

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over the country with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places during the next 24 hours till 6pm today.

Day temperature may remain unchanged during the period, Met office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 32.1 degree Celsius was recorded at Syedpur and the lowest of 23.5 degree Celsius at Dhaka.

The sun sets in the capital at 6.50 pm today and rises at 5:16 am tomorrow.

The 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	29.2	23.5	92	88
Chittagong	28.7	24.9	83	81
Rajshahi	32.0	24.9	95	97
Khulna	28.0	25.4	98	—
Barisal	29.0	24.6	96	92
Sylhet	32.0	25.4	83	92
Cox's Bazar	28.5	25.2	98	92

AIDS: Young people

FROM PAGE 12 proven wrong by the figures which show that the disease continues to expand even in areas with already very high HIV prevalence.

"It's frightening. It is by far the biggest epidemic that humanity has known in absolute terms," Piot said.

"In the 45 worst-hit countries, if the response to AIDS is not intensified there will be 68 million deaths because of AIDS between now and 2020," he added.

Sub-Saharan Africa is projected to suffer 55 million of the additional deaths.

HIV/AIDS continues to spread in Asia, especially China and India, while the Russian Federation and Eastern Europe have the fastest growing epidemic in the world, and in high-income countries people are less vigilant partly perhaps because of the perceived life-saving effects of anti-retroviral therapy, UNAIDS said.

Since the epidemic began, more than 60 million people have been infected with the virus but most of the 40 million still alive today will die if they have no access to treatment.

However, less than four per cent of the six million people in the developing world in need of anti-retroviral

drug therapy were receiving it at the end of 2001.

In rich countries, where an estimated 500,000 people were receiving anti-retroviral treatment, 25,000 people died of AIDS last year.

In Africa, where only 30,000 of the 28.5 million infected people were getting the treatment, AIDS killed 2.2 million.

"Despite the lowering of prices by nearly 90 per cent of the anti-retroviral, the vast majority of those in need have no access," Piot said, urging further reductions in prices.

He said 10 billion dollars was needed every year for about 10 years to seriously fight the scourge of HIV/AIDS in the most badly hit nations.

Young people are at greatest risk of infection as the epidemic continues to spread to nearly every part of the world, the report warned.

Nearly 12 million young people are HIV positive and about 6,000 become infected daily. About half of all new adult infections are among people aged 15 to 24.

And 14 million children have lost one or both parents to AIDS, the report said.

ETV's appeal

FROM PAGE 1 and Justice Kazi At Manowar Uddin unanimously rejected the petitions at 9:15am after two days of hearing.

Soon after the verdict, the lawyers for the ETV sought some time from the Appellate Division to file a review petition. Accordingly, the bench heard the lawyers' submission at 11:00am.

On behalf of the ETV chairman, Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed said that a review petition would be filed as a last-ditch attempt to complete all procedures to ensure justice and so, the court had better allow some time to a big and popular media like the ETV to file the petition.

When Dr. Kamal Hossain, counsel for Citicorp and Waterford, made the same appeal, the bench said, "We also watch the ETV. We would be deprived if it closes down. But we have to deliver the justice in the light of law. We have given the verdict having taken into account all the legal aspects of this case."

Dr. Kamal also said there are many foreign stakeholders in the ETV. So, before it closes down, the ETV needs to settle the investment issues with the foreign investors, and that's why it needs time.

Attorney General AF Hasan Arif later told newsmen that the government would not file any more review petition.

On behalf of the writ petitioners, Barrister Abdur Razzak opposed the five-week stay order on the execution of High Court verdict.

The High Court on March 27

declared illegal the licensing agreement between the government and the ETV on a writ petition.

The country's first private TV channel, the ETV went into air both as a terrestrial and a satellite channel on the Bangla New Year's Day in 1999. The channel soon became popular with the people thanks to its objective news coverage and innovative programmes.

But Prof. Chowdhury Mohammad Hossain of the Pharmacy Department and Prof. Abdur Rob of the Geography Department of Dhaka University and President of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Gias Kamal Chowdhury jointly filed the writ petition on September 19, 2000.

The petitioners said international bids were invited for setting up a private television channel in the country in 1998. The ETV was one of the parties that participated in the bid. After scrutiny, the tender evaluation committee on July 9, 1998 sent a list to the Ministry of Information disqualifying the ETV. But 'mysteriously' another list was sent to the ministry later on that day putting the ETV on the top of the list of the bidders.

They further alleged that the licensing agreement was executed with the ETV Chairman, AS Mahmud, despite the fact that he did not participate in the bidding but subsequently transferred the license to the ETV Limited.

Garment cut piece trader shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A garment cut piece trader was shot dead by an armed gang at Tikkapara in the city's Mohammadpur area last night.

