

# Light to moderate rain likely

Light to 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 today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Country's highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest 24.6 degree Celsius at Sylhet and Srimongal

The sun sets in the capital at 6:33pm today and rises at 5:34am

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

City/ fown	in Celsius		percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.2	26.0	88	95
Chittagong	31.6	25.5	88	77
Rajshahi	29.0	25.4	93	97
Khulna	28.5	25.5	98	100
Barisal	30.6	25.5	96	92
Sylhet	33.0	24.6	79	92
Cox's Bazar	31.3	25.0	98	96



### Film Festival

The first Australian Film Festival in Dhaka will open to celebrate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and Bangladesh. A total of seven feature films and three short films will be screened. Venue: British Council auditorium.

### Seminar

A seminar on 'Coordinated Treatment in Preventing Dengue', organised by Coordinated Dengue Resistance Committee, will be held with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time:

## Cleaning drive

As part of its 'Dengue Prevention Movement', Bishaw Sahitya Kendra in cooperation with Nestle Bangladesh Limited organises a cleaning drive. Venue: Gulshan-2 and Kakali Overbridge area. Time: 8.00am.

# Candle chain

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will form a candle chain in observance of national mourning day to pay homage to the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Venue: In front of Bangabandhu Bhaban, 32 Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm

# Reception

The Nature Conservation Committee and Bangladesh Bird Watchers' Society jointly organise a reception and cultural function in observance of the birth Venue: C-68 Niketon, Gulshan-1. Time

## Workshop

The Society of Nuclear Medicine, Bangladesh, organises a national workshop on 'Management of Thyroid Cancer and Thyrotoxicosis by Nuclear Medicine Technique' with Science and Information and Communication Technology Minister Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: Atomic Energy Centre auditorium. Time:

### **Rotary meeting** Regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club

of Dhanmondi Dhaka will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.

# **Discussion**

Jatiyatabadi Peshajibee Parishad (JPP) organises a discussion on 'Achievement of self-reliance in food: Change of foodhabit is essential' with Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time:

# Seminar on fish

A seminar on 'Development of Fisheries Resources and Investment', organised jointly by Janata Bank and Fish Hatcheries with Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sadeque Hossain Khoka as chief guest. Venue: BIAM auditorium, 63 New Eskaton. Time: 10.00am.

# Meeting

A meeting of Adarsha Gram Partners' Forum will be held. Venue: House-557, Road-9, Baitul Aman Housing Society.

# DU judicial probe

The home ministry formed the comhall and who were responsible

the commission. Twenty-six of them are students, four so-called outsiders belonging to the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, 16 policemen and policewomen, 13 stuff of Shamsunnahar Hall, four assistant proctors, vice-chancellor, proctor, provost, public relations officer, a teacher and two university reporters of two dailies.

University Teachers' Association (DUTA) Prof. Abul Khaer and DUTA General Secretary Sharifullah Bhuiyan and Additional IG Masudul

present at the hall on July 24 --Ahsan Kallimullah, Dr Abdus Sabur testified before the commission.

gave contradictory versions of the July 24 incident, when they talked to the press before and after deposi-

There seem to be one major point of contention: whether policemen assaulted students of the women's hall of residence or the hall adminis-

Students, both evewitnesses and victims, house tutors, employees provost of the hall and four assistant proctors have all affirmed before the commission that policemen entered the hall at the dead of night and beat

students indiscriminately Police officials and most JCD However, JCD leader Bithika admitted that policemen entered the hall.

Meanwhile, after his deposition on August 7, Inspector General of Police Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury told newsmen that if the commission found any police personnel, male or female, guilty, he would be liable to

There are conflicting statements on who advised police to arrest

turn savings into investments. Explaining her experience in

Mirza Azizul Islam said economic growth is not possible without good governance.

# Rejoinder

existing box culverts at six places have narrowed the width of the lakes. Simultaneously, all lakeside plots are being surveyed to facilitate easy demarcation of lakes. Uttara lake also has been brought under similar programme and plantation and construction of pathway are being done there.

