

# WEATHER

## TODAY

### Dry weather likely

**UNB, Dhaka**

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins and coastal belt and light fog elsewhere over the country during early morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, it added.

Country's highest temperature 27.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna, Jessore and Sitakunda and the lowest 8.2 degree at Srimangol.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.47 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.38 am.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	24.7	13.5	59	39
Chittagong	26.5	13.5	88	66
Rajshahi	26.2	10.2	76	46
Khulna	27.0	11.0	81	58
Barisal	26.0	10.4	78	80
Sylhet	25.6	11.5	93	60
Cox's Bazar	26.2	14.8	59	62

# DHAKA

## TODAY

### Bijoya reunion

Supreme Court Ainjebe Bijoya Punamiani Parishad will organise Bijoya Reunion with Chief Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Supreme Court Bar Auditorium. Time: 4.30pm.

### CD launching

Bengal Foundation will launch a CD titled 'Ekono Otheni Chand' containing the songs of Nazrul Islam vocalised by Nilufar Yasmeen. Venue: Bengal Shipilay, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm.

### International workshop

A five-day international workshop on 'Maximising Efficiency in Micro-Finance' organised by ASHA and Shakti Foundation in collaboration with Women's World Banking, New York will begin. Venue: BRAC Centre, Mohakhali.

### Film show

Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen two Best Film Award winning films from Berlin film festival 'The Thin Red Line' (1999) by Terence Malik and 'The Bait' (1995) by Bertrand Tavernier. Venue: Goethe Institute, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.30pm. and 7.30pm respectively.

### Drama

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi will stage a drama titled 'The freedom of the City' written by Bryan Frail. Venue: Mahila Samity Mancha. Time: 6.30pm.

### Meeting

An extended meeting of Re-union Celebration Committee of Matijheel Govt. Boys School will be held. Venue: Teachers Room. Time: 6.30pm.

### Rotary meeting

Regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club

### Dialogue

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tives in the committees, the opposition chief whip replied in positive.

To a proposal by the LGRD minister about giving the post of the Deputy Speaker to the opposition, Shaid termed it a futile one as the government has already filled the post and so far no such post was created. He requested the ruling party leader to refrain from such practice which mislead the nation.

"None can get co-operation from the opposition by exploiting it," he added.

He also alleged that his office (office of the of the opposition chief whip) was not yet equipped with staffs and other logistic supports.

### Plight of pilgrims

**FROM PAGE 1**

The CAAB has asked the AB to furnish all documents required for landing in Saudi Arabia and over-flight permission from India before allowing the Tri-Star to take off.

The company gave a cheque of over Tk 2 crore to the religious ministry for the money to be refunded to various travel agents so that they could arrange flights for the stranded hajis on various airlines. But the cheque bounced for having insufficient fund in the account, ministry sources said.

The ministry held a meeting yesterday with travel agents and officials concerned looking after the Hajj pilgrimage this year.

Khawja Abdur Rahman, secretary of the religious affairs ministry, urged the travel agents, who had bought tickets from the AB, to arrange flights for the stranded passengers on other airlines.

But the agents told the secretary that they are unable to get refund of the money given to the AB. The secretary assured them that the government would do 'the needful' to press the private company into refunding the money.

The agencies were informed that the government has requested foreign airlines like the Saudia, the Emirates, the Gulf and the Qatar Airways to arrange flights for the stranded pilgrims booked on the AB.

Saudia has already offered 200 seats on February 6 and 7, source said.

Meantime, Chairman of AB Shahjalal Majumder was not available for comments as, according to company employees, he was in ZIA to hold meetings with CAAB officials.

State minister for Civil Aviation Mir Nasiruddin was also not available last evening.

### Shipu murder

**FROM PAGE 12**

Metropolitan Hospital for treatment.

The witness told the court that he filed a murder case with Gulshan thana at about 10 am on May 25, 2000.

He further told that he went to the place of occurrence 20 minutes before filing of the case.

Owners and security guards of VAE Moitree Market place of occurrence were not shown as prosecution witnesses in the charge sheet, the witness added.

