



Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions today.

Moderately heavy falls may also occur at places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions during this period, Met office said.

Country's highest temperature 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Srimongal yesterday and the lowest 23.0 degree Celsius at Faridpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6.50 pm today and rises at 5:13 am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest 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	30.6	26.3	79	83
Chittagong	31.4	24.8	79	80
Rajshahi	30.0	26.0	80	80
Khulna	30.0	24.6	98	97
Barisal	30.5	26.0	83	85
Sylhet	33.2	25.3	79	73
Cox's Bazar	29.5	24.5	89	95

Earth faces

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Even though the findings revealed that human use of resources was far outstripping Earth's supply, it stopped short of determining how long the process could continue without detrimental consequences.

"Like any responsible business that keeps track of spending and income to protect financial assets, we need ecological accounts to protect our natural assets," Wackernagel said. "And if we don't ... we will prepare for ecological bankruptcy."

Wackernagel said the study's results could not be used to gauge the impact of new technologies and how they affect the environment.

The use of an alternative technology, such as one that produces renewable energy or replaces natural biological processes, could allow society to live better without increasing consumption, he said.

Governments could also determine the impact consumers and businesses were having on depleting area resources and evaluate potential ways to reduce consumption, Wackernagel said.

Jamuna Group

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He has been asked to be present at the SB office today also for further interrogation. He is likely to submit written answers to some questions today, sources said.

According to the general diary (GD) filed with Ramna Police Station by the minister, Babul verbally abused Babar and threatened to kill him after he (Babar) opposed issuance of the liquor production licence to Jamuna Group and was instrumental to cancellation of it.

The finance and commerce ministries and their different departments have also started investigations regarding the businesses of Jamuna Group.

Military exercise

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Thirty-six soldiers of Bangladesh army and 19 of the 3rd US Marine Expeditionary Force are working together to build houses for six families. Funds for the house construction project is provided by Habitat International, a US NGO, the sources said.

Default loan

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ence of the committee, it will also look into the process of sanctioning running capital and charging of interest, the availability of loans and the reasons for loans getting defaulted.

The committee will also set the conditions for rescheduling of loans and the rule for loan write-off. The past Awami League government had passed a law for loan write-off. But the banks could not follow it as they were not given any directives or guidelines.

It will also review strategy for reforming the nationalised commercial banks and make suggestions accordingly.

The last such committee was set up in 1998 with Dr Mahmud at the helm. It submitted its final report in December 1999, which suggested upgrading supervision of the central bank and legal reforms.

According to sources, almost all the suggestions about the supervision improvement were implemented. However, there remains a lot to do about legal reforms including amendments to the Bangladesh Bank Order and Bank Nationalisation Order.

Arafat, Bush

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emergence of a Palestinian state with temporary undefined borders and continue till 10:00pm. On the concluding day, it will remain open for 12 hours beginning at 10:00am.

The entrance fee has been fixed at Tk 20. The event is sponsored by Citycell, Pepsi, Igloo, Saudi Arabian Airlines, Fruit Kick, Fantasy Kingdom and the Office and Home Solution.

Bush also urged Israel to allow the Palestinian economy to develop and as violence subsides permit "innocent Palestinians to resume work and normal life."

While he reiterated that UN resolutions 242 and 338 remained the basis for a global settlement, he did not address the most contentious issues, such as the final borders of the future Palestinian state, the final status of Jerusalem or the fate of the 3.7 million Palestinian refugees.

He said that "with intensive effort by all of us," a final Middle East peace "could be reached within three years from now."

But ignoring the wishes of his European allies, Bush made no mention of mechanisms to revive the stalled peace negotiations.

He said he had asked US Secretary of State Colin Powell to "work intensively" with leaders in the region and elsewhere to achieve Palestinian reforms, but omitted any mention of a proposed international conference.

He also said nothing about a new Powell trip to the Middle East to rally support for his new strategy, which appears to signal a victory for the hawks in his administration.