It claimed that conversion of residential buildings into nonresidential ones in Banani-Gulshan-Baridhara has totally stopped.

implement the Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara lake project following the prime ministerial order has been so sluggish that in more than two months it failed to declare the area 'a project site', as directed by the Prime Minister. The construction of six new bridges is nothing but a bid to 'please a few officials and influential contractors'. While the lake is being encroached every day, Rajuk has become active to construct bridges instead of taking measures to stop encroachments. Rajuk's so called eviction drive started some five years ago when it formed a threemember committee. Despite Rajuk's claim that it made 'all out efforts to implement the project' the city dwellers are yet to see any sign of it. The Daily Star stands by its

Court, Dhaka on Sunday and Monday that five AL leaders asked them to bring the rifle to Dhaka from Chittagong.

Khokon recorded their statements under the section 164 of the his chamber.

preplanned, on July 4 at the sector

to the capital by bus on the night of

Fazal Rabbi Sufal and Abdur Razzak Khan were produced before the court vesterday.

# A hill-ornate city

FROM PAGE 10 Court Hill. The Jamal Khan Hill is small and has long been a selected site for a big multinational bank. The Cheragi Pahar spreads to

Anderkilla in one direction and to Momin Road in another direction. The D. C. Hill is an extension of the Cheragi Hill, but it is the site for vibrant cultural and political gatherings. The D.C. of Chittagong has his bungalow atop the hill. Every year at the foot of the D.C.

Hill several cultural organisations forming into a progressive alliance celebrate the Pahela Boishakh with songs and dances, and poetry and drama in a mood of protest. A mela (fair) highlighting various aspects of the Bengali tradition is also arranged on the day. Noticing that it was a common venue for more progressive elements of society, a conservative government once planned to close the space of the park by planting eucalyptus trees all over. In the face of stiff resistance, however, that government could only half do the job. Toady, there is erected a nice arch-shaped cemented base for holding programmes. The proscenium is big, open, and upholds the spirit of the Pahela Boishakh.

The Court Hill, also known as Parir Pahar (the hill of the fairies), has recently become an issue of hot political debate. The Court Building, built by the British about more than a hundred years ago, is a large ancient mansion, but is now near collapsing. The authority wants to demolish it and build a new courthouse, but a large section of the citizens vehemently oppose this move claiming that the Court Building, a proud archaeological legacy, should be renovated not demolished

The Court Hill presents the same view as does the Battali Hill the Karnaphuli gracefully rounding the city of Chittagong at the eastern horizon, the sea expanding westward, and the hundreds of coconut trees occupying the belt from the hill to the waterfront, reminding one that Chittagong is a tropical port

The Court Hill, however, is not a safe place for sightseers. Cutpurse, pimps, whores and people of questionable nature fill up the compound after the court hours are over.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia listens to newly appointed South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Kang Chang Ryol during a meeting at her office yesterday.

# Hasina accuses govt of victimising innocent

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the government of helping in the surge of "animal instinct" in people by "sparing criminals and victimising the innocent".

"The coalition government is not only sparing and sheltering the criminals but also rewarding them. Moreover, it is victimising innocent people in the wake of growing crimes, giving a rise to people's bestial instinct," said the opposition leader said.

"Where are we being led to? Guess, what would our society look like if the situation goes unabated?" Speaking at a discussing meet-

ing in the city, she referred to several incidents in which innocent people were allegedly booked, letting criminals reportedly belonging to the ruling coalition go scot-free. "Bangladesh has now turned into a place where all possible crimes are

taking place. They are torturing the

people and are trying to destroy

Awami League only to continue their

the first time yesterday. It is charging

make platelet although hundreds of

clients are coming to us everyday.

Crescent Blood Centre," said

Shahana Begum Shanta, president

modern Tk 40 lakh blood separator

works four days a week, that too

during the office hour up to 2:30pm.