Of the accused, Shaikat, Sagar and Joy Hasib were present in the court while three others -- Jewel, Zobayer and Shafiu Alam -- have been absconding since the incident.

Iftekhar Ahmed Shipu, 38, a mobile phone trader at VAE market in the city's Banani area, was shot dead on the night of May 24, 2000.

Advocate Mahbub Ahmed and Shamim Ahsan appeared for the accused.

### Shazneen case

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Shaniram, Badal, Minu and Parvin were produced before the court during the hearing. Advocate ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul, Mahbub Ahmed and Sheikh Baharul Islam appeared for the state while Advocate Mohammad Ali, and MA Kamrul Hasan Khan Aslam for the accused.

The murder case, pending with the First Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, was earlier stayed by an order of the Supreme Court. The order will remain valid till disposal of the rape case.

### Tremor

**FROM PAGE 12**

ings in an industrial enterprise zone collapsed.

"Unfortunately there are 15 confirmed deaths in Sultandagi and five in Cay," Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit told reporters before leaving to tour the devastated province of around one million people 250km southwest of Ankara.

Reports of injuries and collapsed buildings were still coming in, but officials, accustomed to the earthquakes Turkey has long suffered, said they had the situation under control.

### Donors

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programme is to ensure more efficiency in the healthcare system. The programme was adopted as per recommendations of a high-level committee on organisation and management.

Under the programme, more than 60 per cent of the budget must be spent on Essential Package Services (ESP) through community clinics being built for every 6,000 people at the union level.

The Social Service Directorate of the Social Welfare Ministry organised the function at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

The Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed, Social Welfare Secretary Mohammad Rafiqul Alam and Mohammad Saifuzzaman, DG of the Social Service Directorate, also spoke on the occasion.

### US to attack

**FROM PAGE 12**

International Atomic Energy Agency.

Yesterday's commentary said using the term 'axis of evil' gave the wrong impression the three countries had formed an alliance.

"Using the word 'axis' makes people think of the powerful military alliance formed by fascist Germany, Italy and Japan, which turned the world upside down with their atrocities,"

It aid Iran, Iraq and North Korea did have a few things in common in that they all differ with the United States on policy and value systems, and that all three of them had unfriendly relations with the world's mightiest military power.

Last week, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman berated Bush for his use of such strong language in international diplomacy and said all countries should be treated equally.

"The Chinese side does not advocate using this kind of language in international relations," Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan told a news conference.

### Graft case

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cases were filed on December 11, including two against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, six more cases were filed on January 9 and one case was filed on January 12.

Both Mosharraf and Jagannath were also accused in one of the 20 cases filed earlier.

BAC Inspector Rashedur Reza alleged in the case filed yesterday that the accused persons were involved in tender bid manipulation to favour a certain bidder for setting up the independence monument.

Instead of awarding the contract to the lowest bidder, the accused persons awarded it to Concord Group at a higher cost. As a result, the government incurred a loss of Tk 2.872 crore.

The co-accused in the case are-former chief engineer of public works department AKM Mukit Rahman, additional chief engineer AKM Shahiduzzaman, Concord Group Chairman SM Kamaluddin, additional chief engineer Badre Idris and executive engineer Mosharraf Hossain.

BAC sources said more cases are being prepared while papers for some have been sent to the Prime Minister's Office for approval.



A colourful procession paraded down the city streets yesterday to mark the World Leprosy Day 2002.

## 'Educate, employ handicapped to expedite nat'l progress'

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said the pace of national development could be accelerated through proper education, training and employment opportunity for the handicapped, since the creative potential is latent in many of them.

She cited names of some world-famous personalities who have done great tasks despite being handicapped. Among the prodigies are physicist Stephen Hawking, wheelchair-bound, and Helen Keller and poet Homer, both visually impaired, and scientist Thomas Alva Edison and musician Beethoven, both deaf.

"Progress can be expedited through integration of the handicapped into national development," she said addressing a function organised to give certificates and grants to the physically handicapped persons who had completed vocational training.

One hundred and forty-nine handicapped people, particularly young boys, completed courses on mechanical workshop, poultry farming and bamboo-and-cane works, woodworks and tailoring at the Tongi Vocational Training and Rehabilitation Centre. They were given Tk 4,000 each as grants along with a certificate.

