the opposition had proved its unwillingness to go for election by rejecting her offer for the same and opting for confrontation on the street only to political mileage.

Hasina gave a broad outline for the AL MPs on how to conduct pre-election campaign. She advised them to project the AL government's achievements, developments in their respective areas and, if necessary, publish booklets for distribution among the voters.

She asked them to embark on effective public contacts to defuse opposition propaganda that AL is an anti-Islam party. "Offer your prayers at the local mosques and socialise with common people to win their hearts," an AL MP attending the meeting quoted the prime minister to have said.

She, however, said the campaign against anti-liberation Razakar and Al-Badar elements must be carried on as part of the canvass.

Hasina, who heads AL, warned

action against intra-party bickering over nomination for the polls. "All should adhere to party decision and work together for the official nominees," according to a meeting source.

She hoped that the AL would win the next polls provided its "huge successes" are projected properly and the opposition's "evil propaganda" negated. For this, she underlined the need for strengthening the party at the grassroots level.

Referring to the opposition's ongoing agitation, she suggested that public opinion should be created against the opposition's destructive politics and its negative impact.

As some MPs referred to the power crisis, along-standing irritant for the AL government, the prime minister said that the problem would hopefully be taken care of before the polls.

She also assured the meeting of implementation of the National Wage Commission for the industrial workers before the next election and assigned Industries Minister Tofiq Ahmed to look into the matter.

Some AL lawmakers also spoke about development activities in their respective areas and some irritants in the way of seeking public supports.

PSC signed

FROM PAGE 1

updating the existing PSCs.

Tullow, an Irish company, was initially selected by the government for blocks 9 and 11 in 1997 on the ground that its work programme was "outstanding". Tullow had proposed to drill 10 wells in the first three years at a cost of 56 million US dollars, a proposal termed unrealistic by most of the experts.

Meantime, there were criticism that Tullow was getting preference because of its connections with political high-ups and that the company was not financially strong enough to implement its proposals. The government then invited US oil

giants Chevron and Texaco to strike a partnership deal with Tullow.

But disagreements between Tullow and Chevron-Texaco delayed signing of PSC for this block after it was initiated on March 9 last year shortly before US President Bill Clinton's visit to Bangladesh. Chevron and Tullow were disagreeing on transfer of Texaco's 30 per cent share.

To resolve the disagreement, the government last month prescribed an equity sharing formula and said any company that would differ from Petrobranga's schedule without prior information would be deprived of the share.

BNP ready to join

FROM PAGE 1

Bhuiyan clarified.

Criticising the government for playing ducks and drakes with election, through inconsistent speeches by the Prime Minister and ministers, the BNP secretary general asked the Sheikh Hasina government to resign forthwith paving the way for general elections.

About renewal of the women's seats, Mannan Bhuiyan said their

sympathy for the women folk is much deeper than that of the Prime Minister and her party. "We don't want to get our dignity damaged by going to this parliament."

He, however, assured that if voted to power, BNP would consider women's demand for increasing the number of women's seats and direct election system in the very first session of the next parliament.

The BNP secretary general said the ruling party never tabled the bill in the House for amendment of women-seat law in the last five years. "Now at the age end they are shedding crocodile tears for women in the name of protecting women seats whereas they ignored the main demand of the womenfolk for increasing women seats from 30 to 64 and direct election."

Terminating this parliament one-party, Bhuiyan said no discussions were held on two important accords as well as other issues of public importance on the floor of the House.

Death anniversary



The fifth death anniversary of Advocate Akand Md Nazrul, president of Faridpur district unit of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, will be observed today, says a press release.

To mark the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his residence today, the release added.

Ershad

FROM PAGE 1

joining the opposition alliance, JP presidium member Lt. Col. Jafar Imam told The Daily Star that party leaders and workers in 230 constituencies became inactive at the news of JP's getting only 70 seats as per the alliance's seat-sharing formula.

"The upcoming election is not the last one that JP is going to contest. It would be difficult for JP to find effective candidates in those (230) seats in future polls and we may lose our organisational strength as well," said Imam.