The DMCH blood bank received a

"We did not have the capacity to

Tk 450 for each bag of platelet.

Bangabandhu Parishad organised the discussion in observance of Bangabandhu's 27th death anniver-

Chaired by Dr SA Malek, it was addressed by, among others, National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, poet Shamsur Rahman, noted lawyer Amirul Islam and former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University ProfAKAzad Chowdhury. It was held at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

Angered by the government's cancellation of public holiday on the National Mourning Day on August 15, Hasina said the whole nation except those in power accepts the day. "People from across the world recognise Bangabandhu as Bangladesh's founding father. It's only the defeated forces of 1971 and their local collaborators who don't."

Hasina informed the meeting that her party has already collected declassified state documents from the United Kingdom and the United States containing Bangabandhu's historic role in the emergence of

Foggy DCC fogging

"Those documents have no reference to the leader they are trying to glorify", she commented.

She blamed the coalition govern-

ment for distorting the history of the

nation in a bid to delete Bangabandhu's name. "How can they do it from world history?" She said, "It's only natural that they would oppose Bangabandhu because they are yet to accept the independent Bangladesh or their

destroy everything that the nation earned so far.' Without naming Khaleda Zia, the former prime minister said she (Khaleda) celebrates her 'fake' birthday on August 15 only to make Bangabandhu's killers happy.

defeat in 1971. They are still active to

Looking back to the October 1 general election, Hasina said "many betrayers" in association with their foreign masters have brought in power those whom people did not want. "By doing so, they simply destroyed the achievements made through the War of Independence and restored during 1991-96."

# Secretarial probe

Bogra Sadar and five godowns at Betgari under Sadar upazila, at Sherpur and Mirzapur under Sherpur upazila and Shukhanpukur and Shabekpara under Gabtali upazila. He collected wheat samples

from all these godowns against which allegations of stuffing Indian wheat had been levelled and seized two wheat sacks marked with Punjab Agro Industries Corpora-tion of India seals. . "We've found imported wheat. This is a clear violation of the

government's food-grain procurement rules. I've found wheat sacks with seals of foreign company," he told the circuit house meeting in the afternoon. He also noted that by the time

the main bulk had been procured in Bogra, home-grown wheat was not available in the market.

Official statistics of wheat purchase in this northern district also supplement what the probe committee chief said. Of a total 11,459 MT of wheat that the Bogra food officials have procured and stocked in the silos during the March 15-July 31 procurement, 7,617 MT was procured in the last seven days from July 25 to 31.

Quoting procurement rules that require routine quality inspection by food officials concerned at the district and thana levels, the probe body wanted to know why that inspection had not been carried out. The deputy controller of food, Bogra, Nurul Absar, who was present at the meeting, failed to come up with any satisfactory Local journalists present at the

meeting also brought it to the notice of the probe committee that the food officials in the district refused to provide them with the list of suppliers, who had supplied the wheat to silos this year. About the quality of wheat he

had inspected in Bogra granaries, Islam said, "I have notice some low-quality wheat too but can't say for sure till chemical tests are carried out." It is learnt that Islam yesterday

summoned chemist Mahmuduzzaman to Bogra as well. Mahmuduzzaman, a member of

the four-man food-ministry probe committee, met him at Bogra Other members of the committee, including its chief Yakub Ali, a joint secretary to the ministry, reached

Dhaka from Satkhira vesterday on completion of its fact-finding tours to Mymensingh, Bogra, Pabna and Satkhira

At the meeting with Islam, also present were Bogra Deputy . Commissioner Safijuddin, ADC (General) Rafigul Mohamed, ADM Abdul Mannan, Regional Controller of Food, Rajshahi, Fakhrul Islam, Upazila Food Officers of Sadar, Sonatala, Sherpur and Kahalu and district food procurement committee members, BNP district unit office secretary Julfiqer Ali and central Jubodal vice-president Joinal Abedin Chan.

