



Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Khulna and Barisal divisions during the next 12 hours till 6pm today.

Slight fall in day temperature is expected over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Mongla and Jessore and the lowest of 22.5 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6.49 pm today and rises at 5:21 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	30.1	24.0	82	81
Chittagong	31.5	25.0	86	76
Rajshahi	30.9	25.5	89	97
Khulna	35.0	28.0	86	100
Barisal	33.5	25.6	92	-
Sylhet	30.2	22.5	100	76
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.5	90	86

Road accident kills 2 in Tangail

BSS, Tangail

Two persons were killed and 20 others injured, 14 of them seriously, in a road accident at Tartia-Bhatkura on Dhaka-Tangail highway yesterday afternoon.

Police and local people said a Dhaka-bound passenger bus coming from Gopalpur upazila fell into a roadside ditch as the driver lost control over the vehicle at about 4.30 pm, killing two persons on the spot and injuring 20 others.

The identity of the dead could not be known immediately. Relatives and local people, however, identified four injured persons.

All the injured persons were immediately taken to Tangail Sadar Hospital.

The bodies were sent to the morgue of Tangail Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

A case was registered with police in this connection.

CCC Mayor will surrender to court today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury will appear before the court here this morning to surrender in connection with the corruption case filed against him.

The Bureau of Anti Corruption filed the case against the mayor in connection with return of penalty money and reinstatement of two sacked employees in 1996.

Following submission of charge-sheet in the case recently, the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Chittagong, ordered the city mayor to appear before the court.

Earlier, Mohiuddin Chowdhury had appeared before a high court division bench of the Supreme Court and sought ad-interim bail in the case. But the High Court bench asked the mayor to appear before the lower court that issued the order for his surrender.

Jubo League

FROM PAGE 12 Panna, another business partner of Hafizur, was shot dead in front of Hotel Castle at midnight on March 25, 1999.

The slain Jubo League activist was laid to rest at Tootpara graveyard.

No case was filed with Khulna police station in connection with the murder till 6 pm yesterday.

AJM workers

FROM PAGE 1 asked to collect their money by submitting the required documents on August 1.

The government has decided to disburse Tk 165 crores in provident funds during the second week of August.

Today around 1,800 workers of mill No. 1 will get their gratuity and other benefits in two separate cheques. Another 1,800 workers of the same mill will be getting their payments on Tuesday and the remaining 1,200 will get theirs on Wednesday.

The workers of mill No. 2 would start receiving payments from July 18 to July 20 and the workers of mill No. 3 would get paid between July 21 and 23.

From hypes

FROM PAGE 1 banks to send teams from headquarters to verify the claims.

It is now doubted that many of the branches actually disbursed loans and adjusted defaulted amounts against the new disbursement.

Earlier, the NCBs in February this year had submitted their plans to close down 295 of their loss-making branches in phases, by June, September and December.

The June result has been dicey with only 36 branches merged so far. These include eight branches of Sonali Bank, 14 of Janata, eight of Agrani and six of Rupali.

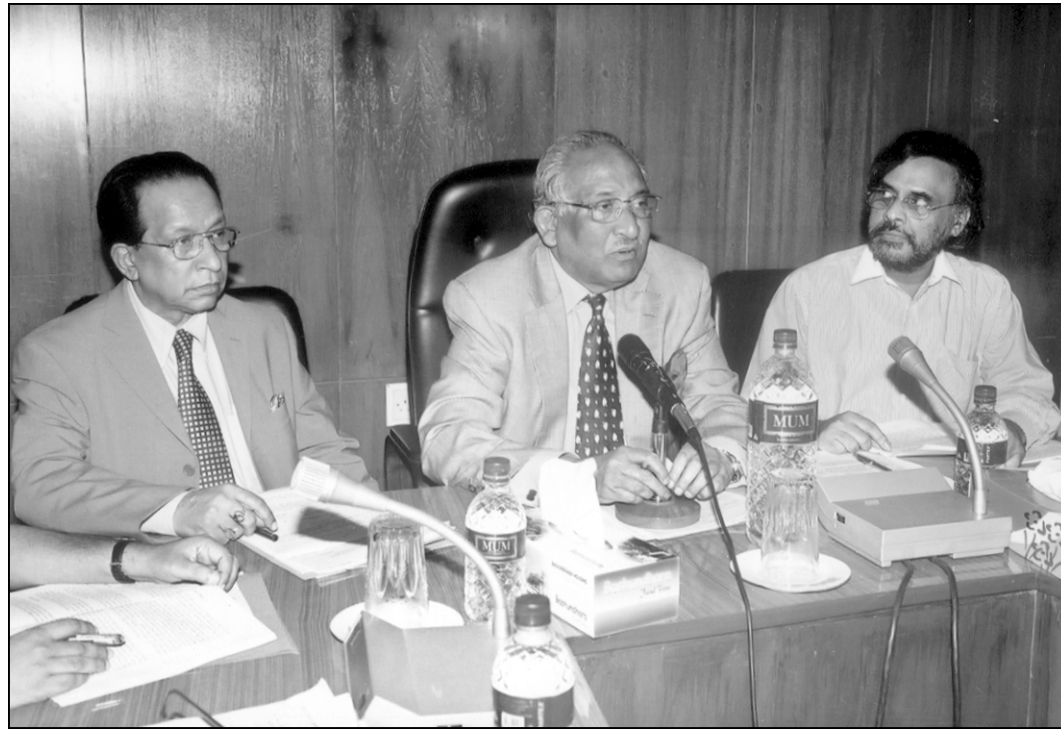
According to the banks, they could not implement the closure for 33 branches because of cases against the move. Sonali Bank has 27 such branches, Janata two, Agrani one, Rupali one and Krishi two.