Akbar clarifies Danish grant withdrawal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain yesterday said that a grant of Tk 268 crore was recently withdrawn from the shipping sector, as the Danish government did not agree to Bangladesh's plea for repairing ro-ro ferries through open tender-bidding.

In a statement on the much-talked-about issue in parliament, the minister further said that "we wanted the repairs to be carried out in Bangladesh but they (Danes) did not agree to that also."

He discussed separate components of the programme under Danish grants and said the grants were initially made available for repair of ten ro-ro ferries, formulating a shipping policy, and also for river dredging.

"It was then said tender for ferry repair would be floated in Denmark and the work would be carried out there too. We insisted on open bidding and repairs in Bangladesh. Then, they (Denmark) said they would withdraw the grants," Akbar said.

About the Tk 92 crore dredging component, the minister claimed that the project formulated during the period of the Awami League (AL) government completely unnecessarily chose a channel to dredge.

He quoted a press report as saying that the head of the Danish

Suranjit

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shall raise substantially one definite issue (ii) it shall not contain arguments, inferences, ironical expressions, imputations or defamatory statements (iii) it shall not refer to the conduct or character of persons, except in their public capacity (iv) it shall be restricted to a matter of recent occurrence (v) it shall not raise a question of privilege (vi) it shall not revive discussion of a matter which has been discussed in the same session (vii) it shall not anticipate discussion of a matter which is likely to be discussed in the same session, and (viii) it shall not relate to any matter which is under adjudication by a court of law having jurisdiction in any part of Bangladesh.

But coach Rudi Voller can not be happy at what he saw from a team that faces either Brazil or Turkey for the most glittering prize in football.

The German aerial attack failed to shake the Korean defence. Klose had a chance in the 63rd minute from a quick center from Ballack but, unsettled by Lee Ming-Sung, who came on for an exhausted Choi Jin-Cheul early in the second half, his header lacked any power and Lee had no trouble plucking it out of the air.

A minute later there was a chance for Ahn Jung-Hwan, who was sent on in the 54th minute by Dutch coach Guus Hiddink, when he twisted his way past a slow German defence but his shot spun hide and wide.

Voller, visibly frustrated on the touchline by his forwards inability to force a save from Lee, pulled off Klose and replaced him by Monaco striker Oliver Bierhoff.

As the match wore on the Koreans continued to rattle the

Germany crack ROK open

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dreams of a dramatic last gasp equaliser to take the match into extra time vanished when Park Ji-Sung squandered the opportunity, blasting over the bar high and wide.

When the final whistle blew Germany burst into celebration while the Korean team collapsed on the pitch - exhausted and bitterly disappointed their stunning World Cup run had come to an end.

But the famed Red Devils roared out their approval as the Korean team, finally walked slowly up and down the pitch, applauding the fanatical fans.

The Red Devils had made a mockery of FIFA's ticketing policy of only giving each country eight per cent of the 60,000 plus tickets available.

Over 50,000 of the crowd were decked out in Korean red.

But none of the Koreans could complain about the result. The Germans took their one vital chance while South Korea couldn't.

Kibria: Tax burden

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essentials like milk products, fish and fruits.

"The revenue collection target is not realistic at all. Unless you revise it, you'll land up in failure. Failure to check government expenditures would lead to increased public sector borrowing, which in turn would result in inflation," Kibria, who had prepared six budgets during the tenure of the previous AL government, cautioned his successor.

In his 58-minute deliberation, criticisms of different fiscal measures apart, the former finance minister also offered an olive branch to his successor saying "financial reforms should go on. The finance minister (Saifur) has said he is facing obstacles within the party in carrying forward reform measures. My full sympathy is with him (Saifur). Our party will help him."

"We are worried that the finance minister is facing hindrances from his own party regarding reforms."