Besides, he added, the JP candidates who would come out victorious in the election under a common candidates fielding formula may desert the party to join the government.

KMCH

FROM PAGE 1

Dr Shabbir Ahmed Tarik, president of KMCH Internists Doctors' Association said strike will continue till their demands are met. The authorities concerned did not pay heed to appeal made several times earlier to solve our housing problem and pay our arrears, he said.

Internists doctors said there is no fair administration in the KMCH which is beset with manifold problems.

Poor patients are being deprived of medicare facilities. Shortage of medicines has been acute during the last one year. But authorities are neglecting these urgent matters Dr Kamal Hossain, General Secretary of the Association, said.

Dr Kamal said KMCH has become a safe haven for drug addicts and muggers where doctors, patients and their relatives are not secure at night.

Blasts mark last day of hartal

FROM PAGE 1

Dholaikhal, Rai Saheb Bazar, Jatrabari, Demra, Shyampur and some other areas of Old Dhaka yesterday.

Three persons were injured at Tikatuli when a bomb was hurled from a building at about 9:45 am. Two of them were identified as rickshaw-van driver Abdul Mannan and auto-rickshaw driver Habib. Mannan was injured in the chest.

The three were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Later Mannan was shifted to the Chest Diseases Hospital.

Three teachers and an SSC examinee of Madhubag Biddya Niketon (school) were injured at Demra at about 3 pm when their tempo turned upside down as pickets hurled a bomb at it.

The teachers were identified as Matiu Rahman, Khairuzzaman Arzu, and Nazrul Islam and the SSC examinee as Sajjad Khan. They were admitted to Holy Family Hospital.

Teenager Mohsin was injured when a bomb exploded in a BNP procession at Dholaikhal in

Shyampur area at about 11 am. Police claimed that Mohsin was carrying the bomb and took him to custody after he was given first aid at DMCH.

Vegetable trader Khroshed Alam and rickshaw-puller Abul Kalam and were injured in bomb explosions at Karwan Bazar and at Moghbazar Wireless Gate at 6:30 am and 12:30 pm respectively. They were also admitted to DMCH.

Shops, schools, private offices and business houses remained closed though the number of motorised vehicles on city streets was higher yesterday than on the first two days of the hartal. Rickshaws were in plenty.

Our Rajshahi Correspondent reports: At least 100 people including two policemen were injured, 10 of them seriously, in a series of violent clashes between pro- and anti-hartal activists in Shaheb Bazar area in the city.

Witnesses said the clashes ensued when pro-hartal activists attacked a procession of ruling party activists at the Zero Point at 1.30 pm.

The rival groups exchanged about 100 shots and exploded at least 80 bombs during the clashes.

Police lobbed at least 50 tear gas shells and fired rubber bullets to disperse them.

Police picked up five pro-hartal activists from the spot.

The UNB reported from Pabna that some 20 people were injured, 12 of them critically, when police swooped on a BNP procession in Chaitmohor on Tuesday night.

Of the injured, Poursabha Commissioner Zakaria, Dhaka University student Zahid, Aziz, Abdul Belu, Abdus Salam Bhutto,

Ratan, Kalam Biswas, Alif Ibrahim and Masum were hospitalised.

Our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong reports: At least 15 people including a police man were injured in sporadic incidents of violence in the port city yesterday.

The police constable and four others were injured when cocktails were exploded during a chase and counter chase between police and pro-hartal pickets at Bahaddarhat in the morning.

In another incident, ten lawyers were injured when ruling party activists attacked a pro-opposition lawyers' procession near the New Marker crossing at 12.30 pm. The ruling party activists were holding an anti-hartal rally there at that time, police said.

Cittagong District Bar Association sources said the procession was brought out demanding release of arrested opposition leaders and workers. The bar association condemned the attack and called for boycotting courts today, demanding arrest of the attackers.

Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna reported that pro- and anti-hartal activists staged chase and counter chase and exchanged gunshots and exploded bomb at the PTI crossing and adjacent areas for about an hour in the morning.

Some shops and roadside tea stalls were damaged and looted.

