

RAIN LIKELY

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

Moderately 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 5:37pm and rises tomorrow at 5:54am.**

Country's highest temperature 33.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 21.0 degrees at Srimangal. 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	32.4	24.4	65	74	Khulna	27.5	24.0	92	93
Chittagong	30.4	23.6	75	83	Barisal	28.5	24.2	89	95
Rajshahi	33.4	22.5	76	77	Sylhet	31.9	22.6	55	74
Rangpur	31.8	23.2	75	65	Cox's Bazar	33.0	24.7	75	88

NEWS IN brief

Five Shibir activists arrested for Tuesday's attack on RU BCL men

Police yesterday arrested five Islami Chhatra Shibir activists at Rajshahi University (RU) over Tuesday's attack allegedly by Shibir activists on a RU unit Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader and a former activist in Rajshahi city's Dharampur. BCL Organising Secretary Shariful Islam Saddam, stabbed all over the body, and Golam Robani Khan alias Tufan, with a bullet wound in his left leg, are undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Khaleda Zia flies to Singapore for treatment

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia flew to Singapore last night for treatment. Accompanied by few relatives, Khaleda took a flight from Shahjalal International Airport in the capital, said her press secretary Maruf Kamal Khan Sohail. She is expected to return home on October 13.

Shahjalal airport customs find 51.97 lakh unclaimed Saudi riyals

Customs intelligence officers found 51.97 lakh undeclared Saudi riyals (Tk 10.6 crore) from two handbags at one of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport's departure gates in the capital yesterday. Some 20 domestic passengers were about to board a Biman Bangladesh Airlines Dhaka-Chittagong-Dubai flight when their handbags were scanned. None claimed the unmarked handbags, Customs Intelligence Assistant Director Rashidul Hassan told The Daily Star.

ASK concerned over rape of girl in police custody

Ain o Salih Kendra (ASK) yesterday expressed its grave concern over the incident in which a girl was raped allegedly by three policemen in custody in Gaibandha. ASK also demanded proper investigation and exemplary punishment for the rapists. According to media reports, after raping the girl at Gobinaganj Police Station on September 28 night, the culprits threatened her so that she would not disclose the matter to others, said an ASK press release.

New Swiss embassy premises inaugurated in Gulshan

The Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh has moved to its new premises in the capital's Gulshan-2. The embassy held an inauguration ceremony on October 7 at the new premises on the occasion, said a press release.

Fiona becomes first in photo contest

Fiona Khan, a third-year student of Drawing and Painting Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University, secured first position in the "Out of the Box 4" photography contest in portfolio category held in the capital's Drik Gallery on October 4-6. Through The Lens (TTL), a platform of amateurs and professional photographers, organised the contest. Over 1,000 such photographers submitted photographs on the issues relating to life and livelihood environment and climate change. Fiona is the younger daughter of Information and Communication Secretary and National Project Director of A2I Programme Nazrul Islam Khan.



Gonojagoron Mancha activists demonstrate at the capital's Shahbagh yesterday, demanding death penalty for former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim, who was jailed for life for war crimes in 1971.

Gonojagoron Mancha protests Alim verdict

Expressing disappointment at the verdict on former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim, who was jailed for life for war crimes in 1971, Gonojagoron Mancha yesterday demanded that the government appeal to the Supreme Court seeking a death sentence. In an immediate reaction, around 100 youths of the anti-war criminal platform brought out a protest procession from Shahbagh and marched to Doyel Chatter. "In no way the verdict is acceptable. We will carry on protests till all war criminals are sentenced to death," said the platform's spokesperson, Imarn H Sarker. Around 6:30pm, they brought out a torch procession in the Shahbagh area to muster public support for their demand. In the verdict, International Crimes Tribunal-2 said Alim, 83, deserved death but he was sentenced to jail for life for his poor health conditions and inability to move. The mancha brought a protest march in Chittagong city too. The activists paraded the main thoroughfares starting off from Chittagong Press Club around 11:00am.

PHOTO: STAR SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

RESOLVING POLITICAL CRISIS Talks better than confrontation Says Chinese envoy

Reiterating the call for talks among major political parties to resolve the current political stalemate, Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Li Jun yesterday said dialogue is much better than confrontation. "As a friend, I can't tell you what should be done or what should not. I am not in such a position. But as a friend, I only know dialogue is much, much better than confrontation," he told a seminar in the capital responding to a query. The Chinese envoy suggested that any move towards dialogue for finding a solution must be encouraged. "I believe it's the political leaders and it's the people of Bangladesh, you know the best what this country now needs under such a situation," he said. Asked whether he got any response from the government after Khaleda Zia's suggestion for talks between the Awami League general secretary and the BNP acting secretary

Li Jun said he is yet to get any response from the government side. Rather he said, "The government does not have any obligation to respond, I just hope." The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) of Brac University organised the seminar titled "China's Look South and Bangladesh's Look East Policy: Convergences and Constraints" at AS Mahmud Seminar Hall of The Daily Star Centre. President of the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute Farooq Sobhan; Chairman of Equity Property Management Limited Dr Moinul Islam Mahmud; Prof Amena Mohsin and Prof Delwar Hossain of the international relations department of Dhaka University; former ambassadors Humayun Kabir and Munshi Faiz Ahmad and Kallyan Party President Syed Muhammad Ibrahim, among others, spoke at the discussion.

