

Rain to continue 2 more days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The current spell of rain with gusty wind across the country will continue at least two more days as the land depression that turned into a well-marked low is now centred in Andhra Pradesh of India, met office sources said yesterday.

"The low is moving slowly and it will persist there for two more days. We are experiencing heavy rains because the clouds from the depression centre are moving towards Bangladesh," said Arzumand Habib.

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Nine drown in Netrakona boat capsizes

UNB, Netrakona

Nine people, including three children, drowned as a boat capsized in a haor at Ranichapur village in Khaliajuri upazila of Netrakona on Tuesday.

Police said the boat that sailed from Fatua village with 23 passen

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Inspectors conclude no WMD in Iraq

BBC ONLINE

The group hunting for banned weapons inside post-war Iraq is preparing to report that it has found no chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. But the Iraq Survey Group will assert that Saddam Hussein had plans to start producing weapons in defiance of UN sanctions, US officials say.

Chief weapons inspector Charles Duelfer will reveal the findings yesterday.

Much of the content of the report has been anticipated since a draft of the report was leaked last month.

Duelfer is due to appear before the Senate Armed Services Committee, where he is expected to confirm that Iraq did not possess weapons of mass destruction (WMD) when the US-led invasion began in March 2003.

That verdict has been widely anticipated since the former head of the Iraq Survey Group, David Kay, resigned from his position in January.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the report would show that Saddam Hussein posed a more serious threat than had previously been imagined.

Speaking in Baghdad, Straw said "the threat from Saddam Hussein in terms of his intentions" was "even starker than we have seen before".

Saddam Hussein would have built up his WMDs had he been left in power, Straw added.

His comments were backed by Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Barhem Saleh, who said anyone who doubted that Saddam Hussein had WMDs only needed to visit Halabja - where the former Iraq dictator gassed thousands of Kurds.

CIA FINDS NO ZARQAWI-SADDAM LINK

Meanwhile, a CIA report has found no conclusive evidence that Saddam harbored Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, in which the Bush administration asserted before the invasion of Iraq, according to a Reuter report.

"There's no conclusive evidence the Saddam Hussein regime had harbored Zarqawi," a US official said on Tuesday about the CIA findings.

But the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, stressed that the report, which was a mix of new information and a look at some older information, did not make any final judgments or come to any definitive conclusions.

"To suggest the case is closed on this would not be correct," the official said in confirming an ABC News story about the CIA report that the network said was delivered to the White House last week.

ABC quoted an unnamed senior US official as saying that the CIA document raises "serious questions" about Bush administration assertions that Zarqawi found sanctuary in pre-war Baghdad.

"The official says there is no clear cut evidence that Saddam Hussein even knew Zarqawi was in Baghdad," ABC reported.



PHOTO: STAR

Employees put in order the office of the executive director of Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Board at Jamuna Setu Bhaban after Dhaka City Corporation staff confiscated the documents, equipment and furniture yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Workers work on a terracotta in front of Zia International Airport yesterday as part of the ongoing facelift of the Airport Road ahead of the Saarc Summit in Dhaka in January.

JCD gives 1 day to call off DU strike

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday gave one day to the combine of six opposition-backed student organisations to withdraw its strike that has kept Dhaka University (DU) paralysed for 24 days to date.

JCD, the student wing of ruling BNP, issued the ultimatum from a large rally at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla on the university campus.

Speakers at the meeting threatened the DU authorities with agitation programmes if they fail to take appropriate steps to reopen the varsity by Saturday.

"Chhatra League [a member of the opposition combine] is damag-

ing the academic life of thousands of students for no reason. If they don't withdraw the strike, they will be held responsible for any untoward incident that may happen," warned JCD President Sahabuddin Laitu.

JCD General Secretary Azizul Bari Helal and leaders Salauddin Tuku, Selimuzzaman Selim and Shafiqul Bari Babu also spoke at the meeting followed by a procession.

Some 30 other students under the banner of 'general students of the DU' also staged a demonstration on the campus yesterday demanding immediate end to the strike.

But leaders of the opposition student combine said the threats of BNP Secretary General Abdul

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Charmonai pir threatens to stop women sports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amir of Islamic Constitution Movement (ICM) and Charmonai Pir Fazlul Karim yesterday threatened to besiege the National Sports Council on October 9 if the government does not stop the ongoing women's football tournament.

Terming women sports anti-Islamic, the pir asked the government to ban all kinds of women sports that destroy moral character, says a news release.

The government is not protecting Islamic values as people are being "martyred" in defending mosques and justices giving verdict against Islamic "fatwa" are getting

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DCC snatches DTCCB office

Officials label the move as showdown with communications ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The city council of Dhaka yesterday relocated the office of Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Board (DTCCB) from Mohakhali to Nagar Bhaban allegedly by force and overstepping its authority.

A group of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) staffs, backed up by armed guards, confiscated documents, equipment and furniture at the DTCCB office at Jamuna Setu Bhaban and hauled those to the DCC headquarters, leaving over a hundred DTCCB employees dazed

and in confusion. The equipment include 40 computers and 30 telephone sets.

A feud has been raging between the city corporation and the communications ministry over the control of DTCCB right from the beginning, a DTCCB official said preferring anonymity. And, "the forceful relocation is an ugly outcome of that cold war," he noted.

According to DTCCB Executive Director Quamrul Islam Siddiqui, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia later ordered cancellation of the transfer

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Abductions, killings go unabated

2 schoolgirls, woman kidnapped; 2 outlaws shot dead by rivals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Three including two schoolgirls were abducted in Kushtia and outlaws gunned down two rivals in Jhenidah and Meherpur Tuesday.

Chandana Rani Mondol, 14, daughter of Kalipada Mondol and student of class ten at Manoharpur High School, was kidnapped from Manoharpur village in Kumarkhali upazila.

Family sources said Sajib, son of Rezaul Haq, and his accomplices forced her into a microbus and took her to an unknown place at around 4:00pm. Sajib had threatened to kidnap her when his proposal to marry her was turned down, they added.

Rumana Khatun Kanak, 13, daughter of Akbar Ali and student of class seven at Rifayatpur High School, was also abducted.

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Prayer Timing		
October 7		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-53	5-56
Esha	7-30	8-00
Source: Islamic Foundation		