

WEATHER TODAY

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 Jessor 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
Dhaka	33.4	23.3
Chittagong	32.0	26.5
Rajshahi	34.7	25.6
Khulna	35.0	27.1
Barisal	34.0	25.2
Sylhet	34.0	24.1
Cox's Bazar	33.7	26.5
	73	95

Europeans back

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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

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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.

PHOTO: STAR
Awami League president and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina addressing an election rally at the Araihazar 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.

Hasina: Rupganj rally

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of birth." The AL chief sought vote for AL candidate in Rupganj (Narayanganj-1) Gen. (Rtd) KM Shafullah 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 Araihazar, 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. At the roads leading to the meeting venues were crowded.

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

Feni BCL leader

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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 Darbesherhat under Dagonbhuyan thana yesterday and arrested seven activists of BNP's front organisations and one of Awami League's youth front Jibolab.

The Jibolab activist, Biplob Chowdhury, was arrested from Darbesherhat with a pipe gun.

The seven activists belonging to BNP's fronts Jatiyatobad Chatra Dal and Jibolab, arrested from Raghunathpur, are Nayon, Israfil, Milon, Jashim, Giasuddin, Kabir and Jasimuddin.

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

JCD activists set fire

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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 Jammat-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 Gazil 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 Priobhashini.

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

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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 Omanis 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.

US military planes land

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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

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 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

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.

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

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