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Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Li Jun addresses a seminar, "China's Look South and Bangladesh's Look East Policy: Convergences and Constraints", organised by the Institute of Governance Studies of Brac University in the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

Security to be heightened for Eid, Puja

Law enforcers announced to heighten security measures centring the two big festivals -- Eid-ul-Azha and Durga Puja. Apart from 5,000 personnel, Rapid Action Battalion's (Rab) bomb disposal units and a dog squad will be present from October 10 to 14 while 80 helplines will be available to ensure security during Puja, said a Rab press release. The Rab headquarters can be contacted at 01713444333. Instructing law enforcers not to let any cow skin-laden truck leave the capital for one week after Eid to stop smuggling, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Benazir Ahmed on October 2 said CCTV cameras should be set up in temples, houses and cattle markets.

Hartal if Rampal project not scrapped

The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports yesterday announced that it will enforce hartal immediately if the government makes any further attempt to proceed with the construction of the Rampal power plant near the Sundarbans. The public will resist any activity that harms the country's lone mangrove forest, which has protected people from natural calamities for centuries, said leaders of the committee. Addressing a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital, Prof Anu Mohammad, member secretary of the committee, urged the government to hold dialogues with the committee and listen to the committee's concern about how the project will be catastrophic to the ecological balance of the region. "The government must not ignore the warnings from international experts and environmentalists," he said. "Since the power plant was planned, land grabbing in the Sundarbans has increased on an unprecedented scale. If the government does not take immediate steps, very little of the forest will be left," he said. "The forest has provided thousands of people their livelihood and protected them for ages. Now the time has come for the people to pay their debt to the forest by protecting it," he added. The committee also brought out a procession from Jatiya Press Club to Dainik Bangla intersection.

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BNP-Jamaat's return to power will destroy pro-liberation forces

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday apprehended that pro-liberation forces would be wiped out and a dangerous situation would prevail in the country if "BNP-Jamaat Hefajat" came to power through the next parliamentary election. The Awami League president was addressing a views-exchange meeting with her party's Magura, Kushtia, Faridpur, Bagerhat, Chapainawabganj, Chandpur, Sunamganj and Barguna districts' grassroots leaders at her Gono Bhaban residence. Referring to Monday's bomb blast in a madrasa founded by a Hefajat-e Islam leader in Chittagong's Lalkhan Bazaar, she said, "The BNP chairperson has been dreaming to come to power with Hefajat and anti-liberation Jamaat-Shibir." "You have seen how much bombs and ammunition were being made in that madrasa. If those had not exploded, none would have known about it. The explosion might be a sign from Allah," she said. "So what answer will the BNP chairperson give to the nation? That she wants to do these kinds of criminal acts? That she wants to patronise them? That she wants to capture state power with them?" "These mean that she wants to turn the country into that of militancy, terrorism and conflict again if she returns to power," she said. "My question to the country's people is whether they want terrorism and militancy to return to Bangladesh? That war criminals return to power? If so, those who fought battle in the Liberation War and secured victory they will have no existence," she said. Hasina advised people to think about it and remain alert.

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Govt employees demand more dearness allowance

A section of class III and class IV government employees yesterday protested the 20 percent dearness allowance, terming it "too small". They have been demanding 60 percent dearness allowance considering the price hike of all essential items, they said at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity. The employees, under a banner of Bangladesh Sharkari Karmachari Shamannoy Parishad, organised the press conference. The government employees said the dearness allowance only benefits high officials as they would enjoy a salary increase of Tk 6,000 at maximum while the class III and class IV employees only get an increase of Tk 1,500. The parishad also demanded cancellation of a government bar on appointing class IV employees and that the government promote employees like how they promote the staff at Bangladesh Secretariat. Nomanuzzaman Al Azad, secretary general of the parishad, spoke at the press conference.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS DAY Wear pink today

Bangladesh Breast Cancer Awareness Forum calls upon citizens ELITA KARIM It is Pink Day in Bangladesh today, or in other words, Breast Cancer Awareness Day. It is a day when we show solidarity along with various other organisations and speak up against this illness. Taking the lead, Centre for Cancer Prevention & Research will start a "pink rally" from the capital's Shahbagh at 7:30am, along with ICCDR, B; iCMH, YWCA, Aparajita, a cancer survivors' association and many others. At 3:00pm, an awareness raising programme will be held in Dhanmondi's Rabindra Sarobar where experts, breast cancer survivors and social leaders will speak on the illness and also talk about how to fight it, not fear it. Moreover, writer and cancer survivor Kazi Rozi will also speak during the event. According to GLOBOCAN 2008, breast cancer is by far the most frequent cancer among women with an estimated 1.38 million new cases diagnosed in 2008, and ranks second, 10.9 percent, of all cancers. Almost Bangladesh women, new breast cancer cases increase by a 21 percent every year, where many die.



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PM to open Bahaddarhat flyover Oct 12

Will launch 10 other projects STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate 11 projects, including the Bahaddarhat and Dewanhat flyovers, worth a total of Tk 600 crore on October 12 in Chittagong city, said Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Abdus Salam yesterday. Hasina will also lay the foundation stone of the 5.2km flyover from Muradpur to Lalkhan Bazar.

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