

LIGHT RAIN LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY

Unb, Dhaka

Light rain or drizzle is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the region of Comilla till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

A moderate cold wave that is sweeping over the regions of Sreemangal and Dinajpur and a mild cold wave

sweeping over Rajshahi and the rest parts of Rangpur division and the regions of Sitakunda, Rangamati, Khulna, Madaripur, Khepupara, Jessore and Kushtia may continue as mild cold wave.

Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:30pm and

risestomorrow at 6:44am.

Country's highest temperature 28.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Cox's Bazar and lowest 7.6 degree Celsius in Dinajpur.

The highest and lowest temperatures 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	23.1	11.0	97	66	Khulna	23.2	10.0	88	79
Chittagong	24.2	11.8	93	50	Barisal	24.3	10.5	100	77
Rajshahi	23.5	09.0	96	73	Sylhet	25.0	12.1	100	79
Rangpur	23.2	09.0	99	75	Cox's Bazar	28.0	13.2	82	67



POLITICS OF VENGEANCE: The burning BNP office, *left*, on Post Office Road, and the ruins of the Awami League office, *right*, on the main road in Pirojpur district town yesterday. The activists of the opposing parties allegedly set fire to each other's office.

PHOTO: STAR, FOCUS BANGLA

FEAR OF ATTACK

No young Hindu female member in Kornai village

Finds Tureen Afroz while visiting Dinajpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Barrister Tureen Afroz, a prosecutor at the war crimes tribunals, yesterday found no young Hindu female member in Kornai village of Dinajpur amid fears of further attacks on them after the election.

Earlier, soon after the election ended on Sunday, hundreds of Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men attacked around 60 Hindu families of Kornai village vandalising and torching their houses.

At least 600 people of the village have been affected during the

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ATTACK ON HINDUS

Demand for punishment of perpetrators reiterated

Gonojagoron Mancha road march reaches Jessore

DU CORRESPONDENT

Different cultural and socio-political organisations yesterday reiterated their demand for exemplary punishment for the perpetrators of the attacks on minority communities just after the 10th parliamentary polls on January 5.

The organisations blamed the government for recurrence of such attacks, saying as it failed to punish the perpetrators of these crimes at the beginning. They also demanded a ban on politics of Jamaat-Shibir.

Gonojagoron Mancha began its two-day road march from the capital and reached Jessore last night. The mancha organised the march to visit the Hindus

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TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Bird Migration

The other day I travelled to the outskirts of Dhaka, guided by bird enthusiast Omar Shahadat. We traversed a large field and approached a bush sitting on a slope. As we got closer to the bush, we tiptoed and sat down about ten feet away. Then we quietly waited. After a while, a small bird emerged from the bush and scamped about, picking food from the ground. Within seconds it had returned to the bush. As the morning progressed, this scene repeated itself several times. Other birders and photographers joined us; the bird disappointed none.

It was a Siberian Rubythroat, a rare migrant bird that breeds in Siberia and flies south during autumn and winter. About five inches long and weighing twenty-two grams, it had flown over two thousand miles, most of it by night, to spend the winter here in Bangladesh.

The bird is one of 176 migrant bird species that land annually in Bangladesh. They come in all shapes and sizes from the tiny Grey-Headed Canary Flycatcher (seven grams) to the Greylag Goose at three kilograms. They arrive after an arduous journey from faraway places such as Europe, Central Asia or the Himalayas. All but six of these species arrive during the winter.

Bird migration has taken place worldwide for a very long time. Migrating birds showed up in paintings left behind by ancient Egyptians 5000 years ago. The Greek philosopher and teacher Aristotle studied migration in detail. But the why and how of bird migration continue to fascinate and puzzle us to this day.

The reason for migration is easier to understand. Mostly, birds migrate for survival. As the weather turns cold, they migrate to warmer climates for food. The journey entails considerable risks. But this Rubythroat, which easily gets its insects, grains and larvae from the field in Keraniganj, would have starved in the harsh Siberian winter.

But as I watched that little bird, I had to ask myself: how did it find its way from Siberia to Bangladesh? How do migrating birds know which way to fly? We understand only parts of this great mystery of nature. Birds follow familiar landmarks, but what about those flying over oceans? Some birds follow star maps at night. Some birds follow variations in the earth's magnetic field. As they get closer to their destination, many birds use their sense of smell.

Siberian Rubythroat.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

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AL, BNP offices burnt in Pirojpur

Six hurt in AL factional clash in Jhenidah

STAR REPORT

The Awami League and BNP offices were burnt in Pirojpur while at least six persons were injured in a clash between two factions of the AL in Jhenidah yesterday.