Mohammad Faiqul, 34, also a rent-a-car businessman, came under attack in front of his father-in-law's house at about 8:45 pm.

The incident took place when Faiqul reached in front of house no. 15/B/24 by driving his Toyota Corolla (Dhaka metro-Gha 2213). Getting down from the car his wife Laila, two sons and other relatives went inside the house and he was about to shut the car's door.

At that time a gang of about 12 assailants sprayed bullets on him. Faiqul received at least 10 bullets in different parts of his body.

Fatally injured Faiqul was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the attending doctors declared him dead at about 9:35pm.

The reason behind the killing could not be known till 10-30 p.m. yesterday.

Middlemen

FROM PAGE 1

The airline charges US\$440 dollars for a ticket on the Dhaka - Riyadh and the Dhaka - Dammam route. The previous fare was \$420. On the other hand the fare of the Dhaka - Jeddah route has increased to \$475 from \$455.

The Biman Bangladesh Airlines is charging only \$310 for the Dhaka - Riyadh and the Dhaka - Dammam route while a ticket for the Dhaka - Jeddah route costs \$320.

The workers are forced to buy tickets from Saudia due to alleged pressures from the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Dhaka.

The embassy imposed an unofficial provision stating that at least 60 per cent of migration workers to the Arab nation must use the Saudi Arabian airlines. Otherwise, reluctance would be shown in issuing visas to the workers.

Around 1.2 lakh Bangladeshis workers go to Saudi Arabia every year. Most of them work in the construction and cleaning sectors. They spend more than Tk 1.30 lakh for a job with only Tk 5,000 to Tk 6,000 in salaries a month.

8 KU officials

FROM PAGE 12

Alamgir Hazi, Section Officer (Admn) Arif Nawaz, Section Officer (Controller of Examinations) Shaikh Shahadat Hossain Shadin, Transport Officer Md Shah Nawroz, Accounts Officer (Finance) Shyamal Kanti Samaddar, Assistant Accounts Officer (Finance) Sheikh Mujibar Rahman and Section Officer SM Golam Haider.

It has been stated in the FIR that 50,000 metric tonnes of rice were given during 2000-2001 financial year for ten different projects as part of development programme of Khulna University. But the alleged officials of the university misappropriated it without using for any of ten projects.

The cases were recorded under sections 409/109 CrPC and Section 5(2) of Anti Corruption Act, 1947.

Canada

FROM PAGE 1

"We are also in talks with China, South Korea and some other Asian countries, which have signed the Bangkok Agreement, for greater market access. We have already sent our wish lists to them and expect something positive by the end of this year", he said.

He also disclosed that talks have been on with countries like Pakistan, Iran, Qatar, Oman and other gulf countries regarding export of Bangladeshi products.

Commerce ministry officials, however, could not say what the possible gains in export volume to Canada and Norway would be due to the free access.

"We have just come to know about the decisions and we are yet to do any such analysis," said a commerce ministry official.

When contacted, Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association President Kutubuddin Ahmed yesterday said Bangladesh now exports apparels worth about US\$ 300 million to Canada.

According to him, the volume of RMG export to Canada would increase phenomenally because of the free access.

The commerce minister yesterday also said regional trade issue still remains a top priority for the government.

In this regard, he mentioned that negotiations have been going on with the northeastern states of India, popularly known as the seven sisters, for enhancing trade.

"We have requested the states to open up customs points and allow Bangladesh bank branches," Khosru said, adding that trade fairs would be organised at Guwahati and Mizoram soon.

Replying to another query, Khosru said there is no link between transit/ transshipment and trade negotiation.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia presides over a high-level review meeting of different ministries and divisions at her office yesterday.

Hasina gets bail

FROM PAGE 1 showed up at the court at around 2:15pm amid party activists' slogans against the graft case.

Hasina was granted bail on the graft charge of having appointed a lobbyist in the United States for the garment industry that allegedly cost the national exchequer Tk 2.1 crore during her tenure as prime minister.

During the hearing on the bail petition, the court provided a chair to tired-looking Hasina to sit on through.

Several thousand party-men, supporters and onlookers greeted Hasina on arrival at the court premises at 2:10pm.

Minutes after Hasina came out of the courtroom, she alleged that she had been implicated in a 'false' case. She said she appeared before the court, respecting the law.

Addressing a gathering on a handheld microphone at the crowded court premises, the former prime minister claimed to have saved the country two billion dollars by spending only Tk 2 crore on the consultancy. "I don't know if serving the state's interest is a crime," asked Hasina.

"Had we not appointed a consultancy to negotiate with the United States, our garment industry would have lost GSP (generalised system of preference) facilities in the US market and lost foreign investments too."

