



## No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions during the next 12 hours till 6:00 pm today.

No appreciable change in day temperature is expected over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 23.3 degree in Dhaka.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5:54 pm today and rises at 5:48 am tomorrow.**

Maximum and minimum 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	33.4	23.3	69	69
Chittagong	32.0	26.5	80	90
Rajshahi	34.7	25.6	82	86
Khulna	35.0	27.1	77	81
Barisal	34.0	25.2	84	84
Sylhet	34.0	24.1	78	76
Cox's Bazar	33.7	26.5	73	95

# Europeans back

**FROM PAGE 12**  
ing a range of steps announced since the terrorist atrocities such as tighter security at airports and borders and aboard commercial aircraft.

The leaders pledged to create EU-wide arrest warrants so suspects wanted for terrorism in one EU state will be pursued by police in all 15. They will also impose minimum 20-year sentences for terrorist murderers, streamline extradition procedures and close financial loopholes for funding terrorist networks through better monitoring of banks and stronger money laundering legislation.

They said their countries will draft a single list of terror suspects and organisations and create a special anti-terrorist team and directed their finance, justice and interior ministers to immediately take measures to fight "any form of financing of terrorist activities."

The EU leaders issued a state-

ment saying that the Sept 11 terrorist attacks against the United States "will mean that the slowdown of the economy will be more pronounced than foreseen."

However, they pledged not to forsake the strict economic and monetary criteria underpinning Europe's single currency that comes into circulation in 12 EU nations on Jan 1.

The EU leaders met amid unprecedented security.

## Bagerhat-2

**FROM PAGE 12**  
cadres of the AL candidate in a pre-planned way to create panic among members of the minority community so that they do not go to polling centres to cast their votes.

The SP of Bagerhat could not be contacted as he was visiting several areas of Bagerhat-2 where security measures have been stepped up.

# Hasina: Rupganj rally

**FROM PAGE 12**  
of birth."

The AL chief sought vote for AL candidate in Rupganj (Narayanganj-1) Gen. (Rtd) KM Shafiqullah and urged the people not to vote for BNP nominee Abdul Matin Choudhury.

"Razakar Matin Choudhury used to guard the Kanchpur bridge for the Pakistan occupation forces for a daily payment of Tk three," she said. Hasina also accused Matin Choudhury of killing many activists of her party and implicating many others in false cases. "Killing people and doing corruption are the only qualities of the BNP candidate."

Claiming that her party believed in politics of peace, she said her government freed the southwestern region, the Chittagong Hill Tracts and educational institutions from terrorism. "The five-year rule of BNP yielded large scale corruption, terrorism and a food deficit of 40 lakh metric tonnes ... the BNP leaders plundered huge national wealth of crores of taka."

In her hectic electioneering in all the five constituencies in Narayanganj, the AL chief also addressed huge election rallies at Araihaaj, Sonargaon, Bandar and Siddirganj.

There was mammoth gathering at each meeting. People in their thousands streamed to meetings chanting slogans in favour of boat' (AL election symbol), the AL chief and the party candidates. They carried colourful replicas of 'boat', banners, placards and festoons.

The meeting venues aside, huge crowds were also seen in surrounding areas. All the roads leading to the meeting venues were crowded.

People also climbed on trees and roofs to listen to the AL chief. At the Araihaaj rally, roof of a tin shed house collapsed due to overcrowding.

At these meetings, Sheikh Hasina introduced all the five AL candidates in Narayanganj Gen. (Rtd) Shafiqullah in Narayanganj-1, Emdadul Haq Bhuiyan in Narayanganj-2, Abu Noor Mohammad Bahaul Haq in Narayanganj-3, SM Akram in Narayanganj-5 and AKM Shamim Osman in Narayanganj-4 and sought vote for them in the October 1 general election.

Speaking at her last rally of the day at Siddirganj playground, Hasina asked the local administration to remain neutral and not to collaborate with those who bombed the Narayanganj AL office in June this year killing 22 people.

At all the meetings, the AL chief reiterated her election pledges and promised to build a Bangladesh free of poverty, hunger and illiteracy.

## Feni BCL leader

**FROM PAGE 1**  
sonnel raided different parts of Feni town, including the Masterpara residence of Hazari.

Meanwhile, separate teams of police, army and BDR raided some areas of Raghunathpur and Darbeshherhat under Dagonbhuyan thana yesterday and arrested seven activists of BNP's front organizations and one of Awami League's youth front Jubo League.