Local AL activists allegedly set fire to a BNP office hours after an AL office was torched in Pirojpur town on Sadar Road around 3:40 in the morning. The offices of both the AL and BNP were reduced to ashes, reported our Pirojpur correspondent.

Putting the blame on the BNP-Jamaat-led 18-party alliance, around 150 AL men set fire to the BNP office on Post Office Road around 10:00am, said district BNP Secretary General Alamgir Hossain.

Md Akram Hossain, president of district AL, denied the allegation, and accused the BNP activists of burning the AL office.

The AL men also assaulted four local journalists who were trying to take photos of the gutted BNP office, said the victims.

In Jhenidah, at least six persons including a woman were injured when the followers of the defeated and victorious candidates in the 10th national polls clashed at Mingram village in Sailkupa upazila around 11:30am, reported our correspondent.

Five of the injured—Kuddus, Ripon Mia, Billur Rahman, Ayub Ali and Badsha Mondol—were admitted to Sailkupa Upazila Health Complex, while Manju Khatun was rushed to Jhenidah sadar hospital in a critical state.

Armed with sharp weapons, the supporters of Nayeb Ali Joarder, a former upazila chairman and AL leader who contested in the January 5 elections independently and lost, attacked the loyalists of the winner, Abdul Hye, an AL leader and former state minister for fisheries and livestock.

Sailkupa upazila's Aabaip union AL Secretary Abul Kalam Azad claimed that the injured were the supporters of the Abdul Hye.

The defeated candidate, Nayeb Ali Joarder, however, denied attacking the loyalists of Hye.

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AL to embrace autocrat's fate

Says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the Awami League would have to face the fate of the past autocrats if it does not stop "misusing the state power and oppressing and arresting the opposition leaders and activists."

"The government is arresting opposition leaders and activists intentionally by bringing allegations of violence to hide the low turnout in the January 5 farcical elections and the boycott by voters. With the help of the joint force, the Awami criminals are attacking, looting and torching the houses of opposition leaders and activists," he complained in a statement.

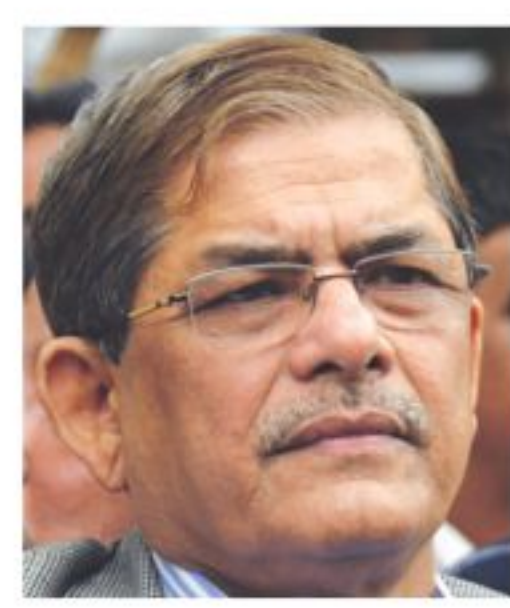
The BNP leader claimed that the government declared itself winner in the January 5 farcical elections, which is illegal.

"The fascist government is trying to suppress the opposition by the law enforcers, which is pushing the country towards instability," he mentioned.

After carrying out attacks on the Hindus, "the ruling party cadres" are putting the blame on the opposition, said the statement.

On behalf of BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia, Fakhrul again called upon the party leaders and activists to help the religious minorities.

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No law-breakers in new cabinet

17 eminent citizens urge PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens yesterday urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina not to include controversial people, law breakers and those who committed constitutional violations in the new cabinet.

They said this way corruption can be stopped, which was one of the pledges made by the ruling party in its election manifesto.

In a statement, signed by 17 eminent citizens, they demanded not to give any person whose wealth increased abnormally the post of minister until Anti-Corruption Commission declares them innocent after investigation.

M Hafizuddin Khan, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Dr Hamida Hossain, Rasheda K Chowdhury, Syed Abul Maksud, Hossain Zillur Rahman, Khushi Kabir, Selina Hossain, Architect Mobasher Hossen, Shaheen Anam, Dr Shahdeen Malik, Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Shamsul Huda, Barrister Sara Hossain, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Aroma Dutta and Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar were signatories of the statement.

Expressing concern over the abnormal rise of assets of some ministers, they demanded that income statements and assets of ministers, advisers, lawmakers and their family members be revealed to the public every year.

Saying that as per the constitution, a person cannot be a lawmaker, if he has any kind of business relationship with the government, they urged the prime minister to take an initiative to cancel the membership of those lawmakers who have such relationships.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addresses a party rally at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday marking Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Homecoming Day.

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