



No change in temperature

**UNB, Dhaka**

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.7 degree Celsius was recorded at Chuadanga and the lowest of 21.7 degree at Srirongal.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5:59 pm today and rises at 5:46 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	33.2	24.6	69	67
Chittagong	32.8	25.0	83	72
Rajshahi	35.2	25.2	78	79
Khulna	34.0	24.4	84	67
Barisal	33.6	25.3	81	81
Sylhet	32.7	23.5	90	76
Cox's Bazar	33.1	25.8	82	77

Ex-BUET teacher

**FROM PAGE 12**

signed two contracts involving Tk 15.50 crore with the EWPDL in February this year to build 50 vessels for the property developer for carrying earth for filling low-lying lands around the city.

As the government came forward to protect the low-lying lands by enforcing relevant laws, the EWPDL thought that the vessels would not be required.

Under the contracts, the developer initially paid Tk 8.52 crore in two phases. But they were very reluctant to pay the rest even after the vessels were built, the sources mentioned.

Recently, a cheque for Tk 2.64 crore was given to Bari by the EWPDL. But the cheque bounced thrice, prompting him to go for settling the matter at a meeting with the EWPDL officials.

Sources said that the property developer had already secured a loan of Tk 20 crore from the Agrani Bank's Principal Branch against these vessels.

Following pressure from Bari, the EWPDL officials agreed to sit with him at 3:30 pm on Monday. "Later they told Dr Bari over telephone that they were not ready for the meeting and wanted to hold it at 4:30pm," said one source.

Accordingly, Bari along with seven of his office staff went to the EWPDL office at the Sena Kolyan Bhaban. Ahmed Akbar Sobhan, Chairman of EWPDL, parent organisation of Bashundhara Group, then told Bari to sit with him separately.

The former BUET teacher, who could not even talk properly because of serious injuries, told this correspondent, "I wanted to sit in presence of my office staff, but the (EWPDL) chairman and his three sons--

Sadat Sobhan, Sabiat Sobhan and Syem Sobhan -- did not agree to it and took me to their conference room. Then they pressed me to deliver the vessels. But I told them it would follow payment of the dues."

He continued, "At this, they started making indecent comments

3 dacoits arrested

**FROM PAGE 12**

The gang entered a house at Road-50 at about 2:30 pm to commit dacoity, sources said.

On information, a team of detective police led by an assistant commissioner rushed to the spot. The elements then fired shots and threw crackers at the policemen. Police fired back and arrested three of them.

The arrested were identified as Yakub Ali alias Babu, Khokon Munshi and Mohammad Hanif.

Hanif was shot in the leg. He was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Police sub-inspectors Abdul Hakim and Momen and havildar Dalli Uddin were injured as the gang threw crackers at them. They were admitted to the Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital.

In another incident, Uttara police arrested five alleged criminals fleeing in a car at Khikhet in the city yesterday. They also recovered about Tk 3.52 lakh from their possession.

The arrested were identified as Alauddin Malek, Abdus Samad, Billal Hossain, Safiqul Islam and Noor-e-Alam. Of them, Alam was admitted to the DMCH with bullet wounds.

On suspicion, a police team tried to stop a car carrying the miscreants at Dhour Bridge near Ashulia check post. But the car sped away, hitting two of the on duty constables. In a bid to stop it, a police sergeant shot two rounds from his revolver.

At Abdullahpur check post, police tried to stop the car, but it sped away bracking a barricade and ignoring shots fired by police.

A police team then barricaded the road at Khikhet footover, placing a bus and a truck on it. The gang members then got down from the car, fired shots at police and started running away.

But police caught them and seized the car (Dhaka Metro Tha-11-4212).

Cases in connection with the incidents were filed with the police stations concerned.

Fresh election violence kills 2 in Kashmir

**AFP, Srinagar**

Election-linked violence flared anew yesterday in Indian Kashmir, leaving two people dead, after India declared itself pleased with a "satisfactory" turnout in the first round of controversial assembly elections.