They could not close down 12 branches because of 'protest' by local people. Sonali and Janata have five such branches each, Agrani two and Rupali one.

Agrani Bank could not close down nine branches because of interference by ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers.

According to the banks, Sonali has 210 branches bleeding continuously for the last five years of which 55 were supposed to be closed down by June this year.

Janata has 254 such loss-making branches and 29 of them were supposed to be shut down by June. Agrani has 42 such branches of which 31 were to be closed down by June.



Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman speaks at a meeting with officials of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday about raising revenue collection.

Hamida Ali retired

FROM PAGE 1 last. The Dhaka Board authorities, as per the relevant Article of the Regulation, had informed the Chairman, Board Members and others concerned that the job of Hamida Ali could not be extended further.

Later, on July 13, to facilitate the administration of the institution, the chairman of the governing body and the former principal (Hamida Ali) were requested to hand over charges to a senior teacher.

The statement pointed out that despite request from the Dhaka Education Board, Hamida Ali was illegally claiming to be the principal of the college and blaming the government in many ways.

Besides, there was an evil design to mislead the guardians and students through making baseless criticism of the government's rules in the newspapers.

The statement blamed Hamida Ali for different corrupt practices, saying that the practices were found against her during investigation and inspection by the Education Ministry and the Directorate of Higher

Secondary Education. The allegations of corruption against Hamida Ali are under investigation by the Bureau of Anti-Corruption, it said.

The statement also pointed out that baseless propaganda was being made that a teacher of a government college was being appointed principal of Viqarunnesa School and College.

The Ministry expressed the hope that the standard of education would remain high even in the absence of the principal because the school is making good results with the joint efforts of all the teachers and staff.

Education Minister Dr M Osman Faruque told BSS that the propaganda that Dr Shaheda Obaid would be made principal of Viqarunnesa School and College was completely baseless, misleading and politically motivated.

Replying to another question, he said there was no available information that principal of Ideal College, Faizur Rahman, was given the permission to remain in job even after 65 years of age. However, he said if this was done, it was an illegal

practice. The present government did not make such irregularities. Rather, the principal of Udayan School was given retirement as per the rule. The government would follow the rules in future, too, he said.

Hazari's cadre Hedayetullah arrested in Feni

BSS, Feni

Feni police on Saturday arrested an alleged criminal and a cadre of Awami League leader Joynal Hazari from Basurhat road under Daganbhuiyan upazila.

Acting on a secret information, police arrested Hedayetullah alias Sohel, 27, for his alleged involvement in various criminal activities.

He is accused in at least six cases including the sensational triple-murder at village Sindurpur.

Students' protest

FROM PAGE 1 He said Ali had been given extension thrice till she was 65 and she can't be given further extension by violation of the government service rule.

Rumours were there that the teachers resigned en masse last evening after the chairman of the governing body failed to inform them about the government's decision on whether the incumbent principal approved the contract extension. However, the rumours could not be independently confirmed.

Teachers of Viqarunnesa at a meeting yesterday decided to carry forward the movement untidely. The government move has angered the teachers, students and guardians alike.