The Jubo League activist, Biplob Chowdhury, was arrested from Darbeshherhat with a pipe gun.

The seven activists belonging to BNP's fronts Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal and Jubo Dal, arrested from Raghunathpur, are Nayan, Israfil, Milon, Jasim, Giasuddin, Kabir and Jasimuddin.

All the seven were absconding accused in cases filed with different thanas of the district.

# JCD activists set fire

**FROM PAGE 12**  
Protesting the incident, agitated students of IFA barricaded the road in front of the institute for about three hours from 3.30 pm. They will stage a demonstration on the campus today.

About 20 to 25 activists allegedly led by the general secretary of DU unit of JCD came to the exhibition venue at about 2:30 pm, asked organisers to remove a cartoon of BNP chief Khaleda Zia with Motiur Rahman Nizami of Jammata-e-Islami and left the place.

After half an hour, they came again and attacked students of IFA with sticks. They set ablaze the cartoons. The National Flag was also burnt in the process, sources said.

The activists then damaged windowpanes of Jainul Gallery where an art exhibition of Syed Zakir Iqbal is going on.

Earlier in the morning, artist Rafiqunnabi inaugurated the exhibition while Language Movement veteran Gaziul Haque was the chief guest.

Chaired by artist Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, the inaugural function was addressed by, among others, President of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote Ramendu Majumdar, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique of Dhaka

University and freedom fighter artist Ferdousi Priobhassini.

Meanwhile, BCL President Bahadur Bepari and General secretary Ajay Kar Khokon, in a statement, condemned the incident and demanded immediate arrest of those involved in it.

## FBI asks

**FROM PAGE 1**  
work.

Saudi-born bin Laden is the prime suspect in the September 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington that left nearly 7,000 people presumed dead.

Almoharrar said the FBI also asked the Philippines to hand over three Omani nationals arrested while they were taking pictures of the US embassy in Manila, as well as Abu Sayyaf, whose extremist group has been responsible for a string of kidnappings.

The weekly also said the FBI had asked Russia as well as seven Western nations to investigate an unspecified number of people believed to have links to bin Laden.

The Western countries named by the weekly were Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands and Switzerland.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League president and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina addressing an election rally at the Araihaaj Pilot High School ground in Narayanganj district yesterday. She addressed meetings in all the five constituencies of the district yesterday. Party candidate Emdadul Haq Bhuiyan, who is contesting the upcoming election from Narayanganj-2 constituency, is also seen with her.

# Army deployment begins

**FROM PAGE 1**  
paramilitary forces began in three most trouble-prone districts - Bhola, Feni and Munshiganj - where from deterioration of law and order had been reported.

It was learnt that army would have at least two platoons of soldiers at each district headquarters. Each platoon is expected to have 35 to 45 soldiers. Besides a reserve company (three platoons) will also be available for meeting contingency purpose in the districts. At each upazilla, army shall also deploy two platoons of troops.

A lieutenant colonel will head the army contingent at the district level while each platoon in every location is expected to be led by at least one officer, army sources said.

An operations room will be set up

at each tier. In the case of army, the divisional commander concerned will co-ordinate operations. As for the BDR the sector commander shall oversee the lower tiers. A co-ordination and control cell will also be set up in conjunction with the local DC or TNO where a representative of the armed forces will be present.

Military and paramilitary personnel have already started reconnoitring and co-ordination activities.

In an interview with The Daily Star on Wednesday, Chief of Army Staff Lt General Harun-ar-Rashid, Bir Pratik, said officers, warrant officers and soldiers of army have received utmost motivation and orientation to create a congenial atmosphere for peaceful polls and to bolster public confidence through

their presence.

Chief of Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal M Rafiqul Islam told The Daily Star, "We will support all the steps of the caretaker government in holding a free and fair election. My men will also stand by for any election duty."

Director General of BDR Major General Ishaq Ibrahim told The Daily Star yesterday that 1,500 BDR troops who were earlier posted to some sensitive areas would be regrouped to new positions in a day or two after formations of the Bangladesh Army replace them.

About the deployment, he said, "We will discharge our duties with utmost dedication and devotion."

The BDR is manned by officers of the Bangladesh Army.

# US military planes land

**FROM PAGE 1**  
said. "It made two or three rounds in the area before being shot down. It was probably taking pictures."

