



Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions today.

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

Country's highest temperature 34.9 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and lowest 23.8 degree Celsius at Rangamati yesterday.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:45 pm today and rises at 5:51 am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.7	25.5	82	69
Chittagong	34.5	25.5	74	69
Rajshahi	34.4	26.2	85	79
Khulna	34.8	26.7	82	77
Barisal	33.8	26.0	76	92
Sylhet	27.4	24.1	100	97
Cox's Bazar	33.6	25.7	74	82

Shut down zoo

FROM PAGE 1
them are common.

Some 200 zookeepers have no basic training on rearing animals.

There was a close circuit camera at shed No. C5 where the incident took place, but it did not function on Monday. Another camera at the main gate also does not function. No body could say whether the rest two in other cages to monitor movement of animals centrally were functioning or not.

The zoo also has 18 walkie-talkies but those are seldom used, some employees alleged.

The zoo authorities however termed the tragic incident an "accident" which occurred in a "very short time."

"There was no fault on the part of the authorities. We were helpless during the incident," curator AKM Omar Faruq said.

Asked why the Ansars did not shoot the bears, Platoon Commander Md. Babar said they could not do so without written order from the zoo authorities.

"In fact, when we reached the spot after hearing the news, Ismail was dead," he said.

The zoo authorities have formed a three-member committee to probe the incident. It will submit its report within three days.

The inquiry committee headed by Dr. Altaf Hossain, Director (administration) of the Department of the Livestock Services includes Saaluddin Khan, Deputy Director and Dr. Sabir Ahmed Deputy Director (budget) of Central Poultry Farm.

When contacted, Director General (DG) of the Department of Livestock Services Nurul Islam said the inquiry committee will probe why Ismail's life could not be saved.

Meantime, the authorities sanctioned Tk 20,000 as compensation to the family of the victim.

The body of Ismail was sent to his village home in Chuadanga yesterday after namaj-e-janaja at the zoo employees' staff quarter at 3 pm.

Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Sadeque Hossain Khoka visited the family yesterday and assured them a "handsome compensation" and a permanent job to Ismail's wife at the zoo.

Unseat 'corrupt' govt

FROM PAGE 12

The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament also criticised the government for what she said importing rotten wheat from India and making crores of taka through illegal means.

"They (BNP-Jamaat) become anti-India while in opposition and lovers of India while in power."

Painting a grim picture of economy, she said foreign investment is shrinking and aid funds are going down the drain because of corruption and lawlessness.

"Donors are gradually withdrawing their aid because of corruption. The Transparency International has branded Bangladesh the number one corrupt country."

She said her government made the country food surplus after meeting a deficit of 24 lakh tonnes. But

this government is creating food deficit and importing foodgrains for getting commission.

In the last election, Hasina said, votes for Awami League had increased, but proportionate seats were not given to her party under "a well-orchestrated blueprint."

AL central leaders Abdus Samad Azad MP, Zillur Rahman MP, Sajeda Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta MP, Dewan Farid Gazi MP, Abdul Jalil MP, Matia Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, KM Jahangir MP, Sheikh Helal MP, Abdur Rahman and Chhatra League President Liaqat Sikdar and general secretary Nazrul Islam Babu accompanied Hasina and addressed the public rallies.

Ward commissioner

FROM PAGE 1

Uttara Model Town. With the killing of Raju, four ward commissioners have been killed since the April 25 DCC election.

According to police and eyewitnesses, Raju, Ward Commissioner of ward No. 46 Abu Sayed Bepari, Nuri and an unidentified man were coming down from the first floor of the commissioner's office at Town Hall.

Four armed men, two of them wearing black trousers and white shirts, arrived on the spot by a car. When the four came down, they shot them. Hit in the chest and abdomen, Raju tried to get into his first floor office but collapsed on the stairs.

Meanwhile, Nuri asked the gunmen what they were doing. The gunmen also shot him in the throat and abdomen, police said quoting the witnesses. The gang fired at least seven shots during the attack that lasted about five minutes.

However, another source said the gunmen, in fact, came to kill Nuri. Raju tried to save him and got himself shot in the process.

Raju had several criminal charges against him, including one for murder. He was one of the 18 ward commissioner candidates against whom the metropolitan magistrate issued detention orders before the DCC election in April on charge of involvement in criminal activities. He was also one of four ward commissioners to be arrested after taking oath of office.

Local residents said Nuri was involved in garments cut piece trading in the area. His sister Muneera Parveen said her brother was died due to political conflict.

His wife Setara Begum and brother Suman Haq said at the DMCH that Bepari and his nephew Jasim assaulted him during the first week of September. Afterwards, he was admitted to Suhrawardi

Hospital. Nuri had filed a general diary with the Mohammadpur Police Station in this regard, they added.

Relation between Nuri and Bepari worsened during the DCC election as Nuri and his supporters threw their weight behind Bepari's rival, also a BNP man who ran the race as an independent candidate. Bepari then threatened Nuri that he would have to pay for it, they said.

For the last ten days, unidentified people used to ring Nuri up late at night and threaten him that his days were numbered. Following the threats, he moved to a new house, they further said.

Nuri went out of his residence at about 8:05am. Local people suspect that ward commissioner Raju's rival former ward commissioner of the area Ehsanul Haq Shetu might be involved in the killing as they believe Raju was the prime target. Shetu is an accused in several criminal cases.

A shopkeeper who witnessed the incident said three policemen were on duty near the spot during the incident. The gunmen shot Raju as he was about to shake hands with Bepari who got into his car moments before. The car sped away immediately.

The shopkeeper said one of the gunmen, who had left his mobile phone on the spot after the operation, came back, collected it in front of the policemen and then ran away.

Mohammadpur police said no case was filed till 8:00 last night.

Meanwhile, Raju's followers assaulted two press photographers of The Daily Star and daily Prothom Alo at the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital. They also damaged a camera.

One burnt alive in Rajshahi city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

One person was burnt alive and another injured in a fire at a shop in the city's Devishingpara area yesterday noon.

The dead was identified as Lalon, 18, son of Asgar of Khajapur in the city.

The fire broke out from a burning cigarette at Mukhta Enterprise, a retail seller of oil, gas and petrol.

The injured, identified as Masuk Ahmed Heera, 20, son of Mustak Ahmed Major, owner of Mukhta Enterprise, was rushed to RMCH in a critical condition.

Shazneen case

FROM PAGE 1

Rahman added.

The witness also said that he came to know from Humayun, another accused (now dead) in the case, that he (Humayun) had taken a chisel from Shaniram (carpenter).

All the six accused now in Jail custody -- Hasan, Shahid, Shaniram, Badal, Minu and Parvin -- were produced before the court yesterday.

Special public prosecutors (PP) Arfan Uddin Khan, ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul, Mahub Ahmed and Saima Khanam and Assistant PP Anisur Rahman appeared for the state while advocates Mohammad Hanif and Anwarul Kabir Babul represented the accused.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, who was assaulted and murdered, was the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman of Transcom.

BB moves

FROM PAGE 1

Cröres have been transacted through accounts of Ali's employees, the probe found out. There are no explanations for such deals, according to BB sources.

The BB investigation also found out that Ali had misused NCCBL facilities for illegal financial gains.

When an individual transfers money from one branch or bank to another, he does it through telegraphic transfer system. But when the bank transfers money from one branch to another, it is done through inter-bank transactions.

Ali misused the inter-bank transaction facilities to transfer money and thus, deprived the bank of lakhs of taka in service charges, the probe found out.

After the probe, the BB served the show cause notice under section 46 of the Bank Company Act asking Ali to explain why he would not be removed from the NCCBL board for activities against the interest of the institution.

Earlier, the BB served show-cause notices on the managing directors of four banks and chairmen One bank Limited, Dhaka Bank Limited, National Bank Limited and NCCBL on charge of irregularities in sanctioning loans to business groups owned by the three Marwari businessmen.

World Bank

FROM PAGE 1

milled to take a similar path.

"We have no illusions about the scale of the challenge, but we have made the commitment and it is on this that our citizens will judge us. We recognise the need to deepen the reform process and that good governance is pivotal to this."

"Today, I can reiterate the government's commitment to go forward, but we must be sensitive to the social costs of restructuring. For reform to be sustainable, we need appropriate safety nets so that changes are accepted and understood by the people," Saifur said

Wolfensohn noted some "politically courageous" structural reforms initiated recently, particularly the closure of the Adamjee Jute Mills, which had incurred losses of \$20 million a year.

Pollution

FROM PAGE 10

Cox's Bazar based hatchery, denied the allegation of causing pollution against all the hatcheries there by releasing effluents.

He said "Some of the hatcheries with big investment like ours have treatment plants and drop the effluents after treatment." "We are very much friendly with environment and conscious."

"We are running our hatcheries with costly machinery," he said. Meanwhile, Chittagong Port Authority continued a drive against the vessels responsible for oil spillage in the port channel at the Bay.

Several hundred ships called at Chittagong port were already fined on charge of oil pollution, port officials said.

Director of environment department Ismail said necessary actions would be taken against the hatcheries and industries responsible for causing pollution at Cox's Bazar coast.

"We are continuing an investigation in this regard and after completion of this, we will go for action definitely" Ismail said.

However, marine pollution caused on various occasions, deaths of huge fish-folks in epidemic form, sources said.

Admission irregularities

Pabna Polytechnic Instt served notice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) has served notices on the principal, vice-principal, registrar and chairman and members of the admission committee of Pabna Polytechnic Institute asking them to explain within seven days alleged irregularities in admission of students this year.

The BTEB has also formed a three-member committee to investigate the alleged irregularities and find out those responsible for this.

The committee is headed by BTEB Chairman Mir Abul Hossain and its members are Deputy Controller Sultan Uddin and Principal of Bogra Polytechnic Institute Rafiqur Rahman. The team will go to Pabna today to begin its probe.

Those served with notice are Principal Saber Uddin, Vice-principal Nazrul Islam, Registrar Abdul Aziz, chairman of the admis-

sion committee Goura Chandra Basu and its members Pores Chandra Sarkar, Abdul Latif, Abdus Salam, Shamsul Haq, Sattya Gopal Bosak, Azizul Haq, Aminur Rahman Khan, Mujibur Rahman, Khondokar Mohadev Kumar Roy, Motahar Hossain and Altiquur Rahman.

Meanwhile, admission seekers have been put into a state of uncertainty because of a row between the institute authorities and local leaders of the ruling BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

Many of the sufferers made allegations of various irregularities and bribery in the admission process. Sources mentioned that admission test at the institute was held on September 8 and at least 1776 students sat for the test against 264 seats in the five departments. On September 16, a BTEB circular showed 50 of the admission seekers successful in the test.

Leaders of the local unit of JCD protested this and claimed that selection of students for admission

was made by the teachers concerned against payment of money. This led to a stalemate at the institute for three days.

The institute authorities however said they (JCD leaders) made such allegations as their demands for admission of students of their choice were not met.

After reviewing the answer scripts of the admission test, the BTEB on September 26 issued a fresh list of 50 students passing the test. This list did not contain the names of 25 students who were on the previous list.

When contacted, Principal Saber Uddin said the board was now controlling all activities of the institute and he should not talk to the press.

He however said there was no problem after the new list was given.

At least 148 students were admitted till September 30 and the process will be completed by October 6 admitting students now on the waiting list.

Peaceful rally at Shaheed Minar

FROM PAGE 1

JASAS programme was scheduled to begin at 4:00pm, but it started at 12:00 noon and concluded at 3:20pm following an instruction by the government high-ups and a request by the DU authorities, sources said.

A large police contingent remained deployed at the Shaheed Minar premises till the end of JASAS programme. Police however left the area when a BNS procession was approaching the Shaheed Minar.

Several thousand people carrying banners and placards gathered at the Central Shaheed Minar premises to register their protest against the government decision that made prior permission from the Dhaka University authorities mandatory for any public gatherings to be held there.

The demonstrators included poets, writers, cultural activists, journalists, human rights activists, teachers, lawyers, political leaders and women leaders.

Addressing the rally, they said the government's backing out on its previous stance regarding holding of public gatherings is a victory of the people imbued with the spirit of the War of Independence. They however warned against further attempts to siege the Shaheed Minar.

Castigating the government for clamping the restriction on public gatherings at the Shaheed Minar, the speakers said that the Central Shaheed Minar is the pride and property of the common people.

Shahriar Kabir, one of the organisers of the rally, said the 'Shaheed Minar has been rediscovered today' and 'from this moment' a new mis-

sion of the people has started to defy all the black laws of the government and make the country free from razakar (collaborators).

He announced at the rally that another 'grand' rally would take place at the Shaheed Minar on October 5. Language Movement heroes of the country will lead the rally.

Presiding over the rally, Prof. Kabir Chowdhury said the government had no way but to change its position in the face of waves of public protests who have resolved to uphold the very spirit of the Language Movement -- the Shaheed Minar.

Former DU vice-chancellor Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury blasted the government and the university authorities for misinterpreting a decision taken during his tenure regarding taking prior permission for holding any public gathering at the Shaheed Minar. "We took the decision to issue permission in advance only for the observance of Ekushey February in a disciplined and peaceful way."

But the present authorities are unduly taking advantage of the decision in a bid to make the Shaheed Minar off-limits to the democracy-loving people.

Barrister Amir Ul Islam, vice-chairman of the Bangladesh Bar Council, said the government was trying to occupy the national and public institutions and property like the Shaheed Minar off-limits to the Pakistani occupation forces. He alleged that the government was harassing the people by misusing the laws.

Ozair Faruk, president of the Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar

Association, said the huge gathering proved that no-one can get away by taking anti-people and illogical decisions.

Syed Shamsul Huq said the Shaheed Minar is free but at the same time "we all should take a vow to keep it free forever".

Journalist Fayez Ahmed said the nation's first victory was against the then Pakistan occupation forces and yesterday it achieved another victory by freeing the Shaheed Minar from the clutches of the anti-liberation forces.

Justice KM Sobhan said the Shaheed Minar is the property of people and people would uphold its sanctity.

In his concluding speech, Prof. Khan Sarwar Murshid alleged that the government sealed off the Shaheed Minar as it wanted to write a concocted history of the Liberation War. He urged all to build a concerted movement against any such government move.

Prof. Muntasir Mamun, Prof. Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Prof. Ajay Roy, Barrister Shawkat Ali, Hasanul Huq Inu of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Mahmud Selim of Udichi Shilpa Gosthi, Shaheen Reza Noor of Projonmo '71, Panna Kaiser of Kendriyo Kelaghar Ashor, Golan Kuddus of Sammilita Sangskritik Jole, women leader Hena Das, Salauddin Ahmed of Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kendrio Command, Altaf Hossain of Dhaka Ainjibi Samiti, advocate Shahara Khatun, economist Prof. Mosharraf Hossain and Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah, among others, spoke at the rally.

Disabled

FROM PAGE 12

courage them from continuing studies. Rabeya, Kohinor, Jarina, Sohail and Faisal have the same experience.

Deprived of parental affection, fifteen-year-old Halima, a cripple, feels dejected. "Even my father supports my younger brother but beats me up," she said.

The children mentioned the lack of emotional support from the society as well as from the family. "If my parents ridicule me for my blindness, what can I expect from others?" said Jarina. However, girls feel more deprived than boys.

Also, movement from place to place is a problem common to all these disabled children since the roads and work places are not properly accommodated for the disabled. They urged the government to provide them with proper street facilities.

The CSID aims not only to help these children but to create awareness among them about their own rights.

Shrimp exporters

FROM PAGE 12

ministry would upgrade the test laboratories. Asked about the EU and US complaints, Dr Karim said, "We have to upgrade testing facilities, as importers are setting new standards for quality."

The quality problem happens not only because of exporters, but in connivance with or due to negligence by the ministry officials. As a result, Bangladesh is earning a bad name and losing foreign currency, says a paper prepared by the commerce ministry ahead of the September 22 meeting.

Earlier on July 4 this year, the foreign ministry sent a letter to the fisheries and livestock ministry about the US's dissatisfaction with the government certification.

The official sources said the US Embassy in Dhaka had already conveyed its position to the foreign ministry that the country might stop importing shrimp from Bangladesh unless the problems facing the shrimp sector in Bangladesh are resolved.

After detecting bacteria in shrimps, the EU in a letter on August 2 also asked the fisheries department to live up to quality.

Recently, BFFEA President Salahuddin Ahmed said to The Daily

Star, "We have to develop our test laboratories so that they can detect all pathogens, as shrimp consumers in the developed world are becoming more health-conscious."

The BFFEA will go for a privatised quality certification, if the major importers have trust more in the private sector than the public sector, said Salahuddin.

Chief of Party, ATDP, James Dawson told The Daily Star that Bangladesh should not lose its competitive edge in the industry that employs over half a million people by mixing disease-infected shrimps with the good lots and pursuing artificial weight enhancement in exportable shrimps.

"Bangladesh receives 10 per cent less for its shrimp than its competitors because of perceptions that its shrimps are not clean. Last year, this amounted to nearly 30 million dollars in lost revenues," Dawson declared.

Also, Mahmudul Karim, a fisheries expert, said that as the world moving fast in setting new parameters, including hygiene and food safety, human rights, fair labour and environmental practice, development of a quality certification by the industry itself in the private sector is effective to deal with standardisa-

tion. In July, 1997 the EU slapped a ban on the import of shrimp products from Bangladesh on the grounds that exporters did not meet the provisions of the HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) regulations.

The ban came after (a) concerns over standards of health safeguards, quality control, infrastructure and hygiene in the processing units, and (b) lack of trust in the efficiency of controlling measures by the Department of Fisheries (DoF).

According to a paper prepared by Mustafizur Rahman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, the production of shrimp by aquaculture method is a hundred per cent export-oriented activity in Bangladesh, taking place in 9000 farms covering about 130 thousand hectares (12.7% of the global area under shrimp culture) and producing an average output of 30 thousand tons a year (5% of the global production).

Major markets for Bangladesh's shrimp are the EU accounting for 38.7% of the total market in FY 2000, the USA for 38.3% and Japan for 11.2%.

No headway in talks on arsenic project funding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There has been no development in a crucial meeting between the government and the World Bank (WB) over the fate of the Tk 189 crore Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project (BAMWSP) that formally ended Monday.

A meeting to decide whether the WB would continue funding the project was held yesterday afternoon between the state minister for Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) and WB's senior environment specialist Paul Martin. The meeting ended without any decision on the extension of the project.

The government, however, decided to continue funding the project from its own sources. A meeting in this regard was held with the state minister on Monday.

Bank officials in the meeting insisted that the government should complete the listed action plans, if the project is to receive continued funding.

An anonymous source in the bank said, "The government did not

keep its promise to reach the goals, as agreed, in the four years. So, basically we expected an assurance from the state minister that the money this time would be utilised as planned."

On the continuity of management, the source said, "A period of fair amount of transition time in the management must be established but we don't mind changes in the top positions or any other posts in the project as long as a sound management exists."

Sources said the just-sacked Project Director Abdul Quader was blasted at the meeting for his poor performance and incomplete works. The present Project Director, Kamaluddin Ahmed, was also present.

Meanwhile the bank has not yet served any formal communication regarding the closure of credit. However, WB sources said that a statement is likely to be issued today on the decision of the project.

Sources also said that LGRD Minister Mannan Bhuiyan could meet the bank officials for a second round of negotiations'.

Aftab murder Sylhet doctors start token strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Doctors at all the government hospitals, including the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, will observe a one hour token strike for seven days from today.

The programme was announced by the district unit of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) yesterday protesting the brutal murder of Dr Aftab Hossain, assistant director of the Sylhet Medical College Hospital.

The doctors will also keep their private chambers shut on October 8.

An mourning procession was brought out from the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College yesterday. Doctors held a rally on the hospital premises and later handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding exemplary punishment to the killers of Dr Aftab.

BNP celebrates

FROM PAGE 12

Besides, ministers, MPs, secretaries of the government, chiefs of the three services, elite of the city, leaders of various professional bodies and party men from all over the country greeted the prime minister, BNP sources said.

They hoped that Bangladesh would march forward under the dynamic leadership of Khaleda Zia and wished her long life, good health and happiness. She urged all to discharge their responsibilities from their respective positions to build a prosperous Bangladesh.