



Thundershower likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowsers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Khulna, Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Noakhali and Comilla during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today.

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

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35 degree Celsius was recorded at Mongla and the lowest of 20.4 degree at Srimangal.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:17 pm today and rises at 5:44 am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.0	23.0	74	51
Chittagong	33.2	23.7	73	62
Rajshahi	33.5	23.2	80	64
Khulna	34.2	23.4	76	-
Barisal	33.6	27.4	79	69
Sylhet	30.0	21.1	70	66
Cox's Bazar	34.0	23.8	78	69

BPJA team meets President

A five-member team of the Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association (BPJA) called on President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday and discussed their professional hassles, says a press release.

The photo journalists made some proposals to solve their problems.

The proposals include stopping police repression on the photo journalists; allowing them to cover all national and state programmes; access to parliament, Bangabhaban, cantonment and the Prime Minister's Office for covering important programmes; including two photo journalists in the media team of the heads of state and government; and introducing Ekushey Padak and Independence Award for the photojournalists.

The President assured them that he will look into their problems.

The delegation members included Md Salahuddin, president of the association, Aftab Ahmed, Rafiqur Rahman, AKM Mohsin and Mir Ahmed Miru.



Hartal passes off

FROM PAGE 1 was observed against such a back-drop.

Zaman and advocate Iftekhar Saimul Chowdhury.

All motorised transports kept off the city roads. Only rickshaws plied freely. Air service and train communication were normal although number of passengers was less than normal.

Activities at Chittagong port were, however, disrupted greatly. Delivery of goods outside the port area remained fully stopped. Some loading and unloading work inside the jetties continued.

A section of leaders and activists of the ruling BNP brought out an anti-hartal procession in Bohadherhat area under Chandaon thana in the morning.

Sylhet Our Staff Correspondent in Sylhet reported that 20 people including four policemen were injured in a clash involving activists of ruling BNP, opposition Awami League and police at Jagannathpur upazila headquarters in Sunamganj district during the hartal hours.

Police said the clashes ensued when activists of AL and its front organisations brought out a procession and ransacked some offices to stop work.

Four of the injured, all of them Awami Juba League activists, were admitted to the upazila health complex.

Police arrested four Juba League activists during the clash.

Narayanganj Our correspondent in Narayanganj reported partial observance of the hartal in the river port town yesterday. Some buses plied on Narayanganj-Dhaka road and a small number of shops remained open. Educational institutions remained closed on the day. Adamji Jute Mills operated as usual.

Magura Police arrested three leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League including its Magura district unit president yesterday on charge of halting traffic movement on Magura-Dhaka highway.

They were produced before the district magistrate's court. The district unit president was granted bail while two others were sent to jail custody.

Gopalganj A UNB report says 10 people including three policemen were injured in clashes between police and pickets in Gopalganj. A police pick-up van was damaged during the clashes.

BCL body

FROM PAGE 12 Hasan Tuhi, Alak Bonik and Shah Mostafa Alamgir have been named organising secretaries of the student body.

The other officer bearers are, Abdul Alim (publicity secretary), Quamrul Hasan Khokon (office secretary), HM Masud Dulal (publication secretary), MA Momin Patwari (social welfare secretary), Tareq Uddin (library secretary), Mizanur Rahman Sajal (cultural secretary), Shahjahan Shishir (sports secretary), Anisur Rahman Litu (law secretary) and Masum Iqbal (information and technology secretary).

The committee also includes 10 assistant secretaries and 113 members.

Shahriar

FROM PAGE 12 For screening of the video cassettes in presence of the lawyers and the accused.

Shahriar Kabir was arrested at Zia International Airport on his return from Kolkata on November 22 last year.

Police also seized his passport and some video cassettes.

Later, a sedition case against Shahriar Kabir was filed with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka on December 8 last year.

DHAKA TODAY

World Health Day

The inaugural function of the World Health Day will be held with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Institution of Engineers auditorium. Time: 9.00am. Earlier a procession will be brought out from the National Press Club to the Institution of Engineers to mark the occasion.