Separatists, however, claimed that the voting yesterday in five districts was marred by widespread coercion and intimidation of voters by Indian security forces.

Islamic rebels had vowed to kill anyone participating in the vote and launched a bloody campaign in the runup to the ballot, killing two candidates including the state's law minister.

But only scattered violence was reported during the tightly guarded polling, which saw 44 per cent of 1.49 million eligible voters turn up to vote, according to official figures.

Militants, however, unleashed a new round of attacks today, hurling a grenade at a car carrying activists of Kashmir's National Conference party in the southern town of Anantnag, which heads to the polls in the third phase October 1.

American Week begins in Ctg today

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

The 'American Week' organised by the US Embassy in Dhaka begins in the port city today.

The week's programmes will begin with a catalogue show of US products at the Agrabad. US Ambassador Mary Ann Peters will inaugurate the show at 11.00am. The show will remain open till September 21.

Besides, seminars and cultural programmes will also be held throughout the week.

The programmes include performance of American jazz trio at the Engineers' Institute on September 19 and a photography exhibition titled 'Post-September 11: Image of ground zero' at the art college on September 20.

The other programmes are seminars and discussion on economic cooperation, education in the USA, Islam and Muslim community in America, and USAID activities on AIDS/HIV prevention in Bangladesh and a video presentation on disaster preparedness.

A feature film 'Chameli' dealing with the global problem of trafficking in women and children will also be screened at Hotel Agrabad on September 21.

Dhaka welcomes Iraq's decision

**BSS, Dhaka**

Bangladesh yesterday welcomed the Iraqi government's decision to readmit UN weapons inspectors.

"Bangladesh welcomes, in principle, the decision of the government of Iraq to receive UN Inspectors as confirmed by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan," a spokesman at the Foreign Ministry said.

This is an important first step towards fulfilling obligations stipulated under relevant UN Security Council resolutions in this regard," he added.

1,029 children

**FROM PAGE 1**

dren are arrested under special laws such as the Special Powers Act, the Narcotics Control Act and so on, the report says.

It also mentioned use of children in armed combat by the political parties during strikes and other activities.

The report says till they are 18 years old children need to be protected from the harsh laws. There is a need to finalise the age limit of children for charging them with serious crimes like murder, mayhem, anti-state activities and explosives-related cases.

Justice K M Hasan of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court noted that despite the juvenile correction centres and shelter home established by the government, the success rate of rehabilitating accused children is very low. "Maybe these correction centres are over-simplified," he observed.

He suggested establishment of special courts or designated courts with judges and personnel trained in line with Children Right Convention Rules and Guidelines and with knowledge of the provisions of the Children's Act 1974.

Attorney General AF Hasan Arif stressed reforms of the Children's Act 1974 and establishment of more correction centres.

The publication ceremony was presided over by President of Odhakar Dr Tasneem Siddiqui, while journalist Afsan Chowdhury reviewed the yearbook.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr. Kamal Siddiqui, Chief, Communication and Information Section of UNICEF Naseem-ur-Rahman, and Director of Odhakar Masood Alam Ragib Ahsan were the other discussants.

4 burnt alive

**FROM PAGE 12**

Of the victims, Afzal, Shohag and Selim were asleep at the laundry, owned by one Masum, during the incident.

The other victim, Monir, owner of an electrical goods shop, was also asleep at his shop.

Fire fighters rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze at around 6 am.

They recovered the charred bodies from the two shops and handed them to Demra police. Police sent the bodies to the Midford Hospital for autopsy.

A General Diary was filed in this regard.

AL walkout

**FROM PAGE 1**

At this stage, Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar gave floor to Industries Minister MK Anwar, who said there was no scope for debate on article 274. The Speaker also told Nasim he could not allow a debate on the said article.

Not convinced, the AL lawmakers continued with their demand that the Chair allow Nasim to speak.