While Islam stressed on the need for carrying out chemical tests to ascertain the wheat quality, some godown labourers at Betgari silo claimed that local food officials were supplying the probe committees with samples from the good lots while hiding the sacks of lowgrade wheat on the back stack.

After the whirlwind Bogra tour. the secretarial probe committee started for Pabna last evening. Islam would inspect godowns in Pabna today and then return to

Earlier upon reaching Bogra, Islam told newsmen that his committee would see whether the wheat quality was good or bad. whether wheat was procured beyond official deadline and whether procurement rules were violated by staffing the silos with imported wheat instead of home-

Meanwhile, amidst widespread allegations of procuring low-quality wheat by the government silos, some 900MT of insect-infested wheat from Khulna central supply depot (LSD) was transferred to LSDs in Shikarpur in Babugani upazila and Mehendiganj upazila of Barisal on Thursday and Saturday last.

After unloading of 100MT of rotten wheat from a vessel into Shikarpur LSD on Saturday, food official in-charge stopped the process of storing the bulk and informed the matter to the higher

Yesterday, local lawmaker Moazzem Hussain Alal (Barisal-2) instructed not to store the wheat in any of the Barisal godowns.

The ruling party MP was holding a meeting on the issue with food officials till filing of this report last

#### 7 cops FROM PAGE 1

Advocate Sahara Khatun along with a group of lawyers moved the petition. After hearing the arguments of

the lawyers, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate asked the petitioner to submit his allegation to the judicial inquiry commission as the incidents of the university are now under an investigation by a High Court Judge.

The accused police officials are Kohinoor Miah, former Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of the Detective Branch (DB), Ali Akbar, DC South, Abdur Rahim, former ADC South, Lutfar Rahman, former Officer-in-Charge of Ramna thana, Mohammad Shahadat Hossain, a Sub-Inspector of Ramna thana, constable Mosharaf Hossain (8852) of Ramna thana and constable Shafigul Islam (15655) of Riot Control Division.

The Prosecution Witnesses (PW) are Dr Mohammad Anwar Hossain, Head of the Departmental of Bio-Chemistry, Mohammad Moshiur Rahman, a lecturer of Sociology, Mesbah Kamal, Associate Prof of History Department, Samir Kumar Shil, Assistant Professor of Marketing Department, Professor M A Majid head of the Surgery Department of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, Professor M A Kader of unit four of Surgery and two students, Mohammad Shafiul Azam Raion and Sabir Ahmed.

# boats capsize in Sunamgani

9 drown as 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Nine people, five of them of a family, drowned in separate boat capsizes in Sunamganj on Monday night.

Mother and her four children drowned in a boat capsize in Shialmara Haor at Chhordia Dubi in Sadar upazila on Monday night. The deceased were identified as

Nazma Begum, 32, and her four daughters, Shilpi, 8, Shipa, 6, Ripa, 4, and an eight-month old Romena. Police said the boat sank at about 8 pm when Abdul Jalil of village Kalipur was returning home

Abul Jalil was, however, rescued by the people of another boat in an unconscious state. All the bodies were recovered

from Islampur along with his wife

and daughters.

from nearby areas yesterday morn-

In another incident of boat capsize, four people drowned in a haor near Chandpur village in Derai upazila the same night. Of them, three were identified as

Arati Barman, 35, Shubhra Barman, 40, Niranjan and Das, 45. Identity of the other victim could not be known. The boat caught in storm and

# Murder muddles

FROM PAGE 1

they might face consequence of the incident, said officials of the expatriate welfare and overseas employment ministry in Dhaka.

The Bangladesh Mission has been asked to contact the Malaysian authorities immediately and get all information regarding the

The accused probably went to that country illegally as he had no passport and other valid documents with him, the officials mentioned. Meanwhile, Bangladesh High

Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur Masud Aziz recently met Dr Dato Sree Lim King Yaik, minister for primary industry, for reopening his country's labour market for Bangladeshi workers.