Training

A week-long advanced training programme for Trainers, organised by the Business Development Services for Micro and Small Enterprises in cooperation with the German Technical Cooperation Agency, will begin. Venue: Civic Inn, Gulshan. Time: 9.00am.

Photo exhibition

The inaugural function of a photo exhibition titled 'After September 11: Images from Ground Zero' sponsored by the American Centre of the US Embassy in Dhaka will be held. The photographs were taken from the World Trade Centre Site. Venue: DRIK Gallery, H-58, R-15A, Dhamondi R/A. Time: 6.30pm. The exhibition will remain open till April 20 from 3.00pm to 8.00pm daily.

Workshop

A two-day workshop on retraining of 2-stroke auto rickshaw drivers and mechanics to 4-stroke auto rickshaw technology, organised by NOAH Environment Friendly Transport, will begin. Venue: 771, Kakrail, Asif Mansion. Time: 9.30am.

Photo exhibition

Alliance Francaise organises a photo exhibition titled 'The changing faces of Shariakandi: 1972-2002' with State Minister for Commerce Md. Borkat Ullah Bhui as chief guest. Venue: Alliance Francaise Gallery. Time: 6.30pm. The exhibition will remain open till April 9 from 9.00am to 12.00am and from 5.00pm to 8.00pm.

Workshop

The opening session of the National Consultation Workshop on Combating Trafficking of Women and Children in South Asia, organised by the International Organisation for Migration, will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 9.30am.

Seminar

Bangladesh Renewable Energy Association organises a seminar on 'How

Trade talks tomorrow

FROM PAGE 1 authorities applied the 'non-cooperation' clause against the Bangladesh to impose the additional duty.

Against this backdrop, two top chamber the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) yesterday urged the Indian government to accept Bangladesh's demands.

"The trade and industry feel that such non-tariff and para-tariff imposition are not only unfortunate in the sense that Bangladesh is an important market for India to the extent of nearly US\$ 2 billion, but it is against the spirit of SAARC regional cooperation," said MCCI President Tapan Chowdhury and DCCI President Md. Tajul Rahman in a joint statement.

However, the two chambers hoped that both the countries would genuinely endeavour to find some solutions to the serious imbalance of trade against Bangladesh.

Earlier, the scheduled commerce secretary-level meeting was postponed twice, once in December last and then again in January this year.

The December meeting was postponed at the last moment as the Indian side declined to attend it due to differences of opinion over the

meeting agenda. And the last time, the Indian side did not show any specific reason for not being able to attend the meeting.

Health Day

FROM PAGE 1 efficiency of health services and make them easily accessible.

"We have attached importance to develop the health sector by increasing financial allocation," she said.

The government has taken up elaborate programmes to observe the day.

A colourful procession will be brought out from the Jatiya Press Club at 8 am. It will terminate at the Engineers' Institution after parading the main thoroughfares.

Film actors and actresses will take part in a charity football match at Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium at 4.30 pm.

Other programmes of the day include band show, cultural programme, display by scouts and boybuilding show.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain will attend the programmes as chief guest, said an official handout.

Cloning

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who also chaired the UK Royal Society's working group on therapeutic cloning, told the magazine that such a pregnancy would be "grossly irresponsible" given the current state of knowledge, even aside from any ethical issues."

Antinori claims to be able to screen the embryos to reduce the risk of abnormalities but Gardner said, "There's no way you can do it - you could only spot gross changes in chromosomes or in the number of chromosomes." There can be single gene defects, he added, and problems with imprinting, which can lead to cancer as well as malformations.

"The chance of a live birth of a normal child is very hard to assess," said Gardner. Studies on other mammals, including sheep, cows, mice and goats, have had limited but variable success, he noted, and there is a very high rate of embryo loss and early death.

Richard Nicholson, editor of the UK-based Bulletin of Medical Ethics, told New Scientist that the report of the pregnancy strengthens the need for international legislation to ban reproductive cloning.

Although the practice is banned in some countries, such as the UK, it is still legal in many - including the US, where the Senate is currently debating cloning legislation.

