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Sun may shine tomorrow

Intermittent rain paralyzes life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three-day intermittent rainfall that caused water logging in different parts of the country and disrupted public life is likely to come to an end tomorrow, officials in the meteorology department forecasted yesterday.

"The trough that extended from the West Central Bay to the North Bay and gathered clouds over Bangladesh and its adjacent areas will slowly start moving away from tomorrow, allowing sunlight to fall on this part of the globe," a duty forecast officer said.

Meanwhile, the highest rainfall in 24 hours up to 6:00pm yesterday was recorded at 79 millimeters (mm) in Bogra, followed by 63mm in Tangail, 58mm in Mongla, 50mm in Mymensingh, 48mm in

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Half-trained cops to go in ballot fields

Experts smell a rat in the govt move, fear further loss of efficiency in police admin

ZAYADUL AHSAN

The police administration has reduced the training period for a few hundred policemen of different ranks in a desperate bid to make sure they are working in the field during the upcoming general election.

The training period for assistant superintendents of police (ASP) has been reduced to nine months from one year, that of the sub-inspectors (SI) to six months from one year and of constables to four months from six by

shortening the syllabus.

Sources said about 200 police sergeants and 400 SIs will be recruited soon after their training. Viva voce of 200 hundred more BCS cadres for the ASP post will begin the day after tomorrow and it is likely that they will start training at the beginning of next year and complete by the end of the year.

"The training periods have been shortened not only to ensure their [police officers in training] duty during the next general election, but

also to fill the vacant posts with the men favoured by the ruling alliance so that the next government, if formed by other parties, cannot recruit their men in two to three years," observed a retired top police officer.

Expressing concern at the move, many experts said making the training period and course curriculum shorter would further call into question the skills and quality of the new-comers in the police administration, which has a l r e a d y

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PHOTO: STAR

A worker gives finishing touches to the changed neon sign of Dhaka Shishu Park yesterday after Dhaka City Corporation renamed it "Shaheed Zia Shishu Park".

5-POINT DEMAND

Star channel blackout in city threatened from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Satellite Cable Network Owners Association (SCNOA) and Dhaka Cable Operators Forum (DCOF) have threatened to suspend relaying all TV channels run by Star Group cable network in the city from today and across the country later if their five-point demand is not met immediately.

Presenting their demands at a press conference yesterday, SCNOA President Mir Hossain Akhter said, "We have decided to indefinitely suspend transmission of all pay channels relayed by the Star Group in Dhaka metropolitan areas from 6:00am today (October 23, 2005)

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PEACE MISSION IN SUDAN

UN rejects Dhaka's bid to change chief

Commanding post may go to other country

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Bangladesh might lose the helm of the UN peacekeeping mission in Sudan as the government insists on having the present force commander replaced by another senior army officer, against the policy of the United Nations, sources said.

Highly placed sources in the government said the UN has already rejected the government's proposal for replacement. Instead, it has

requested the government to give the incumbent a nine-month extension.

But the government is sitting on the UN request though over two weeks have gone since it [UN] formally asked for the extension, added the sources.

"If the Bangladesh government does not comply with the UN request it will lose the commanding post in the Sudan mission as the UN policy is always against having replacement from the same

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Japan national rescued, three abductors held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers yesterday rescued a Japanese citizen from a guesthouse in Banani in the capital and arrested three people in connection with his abduction on Friday morning.

Muraima Masaharu arrived in Dhaka to meet his Bangladeshi brother-in-law Faruk Hossain of Haricharan Roy Road in Sutrapur.

Police sources said Ahmad Ali introduced himself as Faruk to Masaharu soon after he landed at Zia International Airport around 6:00am on Friday.

Ali drove Masaharu to Regent Guesthouse, confined him to a

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No jet fuel to Biman if deal not struck today

Warns BPC over Tk 508cr in arrears

REAZ AHMAD

If Bangladesh Biman suffering from an acute liquidity crisis misses today's deadline for striking a deal to clear its dues to Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), it may run dry from tomorrow, as the BPC has warned not to supply any more jet fuel without cash payment.

The BPC and the Energy Division seek the finance ministry's intervention today to realise from Biman Tk 508 crore in arrears, official sources told The Daily Star yesterday.

"I'll meet the finance minister

today and seek his intervention. Either Biman should pay its outstanding bills in mutually agreed upon instalments or the finance should provide it with a block allocation so that the dues are cleared," Energy Adviser Mahmudur Rahman told The Daily Star last night.

"Banks are not agreeing to open L/Cs for the BPC otherwise," he added.

Asked if the BPC will again stop providing Biman with fuel from tomorrow, Rahman said Biman will

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DEEP SEA PORT

Tender floated for feasibility study

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The government has floated tender for the short-listed international consulting firms for carrying out a feasibility study of a deep-sea port in Bangladesh.

"The short-listed firms will have to collect tender documents available at the shipping ministry from Sunday to Tuesday during office hours," said Nepal Chandra Sarker, joint secretary of the ministry.

Seven firms had been short-listed earlier on the basis of their pre-qualification proposals submitted by around 25 international

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BNP stagnates at grassroots level

Lack of democratic practices, regular councils create leadership crisis

SUMON MAHMUD

The ruling BNP is suffering from stagnation, a severe shortage of fresh blood at various levels and leadership crisis in all its 11 front organisations due to lack of democratic practices and grooming of leadership in the party for the last 12 years.

The party held its last council of the National Executive Committee (NEC) in 1993 and an extended meeting in 1996. Since then, the NEC

is yet to hold any full-fledged meeting.

The national council elects party chairperson, who then nominates party secretary general and approves a 251-member executive committee.

The National Standing Committee, the highest decision-making body of the party, is supposed to comprise 15 members nominated by the chairperson but it has long been operating with 12

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