The minister had agreed that fresh recruitment of workers from Bangladesh would be started. He also placed a demand for 4,700 workers for rubber, palm oil and furniture industry in his country. When contacted, state minister

for expatriate welfare and overseas employment Mohammad Quamrul Islam said,

"I have become very anxious about the future of Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia following such criminal activities by the expatriby the present government, Malaysia was very likely to open next month its doors for Bangladeshi workers after six years. "But it is now very difficult to initiate fresh negotiation on the Large-scale employment of

Bangladeshi workers in Malavsia remained suspended since 1997. Only a small number of skilled workers went there during this period, sources pointed out. Around 15,000 Bangladeshi

workers returned from Malaysia recently and 1.13 lakh are working there, according to an official esti-

#### More cell cos FROM PAGE 12

'This will help develop the country's e-commerce and e-business," he He said the IIFC is also working

on opening up the Voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) to make available cheap telecommunica-He said Bangladesh as a mem-

ber of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which has already approved the VoIP for its member countries, will start the system as early as possible.

mission on July 25 to find what happened to the Dhaka University (DU) Sixty-six persons testified before

The commission also recorded opinions by former DU vicechancellors Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed and Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury, Acting DU VC Prof. AFM Yusuf Haider, Acting President of the Dhaka

Haq.
The assistant proctors who were Mohammad Shafiullah, Dr Nazmul Mullah and Fatema Begum -- have all

Police and students who testified

tration authorised the raid.

activists, on the other hand, have claimed that, except a few officers, no policemen were inside the hall.

students during the raid. Those detained claim that Assistant Proctor Mohammad Shafiullah asked police to arrest them, a claim he vehemently

Also contrasting are the statements on who asked police to get into the hall, breaking the hall gate open. Police officials claimed that the university authorities had asked for the police force, but the assistant proctors who were there at the time said police entered the hall, disobeying their order.

The assistant proctors said Sultana Safi, former provost of Shamsunnahar Hall, asked police to enter the hall, the allegation Sultana

They have claimed that the university authorities are trying to make them scapegoats for the incident.

They have also accused the

university administration of releasing a press statement on their behalf, a statement they had no knowledge of. These assistant proctors questioned the role of four other assistant roctors, who did not go to the hall

during the police raid. The university has the body of a roctor and eight assistant proctors. The commission will again call police officials, who have already

testified before the commission, if

needed to crosscheck the state-

ments of the ex-vice-chancellor, the

ex-proctor, the ex-provost and stu dents, who are listed but yet to testify. Meanwhile, the head of the com mission visited the Shamsunnahar Hall yesterday afternoon. It was his third visit to the hall.

# GD filed

FROM PAGE 12 not been maintained for Sheikh

On Monday night a general diary signed by party's publicity secretary Abdul Mannan was sent to Dhanmondi thana, but police refused The diary said killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman became desperate to kill

Sheikh Hasina since they received

death sentence from the court in 1998 It pointed out some attempts on the life of Sheikh Hasina in the recent past and said withdrawal of Special Security Force (SSF) and security protection force has now created scope for the conspirators to kill her.



FROM PAGE 12 from banks. They can be good savers and investors if properly trained in various skills.

cated system of lending is helpful in controlling loan default Ibrahim Khaled said savings will be a ladder for prosperity if the human resources can be developed. Savings rate in the country is

Fakhruddin Ahmed said syndi-

among the lowest in the region, he Prof. Abu Ahmed said savings rate will increase if most of the people are included in savings schemes. He opposed the idea of increasing interest on savings. This will lead to increase in the overall

interest rate. Wali Bhuiyan said, to develop the economy, ways must be found out to

micro credit, Rokya Rahman said close monitoring is necessary to prevent loan default. She said Midas now gives loan up to Tk five lakh and the recovery rate is also very good. This has been possible due to close monitoring, she added.

