

RAIN LIKELY



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

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over

the country, Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

Rainfall activities may decrease over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:38pm and rises tomorrow at 5:54am.

Countrywide rallies today against Rampal power project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports will hold rallies throughout the country today demanding cancellation of the government decision to build Rampal power plant near the Sundarbans.

The committee will wage a tougher movement if the demand is not met, said its leaders at a press conference in the capital's Mukti Bhaban yesterday.

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SAYEDEE'S DEATH PENALTY

Hearing on appeal delayed till Nov 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday adjourned till November 12 the hearing on the appeal filed by Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayeedee, challenging the death penalty given to him for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

The court passed the adjournment order, as it will go on a 24-day vacation from October 11 on the occasions of Durga

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8 including JCD men held over looting Tk 1cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police and Rapid Action Battalion have arrested eight people, including four Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists and a Bangladesh Chhatra League man, over looting Tk 1 crore from a Brac Bank staff in Sylhet city on September 29, Rab said at a press briefing in the city yesterday.

The arrested are Sohel Ahmed, a car driver of the bank; Abdul Quddus, his brother; Azad Rahman, Enam Ahmed, Azizul Haque Arzu and Amir Hossain Hajari of JCD; Hasanuzzaman of BCL; and Sujon Mia of Sunamganj.

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PLEAS AGAINST GHULAM AZAM VERDICT
SC wants concise statements Nov 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday directed the counsels for both the state and convicted war criminal Ghulam Azam to submit before it on November 5 the concise statements on their appeals against his verdict.

A concise statement contains the background of a case and the particular points of arguments placed before the court so that its judges can understand the arguments quickly.

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain passed the order.

On July 15, the International Crimes Tribunal-1 sentenced 91-year-old former Jamaat-e-Islami ameer Ghulam Azam to 90 years in prison for masterminding crimes against humanity, genocide, and other offences during the Liberation War.

Ghulam filed an appeal with the SC on August 5 seeking an overturn of his conviction and the 90-year jail sentence he received.

The government also filed another appeal with the SC on August 12 seeking death penalty for the convicted

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BNP harbouring militancy

Dipu Moni says after attending workshop on anti-terrorism UN resolutions

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday accused the main opposition BNP of patronising terrorism and militancy and working as a partner of the perpetrators in Bangladesh.

"Unfortunately big parties give political shelter to the terrorists. And the BNP is a patron of terrorism and militancy in the country," she told reporters after attending a workshop on "Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) on Combating Terrorism and Financing of Terrorism" at the foreign ministry.

Dipu Moni said, "The party was helping and working as an accomplice of fundamentalists and those involved with terrorist activities."

Her comments apparently came against

the backdrop of Monday's blast in a Hefajat leader-run madrasa in Chittagong city.

The workshop was organised to discuss action procedures and inter-agency cooperation to execute the anti-terrorism UN resolutions.

No country is free from terrorism, fundamentalism and terrorist threats, said the foreign minister so all countries had to work in unison. She referred to the recent militant attack on a Kenyan shopping complex to reinforce the point of vulnerability to terrorism.

Earlier at the workshop, Dipu Moni said that in the 2008 evaluation report of Financial Action Taskforce (FATF), Bangladesh scored as compliant only on two of 16 core FATF recommendations. "We have now arrived at a situation where we are fully

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Country's highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Bogra and lowest 22.4 degrees at Dinajpur and Sylhet.

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	32.3	25.3	86	73	Khulna	31.5	25.5	88
Chittagong	31.5	25.2	80	93	Barisal	31.8	25.4	96
Rajshahi	31.8	24.4	87	80	Sylhet	30.4	24.2	64
Rangpur	31.0	23.0	72	68	Cox's Bazar	32.8	25.0	79
								82



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses a mammoth rally on Jhenidah Government Boys High School ground yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

Re-elect AL to rout out militancy: Hasina

HASAN JAHID TUSHER and AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the people to re-elect Awami League for building a Bangladesh free from terrorism, militancy and crimes.

"Whenever in power, the Awami League has ensured safety and security of the people by rooting out militancy and terrorism. In contrast, the BNP regimes patronised militancy and terrorism, looted public moneys and siphoned those off abroad," she said.

The president of the ruling party was addressing a mammoth rally on the Jhenidah Government Boys High School ground. The district AL organised it with unit president and State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdul Hye in the chair.

The rally turned into a human sea with thousands of AL leaders, workers, and supporters as well as common people of different upazilas of Jhenidah and nearby districts.

"The people achieved independence by voting the AL earlier. Now, they've got a terrorism and militancy free Bangladesh by voting the party in previous polls. So, I urge you to re-elect the AL in the next election for continuation of development, peace, security and stability," she said.

In her speech shortened due to bad weather, Hasina sought blessings of the people to build a prosperous Bangladesh by 2021.

Terming killings and persecution the principles of BNP's politics, she warned that the opposition would resort to militancy and

crimes as in the past if came to power.

In this regard, she said the past AL governments curbed crimes in this region but the BNP after coming to power in 2001 reintroduced killings and lootings creating a reign of terror.

Hasina accused BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia of directing "BNP-Jamaat-Hefajat" men to burn the holy Quran and set afire mosques in the name of Hefajat-e-Islam's sit-in in the capital on May 5. She said her government had developed mosques and madrasas on a huge scale.

The premier unveiled a sculpture of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman titled "Prerona 71" (Inspiration 71) at Chaudanga bus stand.

In addition, she inaugurated 10 development projects including Jhenidah Government Veterinary College, Agriculture Training Institute, Institute of Health Technology, Medical Assistants Training School, Oral Saline Factory, Children's Academy Complex, office building of the chief judicial magistrate, Jhenidah Muktijuddha Complex, a four-storey building of Jhenidah Government KC College, District Post Office, and extended building of Jhenidah Municipality.

She also laid the foundation stones of Government Textile Engineering College, new Academic building of Jhenidah Government KC College, and Jhenidah-Chaudanga-Mujibnagar Road.

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Minorities leaving country fearing post-poll repression

Dialogue told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country is witnessing a steady outflow of ethnic and religious minorities ahead of the forthcoming parliamentary election over fears that the post-2001 polls minority repression might repeat, speakers said at a dialogue yesterday.

They are still haunted by the memories of the attacks on minorities following BNP-Jamaat alliance's victory in the 2001 election, said writer-columnist Shahriar Kabir.

The then government simply denied occurrence of any such incidents, never mind punishing the perpetrators, he told the programme. "National election and things to do for ensuring security of indigenous and minority communities" at the capital's Cirdap, organised by Research and Development Collective.

Shahriar said many minority people were migrating out of the country fearing recurrences. He said the only incident against which a case had been filed was the gang

rape of a 15-year-old Hindu girl in Sirajganj in 2001 but it was only one among hundreds of such incidents.

"Though the present government has prepared a probe report on those atrocities, no action has been taken so far against the perpetrators," said Mesbah Kamal, a history professor at Dhaka University.

Moreover, minorities have been scared by the nationwide violence by Jamaat-e-Islami activists centring the ongoing war crimes trial, said Shahriar, also a war crimes researcher.

After a Dhaka court sentenced its leader Delwar Hossain Sayeedee to death, the party activists attacked many Hindus in Begumganj upazila in Noakhali this March, saying, "You gave deposition against our leader. That's why we would face death," he said, quoting the victims who were threatened.

"Around six months ago, there happened a mass exodus of Santal community people and Hindus from Rajshahi. Some were

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