

# 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 Srimangal.

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 Aijneebi Bijoya Punarmilani 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 'Ekhone Otheni Chand' containing the songs of Nazrul Islam vocalised by Nilufar Yasmeen. Venue: Bengal Shilpajay, 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, Mohakali.

## 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 Bafta' (1995) by Bertrand Tavernier. Venue: Goethe Institute, Dhamondi. Time: 4:30pm and 7:30pm respectively.

## Drama

Bangladesh Uidchi 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

of Dhaka North will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon Time: 6:00pm.

## BIIT discussion

A discussion meeting of the Bangladesh Institute of Islamic Thought Forum for Interdisciplinary Studies will be held. Venue: BIIT conference room, 145, Green Road. Time: 6:15pm.

## Jote meting

A meeting of the representatives of Sammiti Sangskritik Jote will be held in connection with the preparations of Amar Ekushey programme. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 5:00pm.

## Birth anniversary

Ramkrishna Moth and Ramkrishna Mission will organise a function to commemorate the 140th birth anniversary of Swami Bibekananda. Venue: Ramkrishna Mission premises.

## AL meeting

A meeting of City and Nagar Awami League will be held. Venue: AL Office, 23, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 5:00pm.

## DHAKA TOMORROW

### Seminar

A seminar on 'Higher Education in Bangladesh: Role of Private Universities' will be held with Education Minister Dr. M. Osman Faruk as chief guest. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 11:00am.

### Freshers' reception

Multimedia Computer and Engineering Technology (MCET) will hold a fresher's reception and a seminar on the 'Application of Multimedia Development in Bangladesh'. Venue: MCET Auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

## Dialogue

FROM PAGE 12

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,

Shairi 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 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 hajjis 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.

Khwaja 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.

## 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 Shafiqul Alam -- have been absconding since the incident.

Ittekar 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

FROM PAGE 12

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

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## Donors

FROM PAGE 12

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 (EPS) through community clinics being built for every 6,000 people at the union level.

The ESP will focus on the healthcare of the poor, especially women and children.

The community clinics offering five basic services will replace the previous door-to-door services by the family planning department. The services include reproductive and child healthcare, communicable disease control and limited curative care.

## 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 said 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

FROM PAGE 1

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.

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



PHOTO: STAR

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

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.

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 Mujahid, Social Welfare Secretary Mohammad Rafiqul Alam and Mohammad Saifuzzaman, DG of the Social Service Directorate, also spoke on the occasion.

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 Shikha' has been set up at this centre."

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

The prime minister said 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.

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In line with the