They also decided to meet Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to inform her about the situation. "We will submit a memorandum to the prime minister if we fail to get an appointment to meet her," a teacher of the school told The Daily Star.

Hamida Ali, now 65, earlier had her contract extended thrice, sources said. According to government rules, the retirement age is 60.

However, a person's contract can be extended till he or she becomes 65 years old provided the person concerned is physically fit.

"There are several exceptions regarding extension of job," said

Hamida Ali, the principal. For instance, she said, Principal of Ideal School and College Fazlur Rahman got a two-year extension in spite of his crossing the age bar.

Meanwhile, guardians of the school students will hold a rally at 8:00am today at the institutions' premises to condemn the government decision.

Chairman of the governing body Abdul Mannan, MP came to spot where the students put up the barricade. He addressed the students, teachers and guardians and assured them of his all-out support for the extension of the principal's contract.

"I will do my level best to get the principal's job extended," he said to the hundreds of students chanting slogans.

When the chairman was leaving the spot, the students at one stage intercepted and confined him for about half an hour.

Members of the governing body told reporters yesterday that whatever the government decides they would stick to their stance regarding the extension of the principal's service for another two years.

One of the teachers said, "Although the contract of Hamida Ali expired on July 9, we decided to extend it for two more years on April 30 considering her tireless contribution to the institution."

He added, "the decision has been applauded by the students, teachers and guardians alike."

The governing body's decision was sent to Chairman of the Dhaka Education Board Prof. Mohammad Zunayed on July 8 for approval through the chairman of the body. "But the chairman refused to approve it," one member of the governing body said.

Some teachers alleged that the chairman did not endorse the decision on instruction by the education ministry. They said the chairman was summoned to the ministry with the file and asked not to approve it.

Established in 1952, the Viqarunnesa School and College is one of the prestigious autonomous educational institutions of the country.

Hearty news

FROM PAGE 1 on patients who want the Singaporean team to perform the surgery.

The speakers expressed their hope that this arrangement would cost patients only a third of the amount for going to Singapore for the operation.

Dr R Ravi Kumar and Dr Lutfor Rahman were present at the function among others.

Massacre in Kashmir

FROM PAGE 12 Pakistan, which has pledged to stop militants crossing into Indian Kashmir, condemned the killings and said the attack was aimed at destabilising South Asia.

"The government of Pakistan condemns the killing of a number of civilians and injuries to many others in a terrorist attack on the outskirts of Jammu," a Foreign Ministry statement said Sunday.

"The motivation behind the attack seems to be to enhance tension in the region," it said.

Deputy Prime Minister Advani, a known hard-liner, will report his findings from his mission to Vajpayee and other key ministers.

"On the basis of that, the government will present its viewpoint to the parliament (on Monday)," he told reporters before leaving for Jammu.

"The cabinet committee ... strongly condemned the attack."

Survivors said the attackers struck in the middle of a power blackout, throwing grenades and spraying the area with bullets.

"It was terrifying because we had never seen such a bloody thing happen in our lives," 38-year-old labourer Jagdish Lal told Reuters.

"There was no light, that made it worse and we didn't know where these bullets were coming from. It was total chaos."

"Everybody was running helter-skelter for safety and I saw people falling on each other in the stampede, crying and wailing for help."

No one has claimed responsibility for the raid.

Police said they suspected Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, also blamed for the December attack on India's parliament that triggered the latest military stand-off between India and Pakistan and raised fears of war.

About a dozen Islamic groups are fighting Indian rule in Jammu and Kashmir, mainly Hindu India's only Muslim-majority state.

Analysts had warned another major attack in Kashmir could force India to strike against the rebels across the frontier.

But Kanti Bajpai, defence analyst at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University said he expected a restrained response ahead of state elections in October.

"I think the Indian government will heat up things for a while, but try to keep it under control," he told

Reuters. "It does not make sense to respond very heavily and shift attention from the election issue."

Junior Indian interior minister ID Swamy condemned the raid, saying until Pakistan ended "cross-border terrorism... these barbaric activities, these innocent killings can happen any time, any place wherever they find soft targets."

The May attack on the army camp raised tensions to a pitch that prompted several foreign governments to warn their citizens to leave India and Pakistan because of the risk of war. They later softened that warning after intense diplomatic lobbying led by the United States eased the situation.

But India has refused to pull back its troops from the border until infiltration stops.