Our Reply: Rajuk activities to

# Hasına

FROM PAGE 12

the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Magistrate Jagannath Das

Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) at Lablu also told the court that a young man gave him the rifle, as

Russel told the court on Monday that two AL leaders contacted Sufal and another arms trader at a hotel in Chittagong in January. And, according to the contract, the rifle was sent

> machine on September 19 last year, but it was put into operation only on April 2 this year. Surprisingly, the machine has so far provided only 13 bags of platelet since its operation in April and it

of Shandhani. Dhaka Unit.

"We do not have enough training to use the machine. Whatever we have done so far was to gain experience," said Dr Kazi Nowshad Hossain, emergency medical officer at the DMCH blood bank. Dr Laila Arzuman Banu, assistant professor of the DMCH blood transfusion centre, said, "Since the process of separating platelet is lengthy and

requires kits, each bag of platelet

costs Tk 10,000. Because of the high

cost, patients prefer to procure the

blood product from outside. What we

now need in the face of the dengue

emergency is a refrigerated centri-

fuge machine or a simple cell separa-

The Mitford and the Suhrawards hospitals, two of the biggest general hospitals in the city where many dengue patients are now being treated, do not have any cell separator or reagent to test dengue infec-

"We do not have cell separators which is so urgently required. Everyday we are getting patients with dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF). but we are forced to send them to the Red Crescent blood centre for platelet. In the last two weeks, I myself have sent six emergency patients to the centre," said a doctor in the medicine ward of the

Suhrawardy Hospital. He also said that even for simple dengue confirmatory tests, attendants are forced to rush to private

diagnostic centres. The only age-old cell separator (platelet making machine) at the Banghabandhu Sheikh Muiib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH), the biggest autonomous hospital in the city, has no contribu-

tion to cope with the dengue emer-"We got no requisition for platelet from the hospital itself. Most of the patients, I believe, go to the Red Crescent blood centre. But if

required, we can supply four bags of

platelet every two-and-a-half hour,"

said Abdul Majid, a medical technolo-

gist at the blood bank of the **BSMMUH** At the adjacent BIRDEM hospital, the only cell separator is meant for

patient admitted mostly, but it is also open to the public although a very few seeks services there as people have little knowledge about its facilities. "Our cell separator is open to all. We have no bar on giving service to outside patients," said Sarder Amir Ali, director general of the institution.

Meanwhile, private blood banks

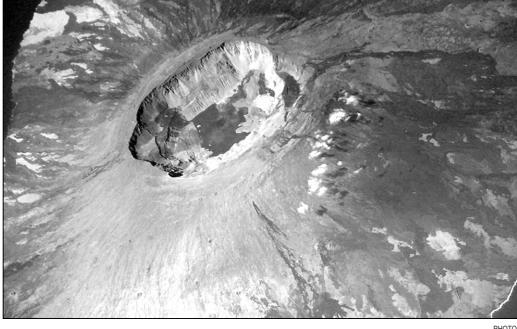
are charging as high as Tk 10,000 a bag of platelet A medical technologist at a private blood bank said, "There is no fixed rate. We charge people depending

on their ability to pay.

At the Padma Diagnostic, each bag of platelet costs Tk 10,000. This does not cover the charge for testing sexually transmitted diseases for which an additional Tk 1000 is Dr Md Shaful Alam of the diagnos-

tic centre said, "We charge high

because the kit is expensive. But very few are coming to us for platelet." Meantime, the rush at the Red Crescent blood centre is increasing by every hour. Yesterday, the centre supplied 70 bags of platelet till evening, but officials there expect the number to cross 150 by night.



A NASA file image released August 11 shows the La Cumbre volcano on Fernandina Island on the Galapagos. La Cumbre is the most active volcano erupting most recently in 1995. The volcano rises 1,495 metres from sea level. This photo was taken by the Expedition 5 crew in June aboard the International Space Station. The scene provides a detailed view of the 850-metre deep summit caldera. The dark flows in the middle of the caldera floor were erupted in 1991. These flows are partly covered by dark green vegetation.