A UNB report from Narayanganj said some 40 BNP activists have been sued under the Public Safety Act for setting a mini-bus on fire at Bhughar under Fatullah upazila on Monday.

One of the accused-Sajedul Haque-- has been arrested.

Baby Summy

FROM PAGE 12

left the baby after an altercation between them.

The couple went to the hospital Monday but nurses, employees and officials refused to let them take her back.

A general diary was filed with Ramna police station in this regard.

The officer-in-charge of Ramna police station Arman Ali said that several people called and came to police station and asked to adopt the baby.

over the plots to the beneficiaries, he said.

Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka, Abdus Sattar Khan told The Daily Star that they were yet to receive funds for compensating the affected people in Uttara. He said that as soon as the compensation was paid off, his office would be able to hand over the land to Rajuk for further development.

Officials in DC's office expressed "utmost surprise" as to how Rajuk could have prepared a list without the applications from the affected landowners in Uttara. They said the affected landowners must have the priority in obtaining the allotment of plots in Uttara area.

A top official in the DC's office, involved in the acquisition process in Uttara said that if the affected landowners learned about Rajuk's preparation of such a list, none would be able to enter the area. He said that for generations those affected landowners have been living in the area and it was understood that they would be given

priority during allocation of plots.

"How can Rajuk start such a secret procedure when the affected landowners have not even applied for their plots," he said.

Minister for Public Works and Housing, Engineer Mosharraf Hossain told The Star that the list was being prepared through a marking system where freedom fighters, justices and others are given priority.

"We have acquired the land and solved all other social problems hindering the project. We have given extra emphasis on the people's rights in the area and have ensured that no one is discriminated against," Mosharraf said.

The Minister said that a total of 6,500 plots would be extracted in the Uttara project where 40,000 apartments could be built to accommodate a wide range of professionals.

"We will ensure that no irregularities take place while compensation is paid. We have decided to solve the problem of compensation on the spot and at the initial stage," he said.

Ruling party men, top govt officials crowd list

FROM PAGE 1

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ordered the cancellation of the allotments as soon as it was disclosed that the beneficiaries were all Awami League leaders, activists, supporters and sympathisers.

Names of the same people, who failed to obtain plots in Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara in 1997, have been added to the new Uttara list.

Rajuk Chairman, MAZUL Haque admitted to preparation of a "draft list" of 3,000 people in the Uttara project but said it would now depend how many would receive the plots on the availability of land.

Haque denied reports of "nepotism" in preparation of the list and said a committee was preparing the list giving priority to MPs, freedom fighters, officials and professionals regardless their political or social affiliation.

He said Rajuk would receive the ownership of the land "any moment now". The authorities have reached an "understanding" with the local landowners in Uttara and there would be no problem in handing

It may be mentioned that a criminal case is now under investigation on the payment of compensation in Rajuk's Jhilmil project across the Buriganga in Keraniganj. Rajuk ended up paying Tk 101 crore as compensation instead of its estimated Tk 12 crore in the Jhilmil project. Several Rajuk and local government officials have been implicated in the Jhilmil compensation scandal.

Rajuk sources alleged that a section of officials were now acting as "brokers" to insert names of people in the list of beneficiaries in exchange for "bribe".

The handing over of Uttara plots seems a far cry, as the vast stretch of low-lying land has to be filled first. The earth filling will not be easy and economical because the huge volume of earth would have to be brought in from faraway places, they said.

"By taking up earth filling work Rajuk is also violating the 'protection of low-lying land' law of the country," an official pointed out.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Sirajganj

Corrigendum to Tender Notice

No: -45(S)/2000-2001 Eng

The tenders for Gr. No. (1): -Construction of boundary wall rest portion with barbed wire fencing all over the old and proposed new boundary wall in connection with the 54 conversion of Shishu Sadan to Shishu Paribar in Bangladesh one at Sirajganj, which was invited vide this office Memo No. 308/W E Dt. 26-02-2001 & receiving date of which was on 04-04-2001 is hereby stopped due to unavoidable circumstance.

DFP-8598-1/4
G-646

Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Sirajganj

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