India holds 45 per cent of Kashmir, Pakistan a third and China the rest. The Indian government says that at least 33,000 people have died since the rebellion against its rule began in full in 1989, but separatist groups put the toll closer to 80,000.

Build houses as per rule to avoid quake damage, says experts

BSS, Chittagong

Experts at a workshop on earthquake yesterday underscored the need for strict implementation of the Bangladesh National Building Code, '95 to reduce the extent of loss of life and property during any quake.

The experts, citing the examples of most terrible earthquakes occurred in last centuries across the globe, said the power released by a massive tremor is equivalent to ten thousand times of a nuclear bomb used in the first world war.

They were of the view that formulation of a comprehensive post-earthquake management package, including adequate numbers of trained volunteers and modern equipment to conduct rescue operation, is badly needed considering the vulnerability in this earthquake zone.

They daylong workshop, jointly organised by the Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) and Public Works Department (PWD), was held in the district council auditorium in the city. Ward commissioners of Chittagong City Corporation and different municipalities of Chittagong division took part in the workshop.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Abdus

Salam Khan, the inaugural function was addressed by Additional Divisional Commissioner Sheikh Mohabbat Ali, Abdus Samad of DMB, Executive Engineer of PWD Nabi Newaz and AKM Shahjahan Patwar.

Three key-note papers -- 'Earthquake conception, trends and damages of earthquake in Bangladesh and in the world,' 'Earthquake tolerable construction methods: Existing and under construction building structures,' and 'Post-earthquake disaster management' -- were presented by Mohammad Abu Sadek, Syed Azizul Haque and Abdus Salam Khan respectively.

The key-note speakers said different earthquake-prone countries in recent times have been able to brought down significantly the casualty of life and damage of property by implementing various scientific measures.

They stressed the need for ensuring the use of quality construction materials, intensive supervision of construction work of bridges and buildings by qualified engineers and campaign through mass media about instant necessary preparations.

AL's JS return

FROM PAGE 1

no legal action against the BNP-men who, she alleged, had carried arms and sticks and shouted slogans at the court premises yesterday.

Hasina said lawmakers were entitled to special immunity by courts when the parliament is in session but that privilege had been curbed.

The opposition leader told the press that chargesheeted accused in many cases had become lawmakers and ministers, whereas an MP who was implicated in a false case was denied bail.

The government has released 35,000 criminals from jails over the last nine months, Hasina alleged.

The government does not want the parliament to function and is out to stifle democracy in the country by implicating the AL lawmakers, leaders and workers in false cases, she said.

Hasina thought it farcical that the speaker did not allow the AL MPs to speak in the House despite submission of over 150 notices on various public issues, whereas a circular was issued only yesterday morning announcing that a discussion on law and order would be held in the House.

"We wanted to speak on the issues like law and order, price hikes, president's unceremonious exit and other important public issues but the speaker did not entertain any notice. He even interrupted me in speaking, denied the deputy leader of the opposition floor."

"The other day while I was speaking at midnight in the House, the speaker interrupted me saying I was creating bad precedence by speaking much. But I like to remind that no time-limit is applicable when the leader of the House or the leader of the Opposition speak."

Hasina wondered how a sitting MP could be arrested at a time when the parliament was in session. The arrest was made without the knowl-

edge of the speaker, she added. She said that when her party contacted the speaker he had expressed his ignorance about the arrest and the parliament secretary too was in the dark.

At the press briefing, senior AL leader Suranjit Sengupta said both the High Court and the Supreme Court went by the practice that no lawmaker is arrested during and 15 days before and after the parliament session.

He believes directives have come from the 'highest authority' in the case of Shawkat Ali.

Before the briefing, the AL lawmakers started converging at the opposition leader's chamber in the Sangsad Bhavan since early afternoon.

Hasina showed up at her chamber during the break of the Magreb prayers in the session and chaired the ALPP meeting to reach the conclusion that the AL cannot attend the session leaving its MP in prison.

Abducted UPDF men freed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, CHT

Eleven abducted supporters of United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF) were freed on Saturday night, police and military sources said.

Activists of Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) abducted the eleven men on Saturday morning from five villages of Perachhara union.

Police and the military started a combined operation at Perachhara and adjacent areas after they were informed about the abduction. The kidnappers fled leaving the abducted villagers behind. They were rescued by police and the army and sent to their village.

However, another UPDF activist Bin Dhar Tripara, who was abducted from Gachhban area on July 9, could not be rescued as yet.