In this regard Kibria said that during the AL rule a number of reforms were implemented. He referred to the financial sector reforms, power sector reforms to allow private and foreign investment and the move to divest the national flag carrier, Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

Kibria came down heavily on the finance minister for what he said insulting millions of impoverished farmers by denying the fact that the country had achieved food autarky.

FM invited to Myanmar

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and Communications Minister Nazmul Huda have been invited to visit Myanmar 'at their earliest convenient time' for 'important discussions'.

The foreign minister is expected to discuss all bilateral issues for strengthening relations with Myanmar.

The communications minister will have discussions on 'facilitation process' for starting the work on the Dhaka-Bangkok highway through Myanmar.

Foreign Secretary Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury yesterday said the two ministers will fix the dates through consultations with their Myanmar counterparts.

The foreign secretary said that during his visit to Myanmar last week he had 'very productive' discussions on repatriation of the remaining Rohingya refugees, expansion of trade and other bilateral issues with his counterpart.

3 Bangladeshis

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more humane punishment."

This followed an appeal by Bangladesh's Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for a reprieve for the three men.

In January 2001, Kuwait's court of appeals sentenced the three to death, overturning a life sentence.

The Bangladeshis were convicted of breaking into a Kuwaiti home and raping and strangling a Sri Lankan maid before robbing the house and fleeing.

The hangings will reportedly be the first public executions in Kuwait for 20 years.

A scaffold had been built especially for the executions while "a rehearsal of the hangings was also carried out using three dummies" weighing the same as the Bangladeshis, said Arab Times.

Sri Lankan embassy sources in Kuwait told the newspaper last week that blood money had been received by the victim's relatives.

The daily also quoted a senior security official as saying the men's bodies would be left "for public viewing" 10 minutes after their execution, in order to set an example.

Kuwait has executed 19 people since the 1991 Gulf War.

PM tells secy-gen Prepare SAARC poverty profile before next summit

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday focussed on poverty alleviation as one of the fundamental priorities, for which the seven-nation SAARC should work.

"Poverty should get utmost importance in spite of all difficulties between any member countries of the SAARC", said Khaleda when visiting SAARC Secretary General QAMA Rahim called on her at her office.

The prime minister emphasised the need for creating a scope for regional energy network under SAARC and forming a regional or sub-regional grouping in the field of trade among SAARC countries.

Welcoming the prime minister's suggestions, Rahim said he would open consultations with other SAARC member countries to look into the scopes for working in trade and energy sectors.

It was QAMA Rahim's first official visit to Bangladesh and first meeting with the prime minister after his assumption of the forum's secretary-general.

Khaleda reiterated Bangladesh's support for the regional forum and wanted to know from the forum's chief executive about the progress of the poverty commission on SAARC countries.

Khaleda urged the SAARC

BSF kills 1

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village were trying to cross the border in the evening.

Hafizur was shot in the head and died on the spot while two others escaped unhurt.

BSF took away the body and handed over it to BDR after a flag meeting held yesterday.

Defacing public realm

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in haste, to make way for about 21 temporary tin sheds, presumably at a project cost of Tk one crore. These are to be constructed in the hilltop and other open spaces between buildings in and around the Court Building, without any concern for the people's right over these spaces.

Do we really need to construct these temporary sheds? Once built at great costs, how temporary will they be?

The magnificent Chittagong Court Building grounds have been systematically defaced over the years, particularly after our independence. The grounds, open to the public, have always attracted people who come here to enjoy the scenic beauty of the Karnaphuli River and its meeting grounds with the Bay of Bengal.

From the hilltop various types of vessels plying the waters can be seen - also the open countryside beyond the river and the distant hills.

Due to inattention and neglect of the authorities concerned, few visit what is left of this public space. The site area of the court has shrunk from its original 25 acres to about ten acres. Lower areas along the roads have been divided into plots for government buildings including a market. As there is no height restrictions on the high rise buildings, the historic Court Building is no longer visible from the roads. The proposed park on the northern valley, which once had a large water-body, has been encroached by hawkers many years ago. All around the hill slopes, makeshift sheds have been allowed to grow for various functions to support the daily needs of the court users.