At one stage, senior AL leader Abdus Samad Azad sought the floor. As he was denied too, the AL staged a walkout.

White House to unveil cyber security plan

**AFP, Washington**

The White House this week unveils its first formal cyber security plan amid increasing concern that terrorists or hackers may strike at vital computer networks.

The plan is to be unveiled in Silicon Valley by Richard Clarke, President George W Bush's principal adviser on combating global terrorism, who has long sounded the alarm about a potential "digital Pearl Harbour" that could cripple the nation.

Yet the plan, drafts of which have been circulated to key industry leaders, is drawing a mixed response. According to those familiar with the plan, it offers few mandates and relies heavily on individual computer users to voluntarily "secure their corner of cyberspace."

The need for improved computer security has become a priority since deadly terror attacks September 11, 2001, amid concerns an attack on computer networks could shut down critical functions such as air traffic control, telephone networks, banking systems or electric power grids.

The plan is expected to toughen security at various government agencies where numerous vulnerabilities have been reported. But in the private sector -- which operates the vast majority of computer systems -- industry analysts say the plan offers little more than suggestions.

"The plan places the onus on remedying these problems in the wrong places," said Russ Cooper of the Internet security firm TruSecure. "It is calling on individuals to secure themselves ... what would be better would be better to require Internet service providers to prevent malicious intruders from corrupting their networks."

But Harris Miller, president of the Information Technology Association of America, a high-tech industry group, said government mandates are not the best way to improve security.

"This plan is not about government dictating to the private sector," said Miller, who has viewed a draft of the plan.

"It is about setting out clear desires and objective ways to get there. That is exactly the way you want to go. You don't want bureaucrats in Washington trying to dictate things; silly mandates like that don't sense."

Power decentralisation

**FROM PAGE 12**

union parishad, the upazila parishad and the zila parishad should take place simultaneously to save public money and time, they suggested.

Responding to the possible tripartite power tussle among the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), the local MP and the upazila chairman, they said appropriate frameworks should be set up and jurisdiction be specified so that all parties can take part in development activities.

Opposition, constructive criticism and involvement of three parties to development planning, in turn, can ensure transparency and accountability of the upazila parishad, they pointed out.

Later in the day, Chairman of the Sahapara Union Parishad in Gaibandha Mahbubur Rahman presented the budget for 2002-2003 of the parishad at a discussion meeting in the Rebeca Habib Girls' High School ground.

Mahbubur Rahman, adjudged the best chairman of Gaibandha, inspired villagers to volunteer in road repair, tree-planting and blood donation to make the union parishad an example of participatory development.

At the meeting, Badiul Alam Majumder, country director of Hunger Project, said that if people unite, creativity and industry are utilised and local resources properly are used, development will go ahead.

The LGSG held a press conference on the new premises of the parishad manual on jurisdiction.

The union parishad chairman and members present at the meeting demanded that public water-bodies be handed over to the parishad.

The parishad should be authorised to collect tax and other duties to come out self-reliant, they said.

Chairman of the Sahapara Union Parishad in Gaibandha Mahbubur Rahman presented the budget for 2002-2003 of the parishad at a discussion meeting in the Rebeca Habib Girls' High School ground.

Mahbubur Rahman, adjudged the best chairman of Gaibandha, inspired villagers to volunteer in road repair, tree-planting and blood donation to make the union parishad an example of participatory development.

At the meeting, Badiul Alam Majumder, country director of Hunger Project, said that if people unite, creativity and industry are utilised and local resources properly are used, development will go ahead.

The LGSG held a press conference on the new premises of the parishad manual on jurisdiction.

Ruling party flouting JS rules

**FROM PAGE 1**

overnight debate on law and order.

The AL president also described the "deliberate attempts by the treasury bench" to push a much-awaited discussion on deterioration of law and order down the order of the day on Monday night.