Long arm of a vile law

FROM PAGE 1

taken on remand before court every 48 hours so that the court knows whether the person in question has been tortured.

It also suggested amendments to sections 167 and 344 of the CrPC to prevent their abuse.

Regarding deaths and torture in police custody, the Law Commission referred to the recommendations it had forwarded to the ministry on August 30, 1998, and said if a detainee is killed or mentally traumatised or physically tortured, the policeman who happens to be in charge of the detainee should be held responsible. However, the policeman in question may also identify and prove that other policemen were responsible for the offence.

The law ministry had also sought suggestion of the Law Commission regarding slightly limiting the jurisdiction of a court in granting bails.

In its reply, the commission said neither court nor law is responsible for the fact that criminals go about their business once set free on bail.

Rather, it is the lawyers who can be blamed since they do not produce all necessary documents and information before court. So, there is no need to limit the jurisdiction of court and amend the relevant laws, it concluded.

As for granting of anticipatory bail, it observed that a specific law should be in place. The Law Commission further recommended that a law should be framed to refuse a convict who gets sued for a second time for similar criminal offence bail.

Paraplegics

FROM PAGE 12 therapists and plays a leading role in creating awareness about disability.

"The CRP has vast experience and I don't see why we should not learn from them. I am sure we have a lot to learn from the CRP and part of my mission is to establish a formal link with it for technology transfer," said Dixit who helped open the centre in Nepal.

About the Nepal-Dhaka drive, he said, "It is so easy and the roads are so good. People have a misconception that the mountain roads are not safe and people rather fly between the countries, missing the beautiful scenarios," he said. "Twelve hundred kilometers by road is not a big distance. If you drive you will soon feel its fun and you don't need a brand new car for this."

"My next mission is to travel to Lahore in Pakistan for a similar fundraising campaign," he said.

CCCI elects new chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury has been elected president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI).

He was elected uncontested at a meeting of the newly elected board of directors of CCCI yesterday.

The meeting also elected uncontested Ershad Ullah and Monjur Ul Amin Senior Vice-president and Vice-president respectively of trade body. Dr Moinul Islam Mahmud chaired the board meeting.

Amir Humayun is the younger brother of Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and son of Alhaj Mahmudun Nabi Chowdhury, a former minister and one of the founders and former president of CCCI.

After completing his education from Chittagong University, Amir Humayun engaged himself in his family business.

He is director of Progoti Shipping Limited, Meher Garments Limited, Subarna Garments Ltd. Haq Garments Ltd. People's Insurance Company Ltd. Popular Life Insurance Company Ltd. Uniyani Capital Ltd. MNC Packages Ltd and Alfa Securities Ltd.

Amir Humayun is a member of

Amu granted bail

FROM PAGE 12 instructions through 'unofficial notes' for issuance of 52 delivery orders for procurement of one lakh tons of rice under his quota as minister. He then ordered purchase of the rice at a price higher than the market rate. As a result, the government incurred a loss of Tk 20 crore.

An inspector of the Bureau of Anti-corruption (BAC) Mohammad Abdul Majed filed the case against Amu on January 8 this year.

In the second case, filed with the same police station, it has been alleged that as food minister, Amu misappropriated Tk 16.95 crore by procuring food grains (rice and wheat) through dealers of his own choice.

Another inspector of the BAC, Syed Tahsinul Haq, filed the case against Amu on March 7.

Police, BDR raid 7 JU halls: arms recovered

JU CORRESPONDENT

Police and BDR personnel recovered arms and ammunition from seven dormitories of the Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday.

Twenty platoons of BDR and 20 policemen raided the halls simultaneously at 3.15 am.

The recovered arms and ammunition include two shot guns, one revolver, one LG and 12 bullets.

None was, however, arrested during the raid.

Lightning kills 4 in Rajshahi

BSS, Rajshahi

Four villagers were killed by lightning in separate places under Godagar upazila of the district yesterday morning, police said.

Three of the victims were identified as Bokul, 30, son of Abu Syeed of Lalbagh Sormongla village, Aftab, 45, of Nabagram and Bodruzzaman, 27, of Keshabpur village. The identity of the other victim could not be known immediately.

Police quoting witnesses said all were killed on the spot at about 10.30 am while working in the fields during heavy rain.

HC order on promotion of dy secys stayed for two weeks

BSS, Dhaka

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed the High Court order regarding promotion of deputy secretaries to the post of joint secretaries for two weeks.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice