



Sheraton Hotel hosts an iftar party for orphans and students of five madrassahs at its winter garden in the city yesterday.



## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Dry weather will prevail over the country till 6 pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning.

Night temperature may rise over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 30.2 degree Celsius and the lowest 12.7 degree both were recorded yesterday at Sitakundu.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11 pm today and rises at 6:20 am tomorrow.

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

| City/Town   | Temperature |      | Humidity in percentage |         |
|-------------|-------------|------|------------------------|---------|
|             | Max         | Min  | Morning                | Evening |
| Dhaka       | 28.2        | 16.2 | 53                     | 66      |
| Chittagong  | 29.5        | 15.5 | 60                     | 56      |
| Rajshahi    | 28.0        | 16.0 | 75                     | 75      |
| Khulna      | 28.5        | 15.6 | 83                     | 79      |
| Barisal     | 28.5        | 14.4 | 87                     | 92      |
| Sylhet      | 29.0        | 17.0 | 80                     | 72      |
| Cox's Bazar | 29.9        | 17.0 | 60                     | 70      |

## Hasina condoles death of AL leader

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has expressed deep shock at the death of Gaibandha district Awami League leader Asaduzzaman Khan Kaka Miah.

In a condolence message yesterday, Hasina prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members, says a party press release.

Kaka Miah, General Secretary of Sadullapur thana Awami League, died of heart attack at Rangpur Medical College Hospital on Thursday at the age of 65.

## 'Foil conspiracy against Islam'

BSS, Dhaka

Health and Family Welfare Minister Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain yesterday said Islam is the religion of peace and equality, but a section of people is out to undermine it by false propaganda as part of a deep-rooted conspiracy.

Addressing a discussion on 'Blessings of Ramadan and its effect on social life' organised by Dhaka-based Daudkandi Samity at Ramna Restaurant, the health minister urged all to forge strong unity among Muslims to foil conspiracies against Islam.

Mosharraf said, practices and principles of Islam help the Muslims to forge unity among them. Besides, the month also teaches the rules of Islam to share all happiness with the poor after the end of month-long fasting.

Chaired by president of the organisation Fakhrul Islam, the function was addressed by General Secretary of the association KMI Khalil, advisors Obaidul Haque Bhuiyan and Shahjahan Chowdhury and Prof AKM Shahidullah.

## JU resounds with chirping of migratory birds

UNB, Savar

The evergreen campus of Jahangirnagar University (JU) resounds with the chirping of thousands of migratory birds who have already taken shelter there to pass their winter.

The JU is known as the lone residential university in the country that prides itself with a large number of lakes and bushes providing safe sanctuary for the guest birds.

Every year in winter season, the migratory birds come from far from Siberia and other cold territories seeking refuge in the warmer climate of Bangladesh.

With about 15 small and large lakes, the campus has a congenial environment for the migratory birds. Pankaori, Heron, Sorali, Ducks and many more anonymous birds come to the campus every year, and live on little fishes, insects, and snails.

Hundreds of enthusiastic bird lovers from different parts of the country converge on the campus to enjoy the panoramic views of the guest birds floating majestically on the lakes.

A colourful bird fair is organised every year on the campus to display domestic and guest birds. A large number of visitors visit the fair to see the sublime nature of the creation.

But these birds are not fully free from the searching look of hunters.

Miscreants kill a huge number of guest birds, but the university authorities have not taken any step to protect the birds.

No appreciable attempt to protect the migratory birds has been taken by the government. Also there has never been any organised effort to provide food or security to these birds. It seems we are more eager to hunt than protect the birds.

Of late, it is seen with a ray of hope that Bangladesh Birds Club, Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, Jahangirnagar University, FEJB and some other social organisations are working sincerely to protect birds, wild animals and environment across the country.

## 5,654 destitute women given training on silkworm cultivation

BSS, Dhaka

As many as 5,654 destitute women were given technical training on appropriate technology of mulberry and silkworm cultivation to develop their technical efficiency and improve quality of silk goods during the last two years.

Besides, the Silk Foundation in cooperation with the non-government organisations (NGOs) expanded high grade bush mulberry cultivation to 485 acres of land during the period.

After completion of their training, 1,656 landless people and destitute women have got jobs in silk cultivation, according to an official of the textile ministry.

During the period, the quality of silk fabric was developed significantly as

355 silk weavers were given training under local and foreign experts on modern technology of silk weaving, designing and dyeing.

Moreover, the productivity of silkworms also increased due to smooth supply of high-grade eggs of silkworm and technical cooperation to the farmers.

Thirty-nine tonnes of silk yarn had been produced last year as one kilogram of raw silk is being produced from 12 kilograms of worms at present, the official added.

He said the Silk Foundation has set up a reeling unit in Jhenidah to display the production method of high quality of raw silk. The unit has been producing world-grade yarn since the fiscal 2002-03.

## Brisk preparations for Eid in Ctg

BSS, Chittagong

Brisk preparations are afoot to celebrate the holy Eid-ul-Fitr with due religious fervour and traditional gaiety in the port city.

The main Eid congregation will be held at M A Aziz Stadium at 8.30am under the auspices of Central Eid Jamaat Committee (CEJC).

Another large Eid congregation will be held on the premises of Jamiatul Falah Masjid at 8.30am under the management of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC). The second jamaat will be held at the same venue at 9.30am.

Besides, around 250 Eid congregations will be held in the city. Of them, the CCC will organise 122 jamaats while CEJC will arrange 87 congregations.

Other major Eid congregations will be held at Anderkilla Shahi Jame Masjid, Amanat Shah Dargah Maidan, Laldighi Maidan, Parade Corner, Bander Stadium, Agrabad Jamboree Field, Railway Polo-Ground Maidan, Metropolitan Police Lines, Police Lines Masjid, Nasirabad Housing Society maidan, Sugandha Juma Masjid, Sher Shah Colony maidan,

Chittagong University eidgah maidan, Bahadherhat WAPDA Colony maidan, Dewanbazar C&B Colony maidan, Baizeed Bostami Dargah Masjid maidan, Chittagong Medical College eidgah maidan, Chandanpura Darool Ulum Alia Madrasa maidan, Lalkhan Bazar Jamiatul Ulum Madrasa maidan, Mehedibagh CDA Colony Jame Masjid maidan, Kadam Mobarak Shah-e-Jame Masjid, Omargani MES College maidan, East Nasirabad Jame Masjid, and Kalurghat FIDC Complex Masjid maidan.

Meanwhile, the government and other organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes marking the greatest festival of the Muslims.

These include hoisting of national flag atop private and public buildings, decoration of city thoroughfares and road islands with miniature flags and festoons inscribed with 'Eid Mubarak' both in Bengali and Arabic, and illumination of important buildings. Special diets will be served among the destitute people, inmates of jails, hospitals, orphanages, and other welfare centres. The regional centres of Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television will broadcast special programmes.

## AAA organises iftar party

The American Alumni Association (AAA) held an iftar party for its members at the restaurant "Bukhara" at Banani on Thursday, says a press release.

US Ambassador Harry K Thomas Jr was chief guest at the iftar party and handed out crests to new life members at AAA.

AAA president Dr Azizar Rahman Khan, secretary Syed Almas Kabir, treasurer Karl Fritz, EC members Dr M Enamul Huq, Akhtar Sultan and Ayesha Dastgir were also present.

AAA is an association of graduates of American colleges and universities in Bangladesh.

## Khoka greets city people on Eid

BSS, Dhaka

Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka yesterday extended warm greetings and heartiest felicitations to the city dwellers on the occasion of the Eid-ul-Fitr.

In a message on the occasion, the mayor underlined the importance of building a happy and prosperous society through the teachings of the holy Ramadan.

Khoka expressed his solidarity with the Muslim community of the city and wished them happy Eid-ul-Fitr.



Participants of the South Asian High School Invitation Programme pose with Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi at the air ticket handing over ceremony at his residence in the city on Thursday. The participants are Principal of Bangladesh Rifles School Md Moniruzzaman Mia and students Md Zubair Hossain, Asif Shatil Hossain, Tamanna Nazneen Rahman and Farida Yesmin.