Social Service Directorate of the Social Welfare Ministry organised the function at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

The Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed, Social Welfare Secretary Mohammad Rafiqul Alam and Mohammad Saifuzzaman, DG of the Social Service Directorate, also spoke on the occasion.

Saidur Rahman, trainer of the deaf and dumb of the National Social Service Academy, interpreted the speech of the prime minister and other guests to the tongue-tied persons.

Referring to those who have become disabled due to accident, illness or maltreatment the prime minister said society should help them live with dignity.

According to the World Health Organisation, ten per cent of the people are handicapped in one way or the other, which means more than ten million people in Bangladesh are handicapped.

"Rather than treat this huge population as a burden we should rear them as a workforce through proper medicare and training," the prime minister stressed.

She mentioned that the government has a plan to build the handicapped as resources, and programmes had been chalked out to create employment opportunities.

Khaleda urged the non-governmental organisations and the affluent to come forward to supplement government efforts for rehabilitation of the impaired population.

She mentioned that the constitution clearly ensured equal rights and social security for all. She also said the UN Charter clearly stated education, training, medicare, rehabilitation, employment and recreation of all handicapped children and Bangladesh had signed the charter as a pledge to ensure all.

The prime minister said the present government making efforts as pledged in the Beijing ESCAP Conference which pronounced formulation of a national policy for the handicapped and their equal

participation, opportunity and rights.

Lauding the role of the vocational training and rehabilitation centre for the handicapped under Social Welfare Directorate, Khaleda said, "I'm happy to know that a plastic industry unit named 'Moitree Shikkha' has been set up at this centre."

She reminded all of the ten per cent quota in government services for the handicapped and orphans.

### PSA bill

**FROM PAGE 1**

black one. But the BNP-led coalition government continued using the PSA and has filed over 300 cases under it, mainly against its political opponents, since it assumed office nearly four months ago.

In line with the proposed bill, the coalition government recently initiated a process of withdrawing all cases filed under the PSA with 'political motive'.

At present, about 15,000 people are accused in nearly 2,500 cases under the PSA.

Meanwhile, Chief Whip of the Opposition Abdus Shahid accused the government of attempting to make political gains from the PSA issue. "On the one hand, they are opposing the law and on the other, using it against their political opponents" he told reporters soon after the bill for repeal of the PSA was tabled in the House. He claimed that crimes decreased drastically after the law came into force.

## AL files writ against white paper

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and former education minister ASHK Sadique filed the writ.

Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud and former law minister Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru pleaded on behalf of the petitioners seeking a rule against publication of the white paper.

The court wanted to hear the submission of the Attorney General on the issue and it fixed today as the date for hearing the submission. Following his submission, the High Court might issue an order on the writ today.

Barrister Rokonuddin on behalf of the petitioner told the court that the government did not have the authority to publish a white paper on the alleged corruption of former PM and ministers before filing cases against them under the existing laws.

He argued that accusing someone of corruption through white paper before trial is unlawful in that

the persons concerned might be influenced by the report. "It's a violation of a citizen's fundamental rights, which are protected by the constitution under articles 27 and 31," he added.

He further noted that appointment of a former bureaucrat as chief consultant of a committee for publication of a government white paper has no legal sanction. Had it been necessary, the government could have had formed a judicial investigation commission for the purpose, he added.

He also termed inclusion of those allegations in the white paper against which the Bureau of Anti-Corruption already filed regular cases as an unauthorised act of the government.

On January 23, the BNP-led four party alliance government released the white paper containing some 40 cases of irregularities, graft and abuse of power allegedly committed during the rule of the AL govern-

ment. This was the first-ever release of a white paper on graft and other irregularities allegedly committed by a government in Bangladesh.

Former PM Sheikh Hasina and almost all the senior ministers of her cabinet were allegedly found to have been involved in 'irregularities and financial mismanagement' committed between 1996 and 2001.

Mohammad Nasim, Amir Hossain Amu, Shah AMS Kibria, ASHK Sadique, Abdur Razzak, Prof. Rafiqul Islam, Mosharraf Hossain, Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and Moulana Nurul Islam are among those linked to the alleged graft and irregularities.