Is defacing and confining public open space, the only option available to us? Couldn't the defacing of the Court Hill be prevented?

We understand that the reason for construction of the semi-pucca tin sheds is to relocate all the offices in the Court building, so that repair of the main court building can be undertaken. In reality, most repair work can be accomplished without the need for wholesale shifting of its offices. Portions of the open corridors on the first floor are the badly affected areas. These may be repaired without the need for shifting any offices either on the ground or first floor. With a well worked out construction schedule, most offices can remain undisturbed, while essential repair is in progress. However, offices on the third floor only need relocation, as this floor needs to be demolished. With some amount of co-ordination between government institutions this can be achieved. The presently vacant, old Bangladesh Bank building can accommodate the offices on the third floor of the Court Building. The costs involved in temporary relocation can thus be used for permanent repair work of the building.

Surely different government departments can come together when public interests are at stake and public needs are to be given

priority. Funds may be more meaningfully utilised and the need to disturb and deface the open public space would not arise. Rather, a part of the funds may be used to enhance the existing surrounding open spaces to benefit the city, as visitors still flock here to have a glimpse of the waterfront in the distance.

We hope to see the enhancement and enlargement of the public realm in our city instead of defacing them continuously. Whom can we make appeals to?

We make earnest request to the government, not to destroy our public open spaces even for temporary periods, and to give attention to this neglected aspect of our urban existence, so essential for human well being. We hope a new system of participatory planning is introduced where public debates are held and citizens are consulted of proposals and decisions that affect their lives, their city and their spaces.

Zarina Hossain is an Architect and Urban Planner

Sugandha

FROM PAGE 10

same way, we can attribute the blame to the former group of people as not having developed any civic responsibility. If today's Sugandha is like a concrete slum, then the painful question is why it has to happen so.

Sugandha merely crystallises what is evident in every other housing development area. Recently I was visiting a friend in Chandgaon B-Block. He is a mechanical engineer and owner of a bunch of garment factories. As he was proudly showing me his recently built 4-storied house, I noticed that while the house bore marks of quite innovative architectural designing, I was still oppressed by some kind of infelicity about the house which, I then realised, was caused by insufficient lighting. The house was blocked by another house under construction on the east. I pointed out the disadvantage to my friend as to which he said that he left out the space required by the authority off his boundary wall, but his neighbour, not having concurred, was building his house very close to the boundary wall.

As he told me his neighbour's name I found that he was an old school classmate of mine and is now a recognised engineer of Chittagong. This is how it is happening we are finishing schools, growing up, becoming guardians of the society, but are failing to bring any change in our attitudes. We nearly learn nothing from our education, and this is most obvious in the process noticed in how we are building houses in Sugandha. Anyway, three cheers for Sugandha.

The writer is Professor, Department of English, Chittagong University.



Day against drug

The Ministry of Home Affairs organises a function in observance of the 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking'. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will attend the function as chief guest. Venue: International Conference Centre, Prime Minister's Office. Time: 11.30am.

Regional Workshop

A two-day regional workshop on 'Best Practices to Reduce Child Labour in Informal Sector', organised by Save the Children, Denmark, will begin with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman as chief guest. Venue: CIRDP auditorium, 17 Tophkhana Road. Time: 9.00am.

Rally

Jatiya Aijibee Parishad will organise a rally in support of their demand for withdrawal of enhanced court fee in the proposed budget. Venue: Dhaka Bar Association. Time: 2.00pm.

Terre des hommes

Terre des hommes organises an informal meeting to introduce Serge and Nicole Roetheli who are running all over the world to raise awareness on Child Rights. They started their 'Run for Kids' from Switzerland in 2000 and will end in 2005. Venue: Terre des hommes, 774 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 12.00noon.

