


RAIN LIKELY



WEATHER TODAY

Unb, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions, Met Office said. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:23pm and rises tomorrow at 6:03am.

Country's highest temperature 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and Bogra and lowest 20.5 degrees at Feni.

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	28.0	22.2	82	79	Khulna	28.2	21.5	79	82
Chittagong	25.0	21.4	96	94	Barisal	29.0	21.5	82	90
Rajshahi	29.5	21.9	94	86	Sylhet	31.0	20.7	77	77
Rangpur	30.0	22.0	83	75	Cox's Bazar	28.5	22.0	78	82



FIRST DAY OF 60-HOUR HARTAL Violence leaves over 645 injured in 25 districts

STAR REPORT

Over 645 people, including 45 law enforcers, were injured in clashes between opposition men and police and ruling party activists in at least 25 districts yesterday, the first day of the BNP-Jamaat-led 18-party opposition alliance's 60-hour hartal.

In the districts, pro-hartal activists either vandalised or torched at least 57 motorised vehicles, including 12 news-paper-carrying vehicles; 22 shops, two hospitals, and several offices of the Awami League and Jatiya Party.

Moreover, activities in the land port in Satkhira's Bhomra were suspended after pickets exploded several cocktails.

The highest number of casualties, over 100, including the upazila mayor, was in Kishoreganj's Pakundia upazila.

In Bhola's Borhanuddin upazila, at least 85 people, including four cops and five journalists, were wounded. Clashes around Jamalpur left some 50 people, including eight policemen, injured. In three upazilas of Narayanganj, the casualties were around 50.

At least 40 people, including five policemen, were injured in two separate clashes in Satkhira; nine, including seven policemen, in Barguna; and 25 in Patuakhali. In Gaibandha's Gobindaganj upazila, the figure was 30, including the district correspondent of NTV.

At least 25 people, including four policemen, were wounded in clashes on the Shahidullah Kaiser Highway in Feni. In Savar and Ashulia, at least 10 people were injured.

In Munshiganj, at least three policemen were injured in

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HASINA'S INVITE TO KHALEDA FOR TALKS Still in effect Says Matia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's invitation to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to come to Gono Bhaban to talk about the next parliamentary election was still in effect.

"We are still optimistic about reaching a solution through dialogue," the Awami League presidium member told a press conference in the party president's political office in the capital's Dhanmondi.

Matia said the discussion would be based on the constitution and an all-party poll-time government would be formed as per Hasina's proposal. "We will take all necessary initiatives to form the all-party election-time government," she said.

Hasina's invitation, made over the phone on Saturday, was for today.

In reply, the leader of the opposition said she could hold talks only after the 18-party opposition alliance's 60-hour shutdown, starting 6:00am yesterday, ended tomorrow since she alone could not call it off.

On the phone conversation, she said Khaleda lacked decency and hogged the conversation while Hasina remained courteous and never lost temper.

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(Clockwise from top left) This ambulance of AK Memorial Hospital was made a target during an attack by opposition men in Gazipur yesterday, the first day of a 60-hour hartal enforced by the BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance.

A rickshaw-puller tries in vain to keep his vehicle upright in an assault by hartal supporters in Chittagong city's Dampara area.

Alleged ruling party activists brandish sharp weapons while chasing hartal supporters on Dhaka-Mawa Highway in Sirajdikhan upazila of Munshiganj.

A motorcycle burns after being set alight by pickets in Rajshahi city's Bornali intersection.

Another target of an arson attack burns in Jatrabari of the capital.

A policeman checks the papers of a motorcyclist on Airport Road in the capital.

Rapid Action Battalion patrols the road before BNP's Naya Paltan office in the capital.

Policemen injured in an attack by BNP-Jamaat men being treated at Jessore Medical College.

A view of the usually bustling Gabtoli bus stand in the capital during hartal hours.

PHOTO: STAR, BANGLAR CHOKH



Cocktail hurled at Tureen Afroze's residence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Miscreants hurled a cocktail targeting the Uttara residence of International Crimes Tribunal prosecutor Tureen Afroze last night.

Afroze told The Daily Star that around 8:40pm she heard a tremendous noise and saw smoke and fire spits coming through the viewing hole of the main gate.

She said the on-guard police outside her house saw that two men on a red motorbike threw the bomb

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HASINA-KHALEDA TALKS Prime agenda must be non-party govt

Says Fakhru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said the prime agenda of the talks between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia must be the polls-time non-party government.

He claimed that the government's agents are involved in blasting handmade bombs at different parts of the country including the residences of dignitaries in the capital.

The BNP spokesperson also criticised the government for its "double standard" as he claimed that ruling party activists organised processions and rallies under police protection while opposition men are being denied to exercise their democratic rights to do so on the plea of a police ban.

Fakhru made this comment at a press conference at the

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Do not take policy decisions until polls

Mahub Uddin of SCBA urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Secretary AM Mahub Uddin Khokon yesterday termed the present government illegal and urged it to refrain from taking any "important and policy decisions" from now on.

The prime minister reportedly said on June 6 that October 25 would be the present parliament's last day. Therefore the present government has no legitimacy after October 25 as per the constitution, said the lawmaker of the main opposition BNP.

Addressing a press conference organised by SCBA at its south hall, Mahub also urged the government to resign.

He said the government, which remains in office for the last 90 days after the dissolution of parliament, would be an election-time government having no jurisdiction to take any policy decision as per the constitution.

He said the present government has created an abnormal situation by amending the constitution in such a manner so that it can stay in power for life.

BNP has been demanding formation of a non-partisan election-time government to hold the next general election.

POLLS COUNTDOWN BEGINS EC yet to finalise code of conduct

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the 90-day countdown to the next general election began yesterday, the Election Commission (EC) is yet to finalise the electoral code of conduct for political parties and election candidates.

As the code of conduct is incomplete, the commission cannot exercise its polls-time authority to restrict activities of political parties ahead of the general polls.

"We are working on finalising amendments to the code of conduct and

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