He said people who had seen the craft were not aviation experts and could not say if it had any distinctive markings. They said it was lightly damaged near its front.

Earlier, an Information Ministry official told Reuters: "It is a helicopter, we shot it down. As yet we don't know how many people were on it."

The confusion began early yesterday when the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press quoted Taliban sources as saying they had downed a pilotless aircraft over Samangan province.

The Gulf-based television station Al-Jazeera said in a report in Dubai that the aircraft was American.

In Washington, a US official refused to comment.

"As the secretary of defence has said, we will not discuss any operational issues," said Lt Col Mike Milord, a Pentagon spokesman.

"We will not respond to each and every statement of the Taliban," Samangan province borders the former Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan.

The reported downing of the spy plane came as US forces prepared for a possible attack on Afghanistan, which has given sanctuary to Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the Sept 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington.

US President George W Bush has said the Islamic Taliban are "committing murder" by aiding terrorists and has demanded they turn over bin Laden and other leaders of his al-Qaida organisation.

Taliban leaders rejected the demand, saying the United States had provided no proof bin Laden

was involved in the Sept 11 attacks.

The United States has ordered more warplanes to within striking distance of Afghanistan after the country's Taliban rulers rejected an ultimatum to surrender bin Laden.

US defence officials on Friday said about a dozen more aircraft, including refueling planes, would soon be moved to the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean to join nearly 350 planes at land bases and on two aircraft carriers.

B-1 and B-52 heavy bombers as well as troops of the elite Army Special Operations Command were also under orders to move to the region, although there was no immediate indication they had begun deploying.

"The president has made it abundantly clear that this nation is preparing for war, because war has been declared against the United States," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

President Bush had put the Taliban "on notice" and was "preparing to do what must inevitably come next," Fleischer said.

Hundreds of thousand of Afghans have fled their country during Afghanistan's 23 years of civil war, many of them moving to fostering refugee camps in neighboring Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan.

However, all three countries recently closed their borders at the request of the United States. That has left tens of thousands of destitute Afghans stranded on their side of the three borders, many without enough food.

"The fear of military attacks on Afghanistan has caused a mass movement of people toward the borders," Amnesty International said Friday. "It is imperative that the international community take responsibility for this and urgently

address the unfolding humanitarian crisis."

The situation also is grim in Kabul, where thousands of people are believed to have been evacuating the war-ravaged capital in the last week aboard pickup trucks, carts and on foot.

Heavy fighting was reported yesterday between the Taliban militia and opposition forces in the Samangan and Balkh provinces of northern Afghanistan.

Opposition alliance spokesman Mohammed Ashraf Nadim said two of its fighters were injured and at least 39 of Taliban's were killed. But it was not possible to independently confirm the death toll.

An Afghan opposition leader was quoted today as inviting the United States to back his own long experience in fighting the Taliban with Western logistical support.

"I and my soldiers have been fighting the Taliban for years. We are experienced. The US should give us logistic support. We are ready to give them help in the region and with all kinds of leadership," General Rashid Dostum told Turkey's Sabah newspaper in a telephone interview from Afghanistan.

Afghan opposition official say that forces under Dostum, military leader of the country's Uzbek minority, have recently joined in fighting against Taliban authorities in the north of the country.

Dostum warned the United States against attempting any kind of ground action on Afghanistan in response to the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

"The terrain in Afghanistan devours people," he said. "The US and NATO have to work with us."

# Khaleda: Empower army

**FROM PAGE 12**  
cultural products.

"You vote for sheaf of paddy and four-party candidates and we will ensure peace, stability and development. We'll also make the country free from terrorism and corruption."

On the concluding day of her three-day election campaign in the northern districts, Khaleda was spent more time in mass contacts in various constituencies of Bogra than in addressing public meetings.

She began public relations in Bogra-6 constituency where she is running against Awami League nominee Mahbubul Alam. On her way to Shariakandi, people came out of their houses and shops and lined up along both sides of the roads to greet Khaleda. She stopped at gatherings, shook hands and talked to them.

The home district of late President Ziaur Rahman, Bogra is known as the stronghold of BNP. Khaleda Zia is contesting from Bogra-6 and Bogra-7 constituencies. She had also contested from the two seats and won both in 1996. BNP bagged all the seven seats of Bogra in the last election.