The defence counsels submitted two petitions, one seeking bail and the other seeking exemption from her appearance in person before the court.

The court granted both, meaning Hasina must appear before the trial court, when the charge will be framed. The court scheduled July

20 for the hearing on the acceptance of the chargesheet.

The defence stated that the charges against her did not hold up. The defence argued that Hasina had only ordered appointment of the lobbyist and signed the appointment letter. The sections under which she was charged were all bailable, the defence pointed out.

Moreover, two other accused in the case were already granted bails by the same court, the defence counsels said. Like them, Hasina should be granted bail as co-accused, they argued. If granted bail, she will not be absconding given her stature as former prime minister and present opposition leader, the defence continued.

The prosecution did not oppose the bail petition considering that two other co-accused had already been granted bails.

Barristers Rokonuddin Mahmud, Shawkat Ali Khan and Tania Amir, and advocates Ozair Faruq, Rahmat Ali, MP, Shudangshu Shekhar Haldar, Sahara Khatun, Kamrul Islam, Abdullah Abu and Abdur Rahman Howlader defended the accused.

Public Prosecutor Abdullah Mahmud Hasan, additional public prosecutors Golam Mostafa Khan, and Korshed Alam defended the state.

Also, two co-accused -- former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and ex-principal secretary to the then prime minister, Dr SA Samad -- appeared before the court.

The chargesheet mentioned that the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina in connivance with former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and former principal secretary Dr SA Samad unnecessarily employed a lobbyist in the US causing a loss of Tk 2.1 crore to the country.

Hasina's address Responding to the allegation of graft, Hasina told the gathering at the court premises that the then BNP government in 1991 to 96 had assured the United States of allowing unionism in Bang-

Six killed Police seized the truck, but its driver and helper managed to flee. A case was filed with Jamuna Bridge West Police Station in this regard.

UNB from Magura adds: An overloaded bus fell into a roadside ditch at Mogridhal on Magura-Jessore Road yesterday morning, leaving a baby dead and 40 passengers injured.

The unidentified baby died on the spot. Twenty of the injured were admitted to Magura sadar hospital.

Survivors said the Magura bound bus fell into the roadside ditch at about 10am as the driver lost control over the steering.

Police seized the bus but the driver managed to flee.

2 Gano Mukti They shot Barek, regional leader of GMF and his associate Harun and beat up others. Barek and Harun died on the spot.

Police said the killing was a sequel to a previous enmity between BCP leader Akhil Hossain and GMF leader Abdul Barek.

Investigation is going on regarding the issuance of the controversial letter even after the earlier recommendations of the Secretary Committee were later cancelled.

"The government hopes that all confusions regarding this will be resolved," the release said.

Public Administration Reforms Commission were implemented on an experimental basis in two or three ministries or divisions.

The above letter in the meantime was also withdrawn on the basis of a decision taken recently at a meeting of the Secretary Committee. Such system will not be implemented on an experimental basis," the release said.

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Baden-Wuerttemberg, wreckage and bodies were spread over a 30-kilometer, thinly populated area of what is largely farmland.

Witnesses near Lake Constance reported hearing a loud explosion and seeing a ball of fire and flaming pieces of wreckage crashing towards the ground.

"The sky became bright all of a sudden. It looked as if the sky was on fire," said Klaus Barinka, a 42-year-old ferryboat captain working at Lake Konstanz.

Officials at an emergency centre at the scene said at least 26 bodies had been found as well as several body parts and that a flight data recorder and the two black boxes from the Russian plane had been recovered in woodland by the lake.

No casualties were reported among local residents.

Investigators and about 1,200 rescue workers and firefighters were at work at the scene, which smelled strongly of aviation fuel, while police surveyed an area north of the town of Ueberlingen with helicopters and dogs.

"We found wreckage from the planes in 57 places and pieces of bodies in four main areas," said Ueberlingen's regional police chief, adding that some of the dead were found strapped into their seats.

Bodewig also said Germany was leading investigations on the ground, but that Swiss, Russian and US

experts were headed for Lake Constance, which borders Switzerland and Austria.

Russian President Vladimir Putin sent his condolences to the families of the victims, including members of the Bashkortostan regional administration and ministries as well as local universities.

Russian relatives of the 52 children and the crew of the jet were due Tuesday to fly to the site of the crash.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder called Putin and said he had been "stunned" by the tragedy. He promised to provide the authorities in Baden-Wuerttemberg with federal government assistance in recovery and investigation efforts.

Deutsche Post, chief shareholder in DHL, offered aid to the families of the two pilots killed.