She also criticised the government for keeping the Central Shaheed Minar under siege, curtailing press freedom to cover programmes inside the Sangsad Bhaban and deploying huge contingents of police on the Dhaka University and Bangladesh Engineering and Technology (BUET) campuses following their indefinite closure.

As it was too late for the Sangsad to take up discussion on law and order Sunday night, the Speaker deferred it and ruled he would allow the discussion at the end of a scheduled one-hour question-answer session the next day, Hasina told newsmen yesterday.

However, "the ruling party compelled the Speaker to violate his own ruling" as the question dragged on for nearly two hours, she added.

Moreover, he allowed deliberation by ruling party lawmakers on unscheduled issues and disposed of other notices before the discussion on law and order finally started at around 11:00pm, Hasina said.

The former prime minister also said the Treasury Bench "wanted to provoke us into staging a walkout" by raising a debate on her derogatory remark about the president so that "the law and order situation was not discussed."

"But we showed utmost patience and did not react to the scathing attack," she said.

"We wanted to discuss important issues like dengue, wheat scam, price hikes of essentials but the prime minister did not entertain these issues at the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting. The current session was made short and scheduled to be prolonged before Wednesday, designated for the prime minister's question-answer session," she said.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid, Chief Whip Abdus Shahid and senior party leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman, Suranjit Sengupta, Abdur Razzak and Shah AMS Kibria were also present at the news conference.

The parliament secretariat once again denied access of camera crews of private electronic media to the Sangsad Bhaban for coverage of the news conference.

Sharp fall in FDI flow

**FROM PAGE 1**

India attracted \$3.4 billion, up from \$2.3 billion in 2000 while Pakistan received \$385 million, up from \$305 million.

Sri Lanka, meanwhile, saw a three per cent dip in FDI to \$172 million.

AFP adds, China took over from its special administrative territory Hong Kong as the largest recipient of cross-border private investment in Asia and in the developing world.

But the two separate customs areas continued to dominate FDI flows into the Asia-Pacific region.

China shed three years of stagnation as foreign companies poured 15 per cent more investment into the country compared to the previous year, reaching 46.8 billion dollars in 2001.

That momentum was boosted in the first half of this year following accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), with inflows to the Asian giant rising by 19 per cent compared with the first six months of 2001.

"The upward trend in FDI is likely to be sustained in the coming years, particularly in the light of the country's accession to the WTO," the report said.

Investment in Taiwan also remained at "historically high levels" (four billion dollars), thanks to the island's WTO accession, it added.

In the absence of any global scale mergers in 2001, FDI in Hong Kong dropped by 60 per cent to 22.8 billion dollars.

UNCTAD said the fall from a record 62 billion dollars in 2000 accounted for much of Asia's decline.

But the Chinese territory continued to reinforce its position as a business hub, with 3,237 multinationals maintaining regional offices there, eight per cent more than in 2000.

The overall Asian data does not include Japan, which is listed under a separate group of developed countries.

"Japan's domestic investment fell in 2001 (six billion dollars), but its investment abroad grew by 21 per cent to 38 billion dollars and is expected to keep growing," the report said.

Meanwhile, a doubling of investment in Kazakhstan's natural resources, including oil, gas and metals, helped drive up Central Asia's FDI by 88 per cent to 3.6 billion dollars.

Overall flows to Southeast Asia stagnated at 13 billion dollars, notably due to continued divestments in Indonesia because of the uncertain political climate in recent years.

However, most of the Asian "tiger" economies continued to attract more investment, the report indicated.

FDI in Singapore rose for the first time in four years, increasing by 59 percent to nine billion dollars.

Foreign investment in Thailand grew by one billion to 3.8 billion dollars.

Inflows to the Philippines also climbed from 1.23 billion in 2000 to 1.8 billion in 2001.

UNCTAD said Vietnam was "entering a new era as a host to FDI", helped by bilateral trade agreement with the United States and accession talks with the WTO.