"We need an international law to prevent mavericks like Antinori doing something that the vast majority of the public and responsible scientists say they do not want to have done," Nicholson said.

Padma Bridge

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training centre, which in course of time may be upgraded to an university.

The ADB official also showed interest in poverty alleviation programmes and self-employment projects, particularly rearing of the world famous black goat.

Shibuichi expressed his satisfaction at the lessening of traffic congestion and environment pollution in the capital following government measures.

Referring to the PM's interest in CNG conversion of vehicles, the ADB official said the bank would provide assistance in setting up CNG filling stations along Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

The prime minister in this regard sought assistance in setting up similar stations on the highway connecting Dhaka with North Bengal.

Saifur

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As a case in point, Saifur said the Awami League government took up an integrated health programme with an outlay of Tk 15,000 crore. But the project did not have the approval of the ECNEC and lacked transparency at every level.

"A former bureaucrat, who used to receive Tk 20,000 a month as a secretary, was included in the project with a Tk 3 lakh per month salary. Thus, he received several crore taka from the health project and later, spent the money on his election campaign," Saifur mentioned.

Besides, he alleged that an assistant personal secretary of former finance minister SAMS Kibria, who used to receive Tk 14,000 as monthly salary, was also transferred to another project with a Tk 1.75 lakh monthly salary. He also mentioned two other persons, close to the Awami League government, who received huge amounts from different government projects.

Speaking at the function, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said the government is now preparing a poverty reduction strategy programme to be considered as part of the next five-year plan.

"We are now in a vicious cycle and the reasons are all known to us," she said. "The country has no option but to explore the potentials of export-oriented industries for economic development," the prime minister said.

Bush told Britain's ITV television: "My worry is that Yasser Arafat can't perform. He has let his people down, and there are others in the region who can lead." Bush said he had no plans to see Arafat but did

Death of residential areas

FROM PAGE 1

and lack of concern of the authorities, particularly regarding building height restrictions. About 20 per cent of the buildings in the area have been constructed 'violating the height restriction of six storeys', thanks to unscrupulous Rajuk.

Within the four commercial fringes of Dhamondi, shopping malls have been built with or without any approach bay or proper parking facilities. One of those - Raja Plaza - an up market shopping mall, has been allowed to operate on the intersection of Mirpur Road and Sheikh Kamal Swarani in blatant violation of the Building Construction Rules, 1996. On the same parade towards New Market, similar malls have been built without the required approach bays or parking facilities. As a result, any vehicle trying to enter a mall halts all traffic on the main road. The only initiative taken by the businessmen is to engage some uniformed stick-wielding men to prevent rickshaws from stopping. The chaos is at its peak on occasions like eid and puja.

According to sources in the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, on October 1, 1985, the government decided to declare both sides of the Mirpur Road along Dhamondi a commercial area. As per the decision, the plot owners could build commercial structures on 20 feet of their plots, facing the main road, subject to payment of a conversion fee of Tk 15 lakh for each plot. This was done to rid the interior of Dhamondi residential area of illegal commercial activities. The two then influenced the authorities to change the law altogether.

"With Dhamondi's status changing in 1996, Rajuk grabbed the opportunity of using Dhamondi as example and declared many roads in Gulshan, Banani, Uttara and other residential areas of the city commercial areas," the source noted.

General Secretary of the Institute of Architects ASM Ismail told The Daily Star that to save the character of the city's residential areas, land use must be clearly defined.

"Unless land use is specified, we cannot control such invasions and protect the city from rapid degradation," he said.

Jubo Dal men

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oration of her condition.

Father of the victim told this correspondent that he avoided government hospital fearing harassment. He alleged that the miscreants were threatening to withdraw the case filed by him on March 31 accusing the four.

Proposed JS bill

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secretariat. A person who has been expelled by the parliament will also be considered as a stranger.

Although Article 39 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of thought and conscience, and of speech, the proposed law considers publication of reports about documents, statements or debates of a parliamentary committee which have been prepared for presentation in the House as a punishable offence