

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 31.4 L 23.3	H 29.5 L 24.2	H 29.8 L 22.2	H 30.5 L 16.4	H 31.7 L 21.5	H 32.7 L 24.0	H 28.0 L 18.8	H 29.5 L 24.0

Light fog may occur at places over the river basins during late night till morning. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:58pm and rises tomorrow at 6:26am. Country's highest temperature 33.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Patuakhali and lowest 16.4 in Rajshahi.



Nayantara breaks down in tears while talking about her slain elder brother, Jogeshwar Dasadhikari, 50, a Hindu priest, at a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday. A few minutes after she took the microphone, the 45-year-old collapsed on the spot. Jogeshwar was killed by unknown people in a temple of Debiganj upazila in Panchagarh on Sunday.

PHOTO: STAR

He didn't have enemy

Sister tells human chain protesting killing of Hindu priest Jogeswar Dasadhikari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When Nayantara was requested to speak a few words about the killing of her elder brother, a Hindu priest, she took the microphone and described him as someone having no enemy.

"My brother was a very peaceful man. He never quarrelled with people. He was also not involved in politics. He was very pious," she said.

"But they didn't leave my brother. They killed him very brutally when he just started his offerings at the temple. I want to see stringent punishment of the killers."

Nayantara, 45, could not speak more; she collapsed.

The woman from Debiganj upazila of Panchagarh was addressing a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club, organised to protest the killing of Jogeswar Dasadhikari, 50.

She was taken to a hospital.

Unidentified criminals slit the throat of Jogeswar at Sri Sri Shonto Gaurio temple of Shonapota in Debiganj just after dawn on Sunday and fled the scene firing shots and exploding homemade bombs, which also injured two devotees.

He is the latest victim of a recent string of attacks on clerics and prayer houses of

minorities in Bangladesh in the last few months.

Different organisations of Hindus formed the human chain yesterday, demanding that the government arrest the killers and give them a harsh punishment to stop recurrence.

They termed the incident an attack on the country's independence and communal harmony.

"It is very sad that I have to take to the street today to cry for our rights in this independent country after 46 years of the Liberation War. Our men are being killed, our women raped," alleged artist and freedom fighter Manoranjan Ghoshal.

He said the anti-liberation forces were doing these as part of an "international conspiracy" to destroy the government's image.

Manoranjan Ghoshal urged the home minister and law enforcers to foil the conspiracy and called for the prime minister's intervention in finding the killers immediately.

Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Mohajote Secretary General Palash Kandi Dey said Hindus must be aware so that none could politicise the issue.

Parimal Chandra Guha, former vice

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AL faced 1/11

with prudence

Says Syed Ashraf

UNB, Dhaka

Noting that many had advised Awami League (AL) to wage a movement together with BNP against the military-backed caretaker government in 2007-2008, the party General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam yesterday said they faced the situation with prudence.

"That was a dangerous proposal as revolution can not be achieved every time through a movement," he said after unveiling covers of two books in the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

He said the party had some specific aims during the caretaker government period, including getting Awami League President Sheikh Hasina released from jail and taking part and winning in a free and fair election under her leadership.

Every decision during that time had been taken in the party forum, he said.

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KILLING OF JESSORE MAN IN 1971

Fourth witness implicates ex-MP Shakhawat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fourth prosecution witness yesterday linked former Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP lawmaker Shakhawat Hossain and his accomplices to the killing of Chadtulla Gazi of Chingra village in Jessore's Keshabpur upazila during the Liberation War in 1971.

Momin Gazi, a nephew of Chadtulla, and the fourth prosecution witness in the case against nine Jessore men including Shakhawat, described the incident before the International Crimes Tribunal-1.

Earlier, Chadtulla's two sons Gaziur Rahman and Fazlur Rahman Gazi, and freedom fighter Nur Uddin Morol gave testimonies implicating the accused in the killing.

The eight others are Mujibur Rahman, Abdul Khaleq, Lutfar Morol, Billal Hossain, Kazi Ohidul Islam, Aziz Sardar, Aziz Sardar (2), and Ibrahim Hossain.

The nine face five charges. Of them, Shakhawat, Billal and Lutfar are now in jail and have pleaded not guilty. The rest are on the run.

The 70-year-old witness said in the middle of the Bangla month of Bhadra, Shakhawat, along with the accused and 14 to 15 others, went to their house and took him to his uncle's house to pick the latter up.

Failing to find Chadtulla, accused

Ibrahim beat him and wanted to know about his uncle's whereabouts, said Momin, adding that at one stage, he escaped and hid in a bush near his uncle's house.

He said he saw the Razakars looting and torching his uncle's house, and when he came out from the hideout, he saw his aunt Ayesha Begum carrying his cousin Atiar in her arms.

His aunt told him that when she requested Shakhwat to stop the torching, Shakhawat kicked her, said Momin, adding that three ribs of his cousin were broken as her aunt fell on the ground due to Shakhawat's attack, and he died after 17 days due to lack of treatment.

On the 28th of Ashwin, the nine accused, along with 15 to 20 Razakars, detained his uncle from his house before taking him to Chingra Razakar camp, he said.

Razakars tortured him for four days in the camp and Shakhawat shot him dead on the bank of the Kopotakkho River on the first day of Bangla month Kartik, said Momin, adding that a shopkeeper of his locality told him about the killing.

Later, they also learnt about his uncle's killing from Nur Uddin, another detainee of the camp.

The case proceeding was adjourned until today after the defence completed his cross-examination.

DEATHS IN FIRING ON TANGAIL PROTESTERS

Police probes find two addl SPs, 11 other personnel guilty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two police probes have found two additional superintendents of police and 11 other personnel of the force guilty of being negligent and incompetent in stopping the firing that killed four people during a mass protest in

Tangail last year.

The probe reports, recommending appropriate steps, including suspension and transfer, of the guilty, were submitted to the High Court yesterday during the hearing of a relevant writ petition, Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Sazu told

The Daily Star.

Three people were killed on the spot and 32 injured as police opened fire on locals in Kalihati upazila on September 18 last year. The fourth victim died two days later.

Hundreds of locals took to the street

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Pleasant greenery replaces billboards and stacks of garbage on a central reservation nearly half a kilometre long between the Cheragi Pahar and Jamal Khan inter-sections in Chittagong city, a transformation brought about recently by Chittagong City Corporation with a real estate developer. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

DOMESTIC HELP TORTURE CASE

Charges framed against cricketer Shahadat, wife

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against former Bangladesh cricketer Shahadat Hossain and his wife Jasmine Jahan Nrittya in a case filed for allegedly torturing their 11-year-old domestic help.

Judge Tanjina Ismail of the Fifth Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression fixed March 20 for starting trial of the case.

The same court yesterday rejected a petition seeking discharge of the couple from the charges.

Shahadat and his wife, now on bail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after the judge read out the charges brought

against them.

On September 6 last year, domestic help Mahfuza Akhtar Happy brought allegations of torture by Shahadat and his wife.

Later, a case was filed against the couple with Mirpur Police Station.

Shahadat was sent to jail by a Dhaka court after he surrendered before it on October 6, two days after police arrested his wife Nrittya.

The cricketer secured bail from the High Court on December 8 last year on health ground while his wife got bail from a Dhaka court on December 1.

Bangladesh Cricket Board temporarily suspended Shahadat on September 13 following the allegations.

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