UN inspectors

**FROM PAGE 12**

"The excuse used to launch an aggression has been totally blocked."

Weapons inspectors were pulled out of Iraq shortly before a bombing raid in December 1998 led by the United States and Britain, which accused Baghdad of failing to cooperate with the UN teams.

Russia, which remains close to Baghdad, welcomed Iraq's offer, while China expressed relief, but other members of the UN Security Council were more wary.

"Thanks to our joint efforts, we managed to avert the threat of a war scenario and go back to political means of solving the Iraqi problem," Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said.

French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said the five-member council "must now hold Saddam Hussein to his word."

Britain also reacted cautiously, with a Downing Street spokesman saying: "Saddam's regime has a long history of playing games."

"His regime has flouted a whole raft of resolutions. Let's see what they are offering," the spokeswoman added.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair is the only European leader to have given wholehearted backing to Bush's hard line on Iraq, although his government has put more emphasis on reviving UN arms inspections than on Saddam's ouster.

"The Iraqi decision is what the international community, including China, has always hoped to see," Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan told Xinhua news agency.

"China will, together with the international community, continue to strive for the political settlement of the Iraqi issue within the framework of the United Nations."

Under the terms of the disarmament programme imposed on Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War, the UN must verify that Saddam no longer has biological, chemical and nuclear weapons in order for crippling UN sanctions to be lifted.

In his letter to Annan, Sabri emphasized that Baghdad's actions were in response to Annan saying recently that the inspectors' return should be "the indispensable first step" towards "a comprehensive solution that includes the lifting of the sanctions imposed on Iraq" after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Bush had warned the council that if it fails to act to force Baghdad to comply with 16 resolutions he says Saddam has flouted -- including those aimed at disarming Iraq -- then Washington will be forced to act unilaterally.

In a toughly-worded speech Thursday to the UN General Assembly, Bush laid out five demands of Saddam: scrap his biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons programs and stockpiles; end support for terrorism; and persecution of Iraq's civilian population.

Agarwal, Modi

**FROM PAGE 1**

of the four PCBs. The managing director of One Bank sent his reply yesterday, while others sent theirs on Tuesday.

After press reports on the financial scam, the BB started investigation into the bank transactions of Giridhari Lal Modi and Uttara Group, Om Prakash Agarwal and the Doel Group on August 10.

The probe has revealed dubious transactions through different bank accounts, suggesting links with illegal hundi business. The anti-money laundering department of the BB has asked the Bureau of Anti-corruption (BAC) to take legal action against people responsible for the scam, sources said.

The central bank probe also found that the proceeds of apparel exports by the business groups did not come to the country, which is a punishable offence under the foreign exchange regulations.

He said the outlaws will be arrested and punished.

Some local people while talking to this correspondent alleged that innocent villagers were held by the law enforcers.

He said families of the policemen killed in the incident will be given a compensation of Tk two lakh each as per the prime minister's earlier announcement regarding compensation for such incidents.

11th September in Ctg

**FROM PAGE 10**

again. I knew that history had all along gone a similar pattern. A superior force claiming itself to be civilised fought an inferior force, which is claimed to be barbarous. This goes on. And as the world grew larger and larger, people from the less developed parts of the world migrated to the metropolises of the West to America mainly. So the question between the civilised and the uncivilised got mixed up, and the edifices and the monuments and such landmarks became the legacy of the whole world, not of one nation's in particular. The wall dividing a native and a foreigner is so thin in a cosmopolitan country like the US that the terrorist attack of 11th September may be considered as very badly made because it had not respected the harmonious coexistence between the races in America. The last survivor to be rescued from under the WTC debris is Genelle Guzman-McMillan, a 29-year Trinidadian illegal immigrant working at the 64th floor of the North Tower when the building was hit. She has survived, but many others have not. Who is paying the price for what?

Terrorism is non-militarised action and, therefore, more fatal for human lives and property.