At her first public meeting at Shariakandi Degree College ground, Khaleda pledged to thrash out a permanent solution to the Jamuna river erosion problem. Termining river Jamuna the 'sorrows'

of Shariakandi people, she said BNP had taken steps to stop erosion of the river when it was in power. "But Awami League did not take any initiative to save the people of this area from river erosion in the last five years."

Khaleda said the AL during its tenure in office did nothing for the people of Bogra since they never vote for them. On the other hand, she alleged that it resorted to criminal activities in the area, killing people and looting public property. She called upon the people to reject the AL candidate Abdul Mannan in the Bogra-1 (Shariakandi-Sonatala) seat in the coming election.

Khaleda introduced her party candidate Kazi Rafiqul Islam and sought vote for him. Thousands of enthusiastic BNP supporters including a large number of women attended the meeting.

Afterwards, she drove to the house of her father-in-law at Bagbari village in Nashipur union under Gabtali thana. Hundreds of villagers thronged the ancestral home of Ziaur Rahman to see her. As Khaleda went there after a long time, people from nearby villages also crowded the house to see her during her half-an-hour stay at the remote village. She is also running from the Bogra-7 (Gabtali) constituency. Before going to Bagbari, she

made a stopover at KM High School and shook hands with the students. Ziaur Rahman had studied in the school.

On her way back to the Bogra town, Khaleda also stopped at various points, shaking hands and talking to the people. She addressed several wayside meetings where she said the first task of her party, if elected to the office, would be to improve law and order and root out terrorism from the country.

She also said her government, like in the past, will attach top priority to education. She promised that all registered primary schools would be nationalised and government contribution in the salaries of teachers would be increased to 100 per cent.

Earlier on Friday night, the BNP chief addressed two big meetings -- one at Adamdighi and the other at Dupchachiya. She concluded her second day's electioneering in the northern region by visiting the mazaar of Hazrat Sultan (R) at Mohasthangarh.

Khaleda was going ahead with mass contacts and election meetings in Sherpur till filing of this report at 8pm. On her way back to the capital, she is scheduled to address several meetings in Pabna.

# Pre-election clashes

**FROM PAGE 12**  
holding the rally protesting reported remarks by Oli Ahmed, the BNP candidate for Ctg-13 JS seat, against former principal of Zafarabad Madrassah.

Three persons identified as Ayesha Begum, 50, Noor Mohammad, 25, and Mohammad, 45, received injuries in the clash. The general secretary of Awami League, Chandanaish thana, Wahiduzzaman, and a district committee leader Mahbubur Rahman were also beaten up reportedly by BNP men during the clash. Both the leaders were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Following the clash, at least 11 election camps of both Awami League and BNP were set ablaze on Friday night and agitating AL activists blocked traffic on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar road at Gachhbaria till yesterday morning.

A tense situation was prevailing in the area till filing of this report.

BSS adds: Four persons were injured, one of them seriously, when a motorcade of Chittagong City Corporation Mayor AB M Mohiuddin Chowdhury came under attack on way to an election meeting at Shovandandi in Patiya yesterday evening.

Police said, Mayor Mohiuddin was going to attend an election meeting of AL candidate Moslem Uddin Ahmed.

Political rivals pelted stones and brickbats on his motorcade indiscriminately when it reached near Patiya bus stand.

In Gaibandha, a fierce clash involving JP (E), Awami League activists and police at Sandhapara in the town left more than 50 people including 7 policemen injured on Friday night, according to UNB.

The trouble began over pasting of posters at 10.30 pm that continued till midnight.

Police intervened and fired rubber bullets to disperse the clashing groups.

Police arrested more than a dozen people from the spot.

In Bhola, at least 20 activists of Awami League were injured, eight with bullets, in an attack allegedly by BNP activists at Doulatkhan upazila

yesterday.

Witnesses said BNP activists opened fire on Awami League activists near Jugdev School while they were going to join a party meeting in a procession.

Awami League leader Tofail Ahmed addressed the meeting.

Eight of the injured were identified as Berek, 15, Harun, 17, Ratan, 25, Nasir Bepari, 40, M Mostafa, 20, Ali Hossain, 35, Harun, 25, and Nurunnabi, 30. Of them, the condition of Berek was stated to be critical.

A commissioner of Doulatkhan Pourasava alleged that BNP supporters also damaged three AL election camps and ransacked two houses of party supporters.

In Munshiganj, at least 24 people were injured, four with bullets, in pre-election violence between Awami League and BNP activists here yesterday.