Prepared by a cell of four consultants, the 793-page white paper was published in two volumes in the first phase, two days before the end of the BNP-led coalition government's 100-day programmes.

## Seven years of graft gulps

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core, foreign affairs Tk 37 crore and law and justice Tk 196 crore in misappropriation records.

The CAG office also completed the audit of accounts of 14 ministries for the just concluded financial year (2000-2001).

Those ministries were involved in misappropriation of Tk 1,598 crore in the year.

During the meeting at the Bangabhaban yesterday morning the president appreciated the efforts initiated by the auditor-general and stressed the necessity of sustainability of the reform measures and the need for accountability and transparency, the sources said.

On the other hand, the audit reports of all ministries and agencies up to 1999-2000 have been fully updated.

Since the public accounts committee of the parliament is the ultimate destination of all audit reports, the auditor general laid emphasis on formation of a new committee as early as possible.

The previous committees recovered Tk 2,359 crore following the audit objections.

The auditor-general who will

retire on February 5 made a farewell call on the president.

The 12 special audits carried out on various government offices revealed misappropriation and financial irregularities of more than Tk 575.60 crore.

The highest amount of misappropriation in the special report was Tk 196.07 crore in the nine sub-registry offices in four cities under the Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

Tk 170.70 crore irregularities were detected in the HPSP project under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 1998-99.

The reports also observed a number of causes for misappropriation and financial irregularities in the ministries.

They include deficit-stocking of food, non-submission of government revenues and surplus funds for development projects, non-collection of overdue money from agents, misappropriation of housing loans, withdrawal of excess salaries and allowances and over-expenditure.

legally by the Pintu faction. All activities of the JCD central body were suspended on November 17 last year.

Despite the suspension, Pintu and his associates reportedly went on to exact massive amounts of toll and grab tender documents among other unlawful activities. Following newspaper reports on the reign of terror unleashed at the behest of the ruling party stalwart, police arrested him on December 26 last year on various criminal charges. Pintu was however released on bail on January 24.

Although according to a BNP press release, Pintu's termination came following a petition by him to that effect, party sources said the decision was part of a drive to root out party leaders and activists involved in terrorism, extortion and other criminal activities.

Sources said BNP has already prepared a list of some 50 party men involved in terrorism. They said the list will continue to be updated, and legal and organisational action will be taken against those identified as terrorists.

BNP sources said the party after coming to power had warned leaders of different units of BNP and its different front organisations to

## 'White Panel' sweeps DU dean polls

DU CORRESPONDENT

The 'White Panel' backed by the ruling BNP and Jamaat bagged six dean posts out of seven at the Dhaka University in yesterday's election while the Awami League-backed 'Blue Panel' got only one post.

Prof. Kazi Shahidullah was elected dean of the arts faculty beating Prof. Sadrul Amin of the White Panel. They got 116 and 80 votes respectively.

Prof. Yusuf Haider of the White Panel was elected dean of the science faculty, bagging 101 votes while his rival Blue Panel candidate Prof. RIM Aminur Rashid got 76 votes.

In business administration faculty, Prof. Abul Kalam Azad of the White Panel got 76 votes and his rival Prof. M. Mahfuzur Rahman of the Blue Panel got 40 votes.

Prof. Mohammad Asaduzzaman

(64 votes) of the White Panel was elected dean of the social science faculty beating Prof. Gias Uddin Mollah (37 votes) of the Blue Panel.

Prof. Abul Bashar of the White Panel defeated Prof. Z.N Nawsher Ali Khan of the Blue Panel for the post of dean of the Biological Science. Prof. Bashar got 80 votes while Prof. Nawsher Ali Khan got 58 votes.

White panel candidate Dr Taslima Mansoor of the law faculty beat her rival Blue Panel candidate Prof. Mizanur Rahman by one vote only. She got 11 votes.

White Panel candidate Prof. Chowdhury Mahmudul Hasan was elected dean of the pharmacy faculty beating Blue Panel candidate Prof. Biddiut Kanti Datta.

Prof. Hasan bagged 15 votes while Prof. Datta got nine votes only.