Human chain

In observance of The UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, Bangladesh Human Rights Commission will form a human chain. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11.00am.

Students Welfare Association

Bangladesh Students Welfare Association will organise a rally and form a human chain in aid of cancer patient Mehedi Reza Anki, a former mercenary student of Bangladesh Rifles College. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar and Mukhtangan. Time: 10.00am and 10.30am respectively.

International day

A walkathon and the prize distribution ceremony will be held in observance of the 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' with Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: National Museum and Osmani Memorial auditorium. Time: 7.00am and 8.30am.



SOBA get-together

A grand gala get-together of Sargodha Old Boys Association (SOBA) will be held. Venue: Falcon Hall, BAF (Opposite Tejgaon Old Airport). Time: 7.30pm.

High Commission of India

The High Commission of India will organise an evening of Manipuri dance by well-known performer Kalavati Devi. Venue: High Commission of India Cultural Centre, 754 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm.

Knifed Sadarghat terminal worker dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A terminal worker, who was stabbed by miscreants at Sadarghat Monday evening, succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Harun-ur-Rashid, 35, the worker at the Sadarghat terminal, was killed over a quarrel with other workers, sources said.

The victim's second wife, Minu Begum, alleged that Shamsheer, another worker, and his accomplices might have stabbed him while he was returning home on Monday night, the sources added. Minu said Harun had a quarrel with Shamsheer over money-related issues.

However, another source said Harun's son, from his first wife, stabbed him on his refusal to give financial support to his mother.

On Monday night, Harun was brought to the DMCH, where he died at 11:00am yesterday.

The body was sent to the hospital morgue for an autopsy. A case was filed with Kotwali Police Station in this regard.

Tremor rocks Ctg city again

BSS, Ctg

An earthquake rocked the port city for 21 seconds from 15 hours 10 minutes and 04 seconds officials at local quake observatory said.

None was injured and no report of damage received from any parts of the city, police said.

The epicentre was 191 kilometers off Chittagong city and the magnitude of the quake was 3.95 in the Richter scale, a press release of the Meteorological department said.

AJM

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On the other hand, the BNP-backed CBA President Ruhul Amin Sardar said the government should clarify how the workers would be compensated. It might go for an eye-wash on this issue, giving compensation to a few, he feared.

Summer carnival begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day long summer carnival organised by the Etcetera Bangladesh begins at the STM Hall at Uttara in the city tomorrow.

The carnival, first of its kind, will feature various cultural and merry-making programmes such as radio-controlled car race, Barbie doll exhibition, baby model show and Blue Mountain greeting cards competition.

About 50 different stalls including garments, handicrafts and foods will be set up at the carnival.

The carnival will open at 3:00pm and continue till 10:00pm. On the concluding day, it will remain open for 12 hours beginning at 10:00am.

The entrance fee has been fixed at Tk 20. The event is sponsored by Citycell, Pepsi, Igloo, Saudi Arabian Airlines, Fruit Kick, Fantasy Kingdom and the Office and Home Solution.

6 get life term for murder in Khulna

BSS, Khulna

Six people were sentenced to life imprisonment by the Additional Sessions Judge's Court-IV of Khulna yesterday for killing a resident of Khulna City.

The convicts were also fined Taka 10,000 each, in default, to suffer one more year rigorous imprisonment.

They are Suman Sayeed-a-Kawser, Haroon, Kamol, Khokan, SM Mamunur Rashid Mamun and Ujjal. Ujjal was tried in absentia.

The Additional Sessions Judge Mirza MA Rauf, in his judgement, acquitted Haripada and Krishanapada (absconding) as the charges against them were not proved.

According to prosecution, on June 29, 1996 the convicts along with others attacked one Nirmal Kumar Ghose at Mooi Patti of Cemetery road in Khulna city at about 9-30 pm and killed him.

Police submitted chargesheet against eight accused after investigation.