

## RAIN LIKELY



Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, Chittagong, Rangpur, Barisal and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also

likely at places over the country, Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

**The sun sets in the capital today at 6:30pm and rises tomorrow at 5:35am.**

Country's highest temperature 34.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mymensingh and lowest 24.6 degrees at Comilla.

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

Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka 31.3	25.0	97	79	Khulna 32.8	26.4	94	92
Chittagong 30.4	25.4	86	85	Barisal 29.0	26.2	94	86
Rajshahi 30.7	26.0	92	80	Sylhet 30.4	25.5	91	82
Rangpur 31.7	25.0	92	88	Cox's Bazar 32.6	25.5	83	90

## JCD leader murdered in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), a pro BNP student body, was hacked to death by miscreants in Shimulbag area of Rangpur on Thursday night.

Deceased, Shahin Alam, 27, was the law affairs secretary of JCD Rangpur unit and son of late Osman Gani of the city's Medical Purbo Gate area.

Police and local sources said at least four miscreants hacked Shahin with sharp weapons while he was going to Jahaj Company intersection around 6:30pm and fled the scene.

Locals rushed him to Rangpur Medical College Hospital where he died around 10:00pm.

Md Shahabuddin Khalifa, officer-in-charge of Rangpur Kotwali Police Station, said Shahin might have been killed over previous enmity. A case was filed with the police in this connection.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses a memorial meeting organised by Awami League marking National Mourning Day in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday.

## AL, BNP blamed for not stopping attacks on Hindus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Mohajote yesterday blamed the ruling Awami League and the main opposition BNP of playing a "blame game" for years instead of taking due steps to stop the countrywide attacks and repression on Hindus.

"Whenever any house, temple and business establishment of Hindus came under attack, both political party leaders blamed each other which encouraged the real perpetrators," said the mohajote Secretary General Gobindo Chandra Pramanik.

Addressing a press conference in the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity, he placed a three-point demand, including formation of an independent ministry on minority communities and appointing a minister from the communities.

The other demands include enhancing security measures and declaring three days as public holiday during the Durga Puja so that Hindus could feel secure while celebrating their biggest religious festival.

"One day is not adequate to celebrate the festival with our families," Gobinda added while reading out a written statement.

He also urged the government to keep 60 seats reserved in parliament for Hindus, stating that both leaders of the parties hardly discussed issues of violence against Hindus in parliament.

He also expressed grave concern over the rise of attacks on Hindus following the initiation of the war crimes trial.

He stated that two crore Hindus have been driven away from Bangladesh while 26 lakh acres of their property have been abandoned since the 1971 Liberation War. The mohajote Spokesperson Palash Kanti Dey, advisers Monoj Mondol and Monoranjon Das, Executive Secretary Advocate Dinobandhu Roy and Organising Secretary Shasanka Roy were present.

## CLASH OVER MAYOR'S ARREST Three cases filed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Three cases, two under the speedy trial act, were filed yesterday accusing 268 BNP men, including the Madhupur municipality mayor, and 500 unidentified others over Thursday's clash in Tangail's Madhupur upazila.

At least 50 people were injured and over 100 vehicles damaged when supporters of the mayor, Sarkar Shahid, also the upazila unit BNP general secretary, clashed with police protesting his arrest.

The cases under the act were filed over the torching of a police van and motorcycle while the last for obstructing law enforcers from their duties. Of the accused, 26 have been arrested, informed police.

On Wednesday night, supporters of Fakir Mahbub Anam Swapan, an MP aspirant who assists Shahid, vandalised billboards of another MP aspirant from BNP, Bhuiyan Mahbub Abdul Latif, at Madhupur bus station, leading to a skirmish between the two BNP factions.

Shahid was arrested after Latif's brother Amzad Hossain, councillor of ward no 6, filed the case with Madhupur Police Station that night, accusing Shahid and his men of shooting at his house during the skirmish.

## BOAT CAPSIZE Bodies of father, 2 kids recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The bodies of three members of a family were recovered from the river Karnaphuli in Chittagong yesterday morning, two days after they went missing following a boat capsize.

The victims are Harun-ur-Rashid, 40, and his son Maruf, 12, and daughter Ishrat, 9.

Mohiuddin Mahmud, officer-in-charge of Karnaphuli Police Station, said locals had found Harun's body floating in the river near Diamond Cement Factory area around 5:00am.

Later, Maruf's body had been recovered from near Ghat No. 11 of the river while Ishrat's body from east side of Karnaphuli bridge around 8:00am, he said.

The bodies had been sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsies, the police officer added.