The election was held at the teachers lounge of the TSC.

## Dhaka urges UN

**FROM PAGE 12**

brigadiers, from Bangladesh," Foreign Minister M Moshed Khan said here on Saturday.

Morshed who is here for the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group meeting was talking to Bangladesh journalists at Striford Community Centre in East London.

Awami League regime, Morshed said Awami League should shun its attitude and cooperate with the government. "We will not repeat the mistake if we ever return to the opposition."

### Hasina

**FROM PAGE 12**

parliament were also present.

In her speech, Sheikh Hasina said the history of Bangladesh is the history of Chhatra League that played a heroic role in all the movements since its inception in 1948 even before the founding of Awami League.

Referring to the publication of White Paper, Hasina said she saved millions of dollars for the country buying Mig-29 jets, but the incumbent government saw corruption there. "Those who sell election nomination against cash bribes at Hava Bhaban are vowing now against corruption," Hasina exclaimed.

Hasina said the government in its first 100-day span borrowed Tk 3800 crore from bank and cut down Tk 2000 crore from the ADP. "People want to know where this huge money has gone," Hasina said claiming that the people should know about how the money was misappropriated and looted.

## PM: Curb terrorism

**FROM PAGE 1**

attend the parliament sittings on time. She also suggested to the party lawmakers to visit their respective constituencies during the recess or after the close of the parliament session.

The meeting that lasted for more than 40 minutes also discussed the issue of opposition's parliament boycott and the ruling party's proposal to the opposition for a dialogue. But the meeting ended without any concrete decision about bringing the opposition to parliament, meeting sources said. It also discussed the recent price hike, terrorism and disturbances at educational institutions.

Emerging from the meeting, the Prime Minister, who is also the Leader of the House, replied to some of the queries by newsmen.

"We want the opposition to play their due part in the House," Khaleda told the newsmen, adding that the opposition lawmakers will be given the maximum possible time to speak in the House.

As to whether the ruling party would serve any formal letter inviting the main opposition Awami League to attend the House proceedings, Khaleda avoided a reply

as she left in a hurry.

Later, LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan while briefing newsmen said that nothing special came up in the meeting as it was a regular pre-session meeting of the party. This was the second meeting of the BNPP.

To a question, the minister who is also secretary general of the ruling BNP, mentioned about his initiatives to bring the boycotting main opposition to the House, saying that the opposition could say whatever they wished in the parliament. "And we would face them politically."

Apart from Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, others who spoke at the meeting are Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Syed Iskander, Rustum Ali Farazi, Mosharraf Hossain Mongu and Dr Mohammad Ali.

According to meeting sources, the Leader of the House also asked her parliament colleagues to highlight the achievements of the 100-day programmes of the BNP-led coalition government during their speech on the motion of thanks on the President's address.

## Pintu removed

**FROM PAGE 12**

allegedly by the Pintu faction. All activities of the JCD central body were suspended on November 17 last year.

Despite the suspension, Pintu and his associates reportedly went on to exact massive amounts of toll and grab tender documents among other unlawful activities. Following newspaper reports on the reign of terror unleashed at the behest of the ruling party stalwart, police arrested him on December 26 last year on various criminal charges. Pintu was however released on bail on January 24.

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Sources said BNP has already prepared a list of some 50 party men involved in terrorism. They said the list will continue to be updated, and legal and organisational action will be taken against those identified as terrorists.

BNP sources said the party after coming to power had warned leaders of different units of BNP and its different front organisations to

refrain from any criminal activities, but many, including Pintu did not heed the warning.

As a result, the government arrested Pintu and decided to soon arrest some more party leaders and activists having connection with terrorism.

Meanwhile, the press release regarding Pintu's termination said that Pintu had applied to party chief Khaleda Zia for relieving him from the post so that he, as an MP, could give more time to the people of his constituency.

The BNP Chairperson has accepted the application and advised him to devote himself for the development of his constituency and the welfare of its people, the release added.

### Mob

**FROM PAGE 1**

Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

When contacted, Dhanmandi police said one of the muggers died as he caught fire while exploding crackers. The rest three beaten by a mob was rescued by them. Police took them to the DMCH and arrested them after they were treated.