The fleet of Bashkirian Airlines, one of the companies that spun off from the Russian national carrier Aeroflot, is made up of 154 aircraft and is the flag carrier for the Bashkortostan.

High-altitude mid-air collisions are rare, despite Europe's increasingly crowded skies.

Most large aircraft flying at such high cruising altitudes carry transponders such as the Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), which ensure that pilots keep a safe distance from other planes in their vicinity.

Ashuliya schemes

FROM PAGE 1

ministry to discuss the issue of earth filling of low lying areas, which are earmarked as flood zone. Different ministries including that for Environment, Flood Control and Water Resources and Land and the city mayor would be represented at the meeting to take a decision in this regard.

The minister further said he would propose various changes in the urbanisation process. A registration system for all real estate developers would be introduced. Any of them willing to develop an area must comply with various requirements. None would be allowed to advertise in the electronic or print media for any real

Puzzling question

FROM PAGE 1

He could not confirm how the list was prepared, but said, "I have come to know that one local businessman carried the list to Delhi in 1999."

"When asked about the identity of the businessman, he told The Daily Star, 'I cannot disclose the name as I do not have any documents.'"

The issue was raised at the briefing after the commerce secretary said the country could at best have some prospects of exporting only 12 items to the Indian market after Delhi's offer of duty free access to 40 Bangladeshi products.

Delhi has chosen 40 products from the list prepared by Dhaka and agreed to offer duty free access to those, during the bilateral trade talks held in April at Dhaka.

The commerce secretary said in December last year, Dhaka sent a list to Delhi for changes in the product lines under five categories, but Delhi did not accept it.

"We employed a consultancy to negotiate with the US. I told the then US president Clinton not to stop the GSP facilities to our garment factories. Instead of unionism, we conceived labour welfare association."

Hasina also dwell on the much-debated issue of MIG-29 purchase during her rule, offsetting criticism. "As our soldiers contribute to UN peacekeeping missions, we can't let them lag behind by not providing training and orientation on all modern defence gadgets."

He claimed that her government had saved the country US\$165 million by procuring eight MIG-29s at only \$124 million instead of \$289 million.

"On the other hand, the BNP (the previous BNP government) cost the national exchequer \$20 million by procuring airbuses at \$150 million instead of \$130 million."

The AL chief alleged that present BNP-Jamaat coalition government indulged in violence and corruption, whereas her government (1996-2001) developed Bangladesh as a model for poverty reduction and disaster management.

Since installation of the BNP-Jamaat alliance into power, hundreds of AL leaders and workers were implicated in 'false' cases and had to appear before courts routinely. "Today, I would like to express my solidarity with them."

Hasina demanded immediate release of two party activists allegedly picked up by police from the court area yesterday.

Golden handshake FROM PAGE 1 the Public Administration Reforms Commission were implemented on an experimental basis in two or three ministries or divisions.

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estate project before obtaining approval, which can be given only by Rajuk after strict scrutiny.

He pointed out that once the Detailed Area Planning (DAP) of the city is completed, plunder of ecologically important areas could be stopped. Consultants are now working to complete the DAP in 24 zones of the city.

Abbas however hinted that due to pressing accommodation problems, some low-lying areas around the city might be developed only under strict scrutiny by experts. But it would be ensured that such development work does not block passage of water. He mentioned that several real estate mega-projects in the city are destroying natural canals, water bodies and low-lying lands which are vital for retention of millions of cubic meters of water during the flood season.

"Even if permission is given for development of a low-lying point, Rajuk would impose a condition that 60 per cent of the total project area must be kept without any construction," the minister said.

Danish envoy says his remarks not correctly reported by press BSS, Dhaka

Danish Ambassador Niels Severin Munk yesterday said his remarks on the recent resignation of president A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury were not correctly reported by the press.

He explained to the Foreign Affairs Ministry that his remarks were not correctly and fully reflected in the local press and were put out of context, according to a press release issued by the External Publicity Wing.

The envoy, being called to the foreign office, met Additional Foreign Secretary Anwar-ul-Alam Chowdhury and clarified his position on the comments attributed to him by a section of the press.

He had reportedly remarked at a press conference at the Danish Embassy yesterday that the president's resignation was not a good example for democracy.

The envoy stated that the press conference was basically meant for briefing the media on Denmark's priorities during its presidency of European Union for six months beginning July 1.

KCC engineer stabbed by extortionists STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A sub-assistant engineer of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) was stabbed by a gang of extortionists near Khalil Chamber at KDA Avenue under Sonadanga thana at about 8pm on Monday.

He was admitted to a clinic in the city in critical condition.

Earlier in the morning, the gang demanded Tk 50,000 from the engineer. But he refused to give in to their demand.

Magurchhara