After spending the Eid vacation at their village home in Chandanaish upazila of the district, Harun along with his wife and three children was returning to his Sadarghat house in the port city on Wednesday.

They first took a bus ride from Chandanaish, and then hired a boat at Bridgeghat to reach their residence in the city.

When the boat was halfway across the river, a goods-laden engine boat coming from the opposite direction hit it around 7:45pm. The boat sank in the river.

The boatman managed to get to the shore carrying Miraj, one of the children of Harun. The wife of Harun herself could swim ashore.

Harun held the two children and struggled to swim across the river, but soon the three drowned.

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## RAMPAL POWER PLANTS Greens want cancellation of DoE clearance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Green activists yesterday demanded that the Department of Environment immediately cancels the no-objection certificate (NOC) for setting up of two thermal power plants in Rampal near the Sundarbans, claiming that the clearance was issued based on a flawed survey.

Addressing a protest rally in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club, organised by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), they called for constituting a new committee of scientists, experts and environmentalists to conduct a fresh environment impact assessment study.

Bapa General Secretary Dr Abdul Matin said the survey report prepared by the government-run Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services was fabricated, confusing and based on lies and false reasoning.

It seems that on recommendations from

the Power Development Board, the DoE has validated the report, which is aimed at helping the government set up the plants, he added.

Matin told The Daily Star that the power plants would fall in the Sundarbans territory and damage its biodiversity though the report said it would not.

The DoE issued the clearance certificate early this month. The two plants are expected to produce 1,320 megawatt of electricity.

Prof Anu Muhammad, member secretary of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports, said the DoE gave the clearance despite opposition from the country's renowned scientists and experts.

The speakers demanded immediate shutdown of the Rampal project in Bagerhat and relocation of the plants to a safe distance from the forest.



Sundarban Rokkhai Jatiya Committee forms a human chain before Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding that the Department of Environment immediately cancels the no-objection certificate, which they said was based on a flawed survey, for the setting up of two thermal power plants in Rampal near the Sundarbans.

PHOTO: STAR

## 40 injured in clash

One hacked in another incident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

At least 40 people were injured in a clash at Harma village in Sadar upazila of Chapainawabganj yesterday over playing carom.

Sadar police Sub-inspector Rais Uddin said some boys quarrelled and beat each other over the issue at Harma Bazar on Thursday.

Following the incident, the people from Danesh Alir Tola and Solaiman Mondaler Tola of the village attacked each other around 7:00am yesterday, the SI added.

Injured-Mohbul, Munera Begum, and Renu Begum were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital while 12 others to

Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital.

Meanwhile, a rival group hacked a man with sharp weapons at Sundarpur village in Shibganj upazila yesterday over establishing supremacy.

Victim, Taraj Ali, 50, son of Bulu Mondal of Sonarpur village in Sadar upazila, was shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital from Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital.

Locals and Sadar police Sub-inspector Shahidul Islam said Taraj came under the sudden attack at Sundarpur around 9:00am while going to Babupur village. Protesting the incident, Taraj's supporters torched at least three houses and exploded several cock-tails at Sundarpur.

## CELEBRATING BIRTHDAY ON AUG 15 PM slams Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all the pro-liberation people to be united against anti-liberation forces and war criminals for moving the country towards development.

"We have to push the country towards development to build Sonar Bangla and it would be the best way to pay homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," said Hasina while addressing a discussion organised by Awami League marking National Mourning Day at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Hasina, also the president of ruling AL, criticised Khaleda Zia for celebrating her birthday on August 15, National Mourning Day, saying that she did not believe in the country's liberation.

Bangabandhu and most of his family members were assassinated by a disgruntled group of army officers on August 15, 1975.

Hasina, the eldest daughter of Bangabandhu, said the defeated force in 1971 Liberation War had killed her father to take revenge and BNP founder Ziaur Rahman, Ershad and Khaleda Zia "patronised" Bangabandhu's killers.

During her 36-minute speech, Hasina talked about the brutal killings of August 15 and AL's battle to bring the fugitive killers of Bangabandhu to book.

Abdul Latif Siddique, senior AL leader and jute and textile minister, said, "They (opposition) are doing politics with killing. So we can't sit idle." He asked the party to "kill" hartal enforcers.

He also urged the party chief to take a firm stance in this regard.

Senior AL leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Suranjit Sengupta, Matia Chowdhury and Mohammad Nasim and Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, among others, spoke.

Deputy Leader of Jatiya Sangsad Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury chaired the programme.

### NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

**New Position of Economic Affairs and Trade Advisor**

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