According to police, at least 12 people were injured in a gun attack on an Awami League procession near the Deputy Commissioner's residence in the evening.

Two AL activists Rajan and Mamun were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

In another incident, 10 people were injured in a clash between the supporters of Awami League and BNP the clash ensued when procession in Munshirhat area.

Besides, Awami League activists attacked a BNP procession near Aldibazar in Munshiganj-3, leaving two people injured. Police later arrested on Liton in connection with the attack. The two rival parties came face to face in the area.

In Narsingdi, at least 10 BNP activists were injured, two seriously in an attack by the Awami League workers at Mulpara in Sadar upazila yesterday.

Witnesses said the AL activists attacked a procession of BNP at about 8 am.

Of the injured, five were admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

BNP alleged that Awami League supporters ransacked five election camps of BNP candidate from Narsingdi-2 constituency Dr Moyeen Khan Friday night.

A case was filed with police. In Madanipur, A clash between

Awami League and BNP workers left five people wounded at Sare Bishrashahi village in Shibchar upazila yesterday.

Police said activists of the two rival parties clashed at noon following a quarrel over election.

The injured were admitted to local health complex.

BSS from Shariatpur says: At least 25 persons including five policemen were injured in an armed clash between the supporters of Awami League and BNP in Shidulkura area under Damudda upazila last night.

Police and local people said the clash between the supporters of AL candidate for Shariatpur-3 constituency Abdur Razzak and BNP candidate Shafiqur Rahman Kiron began at about 8 PM when an AL procession was passing a BNP rally.

Both the groups hurled home-made bombs and fired began-bombs during the clash, leaving 25 persons including five policemen injured.

Police lobbed teargas shells and fired gunshots to disperse the feuding supporters. They also charged baton on the feuding groups and arrested 11 AL workers from the spot.

The injured persons were taken to Damudda Thana Health Complex and Chandpur Hospital.

## 50 shops gutted in Sonagazi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

At least 50 shops were gutted in a fire at Takiya Bazar in Sonagazi upazila on Friday night.

According to local people, the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a tea shop at about 11:00 pm and soon engulfed the other shops.

The tea shop is owned by Sonagazi upazila AL president Faizul Kabir, according to UNB.

Fire fighters with the help of local people brought the blaze under control.

Local Awami League at a protest meeting yesterday blamed BNP for the fire incident.

## Nazrul University

**FROM PAGE 12**  
poet, the memories of the national poet, they added.

President Shahabuddin appreciated the initiative saying that proper steps should be taken by the initiators to get government approval for the university.

He assured them of necessary steps for the establishment of the university.

The President, however, advised them to make sincere efforts in this regard with a view to making the project a success.

Later, the President went round the site of the project and planted a sapling of a "Mohua" tree there.

## 90pc Americans

**FROM PAGE 1**

to lead the fight against terrorism. The new US ambassador to the United Nations, John Negroponte, said building an international coalition to combat terrorism would be his top priority.

The UN General Assembly is scheduled to discuss international terrorism Oct 1 in a meeting of all 189 members. The General Assembly postponed its annual gathering of world leaders this past week because of security difficulties after the attacks, but the meeting of UN representatives will be held.

The American public, including some in Congress, has long held mixed feelings about the United Nations. Nearly half said in the AP poll that the United States should pay its full dues to the organisation, while about one-third disagreed. The poll of 1,011 adults was taken Sept 14 to 18 and has an error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

According to available statistics, more than 160 people were killed in political violence since the take-over of the caretaker government on July 15.

The commission will analyse its overall preparation for a peaceful election.

According to the EC sources, today's meeting may have a discussion on the television coverage of political parties and the address to the nation by Chief Election Commissioner M A Syed on the day before the polls.

It will also discuss the strategy for announcement of election results through electronic media, which was finalised earlier.

In another development, many polling officials are trying to fall back from their duties apprehending

# EC meets today

**FROM PAGE 1**  
enforcement officials who barely carried out the EC order to remove all such campaign paraphernalia.

The commission will also review the report of an EC taskforce constituted to monitor law and order, and will ask the law enforcement agencies to keep watch on the trouble-torn areas.

However, the EC officials feel relieved as nearly 55,000 army personnel yesterday went to district headquarters to assist the civil administration. Their deployment at the Upazila level will begin on September 26, according to official sources.

"The situation would radically improve soon after army deployment," said a high EC official referring to early deployment of the troops in some vulnerable places where the situation already improved to some extent.

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