# 'eather

# **Thick fog forecast**

Light rain or drizzle is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi division and weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins of the country during the morning, Met Office said. The country's highest temperature 29.7 recorded yesterday degree

Celsius at Sitakunda and the lowest 11.0 degree at Jessore.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:24 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42

Maximum and minim	um temperature a	nd humidity	recorded in	some
major cities and towns	esterday were :			

City/Town	Temperatur in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	27.0	14.7	66	61
Chittagong	28.5	13.8	90	74
Rajshahi	25.5	13.5	84	68
Khulna	27.6	12.6	76	62
Barisal	27.5	12.0	81	80
Sylhet	27.0	14.5	67	67
-				

# **JS body for action**

Khan

country's increasing demand

The meeting also formed another

three-member sub- committee to

mentation of the Fourth Fisheries

Project. The meeting also focused

The meeting was attended by

committee members Syed Rafiqul

Haq, A K Fazlul Haq, Kamrun Nahar Putul, Mozammel Hossain,

Dr. Mohammad Ali, Mohammad

Fazlul Hague and Shamsuzzoha

Livestock Prof Abdul Quddus

attended the meeting on special invitation. High officials of the ministry and the Parliament Secre-

5 firearms

From page 1

rom page 1 When contacted, Ramna police said that Arif was arrested for illegal possession of firearms while his relative was arrested for staying illegally at the student dormitory. Both the arrested would be pro-duced before the CMM's court today

Meanwhile, Shariatpur-

Madaripur faction of BCL took control of Mohsin Hall following

Arif's arrest. Earlier, five other BCL

men of the Bagerhat faction includ-

ing Shafiqur Rahman, president of Mohsin Hall of BCL, were arrested

from Shahbagh area on December

No decision

success

tariat were also present.

State Minister for Fisheries and

on the National Fisheries Policy.

find out the irregularities in imple

From page The committee found that Dr Emdad was involved in corruption including garbing money from various projects and the salary of an employee who died earlier and giving undue opportunity to some officials at the BLRI.

It also found that about Tk seven crore funds provided by the World Bank for an Agriculture Research Management Project remained unutilised for long and was returned due to his "negligence".

The meeting also discussed progress in implementation of the Forth Fisheries Project and asked the officials concerned to implement it properly. It also emphasised preparing unutilised water bodies for fish cultivation to meet the

#### Italian plastic surgery team in city

A nine-member plastic surgery team led by noted surgeon Dr. Paulo Morselli of Interplast, an Italian association of plastic surgeons have arrived in the city to conduct plastic surgery on poor patients free of cost, reports BSS.

The team consists of six doctors including a Bangladeshi surgeon Dr. Sharif Hasan and three nurses. The team will also impart training on plastic surgery to local doctors during their visit.

The arrest of Arif, the last man to lead the Bagerhat group, has enabled the Shariyatpur-Madaripur The activities of Interplast team is being coordinated by Dr. S N Sen, group to take control of the entire Professor of Burn and Plastic Surcampus. Earlier they occupied Salimullah Hall by ousting their gery Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Prof Sen told BSS that rivals during its two-week stay in Bangladesh the team will operate upon 30 to 40 patients at DMCH.

The team will also conduct free plastic surgery at Chittagong Medi-cal College Hospital.

Two killed at Cox's Bazar: Public block road

# News **Students begin classes** without new textbooks

NCTB non-chalant, says books 'may' be available by month end

Students across the country The publisher-cum-printer also began the new academic year yes-

said that Beximco presses have a terday without new textbooks from capacity to print three lakh books. e National Curriculum and Textok Board, reports UNB. but their order is for three crore Despite having made no major items ogress in printing textbooks for Those printers and publishers e new academic session, the who are not involved in printing of ard till maintains that students books this year after one of their top

ll get their books within this leaders was arrested in a textbool onth scandal during the caretaker gov-"We are optimistic that the priernment in 1996, asked what action ary school students will get books will now be taken against those now thin next week while the secondinvolved in the present scandal.

this month.

scuttled the optimism

ary students between January 15 They said that even if the printing and 21," Tapan Kanti Chowdhury, completed by end of January, it Chairman of the NCTB, told UNB. will still be one month behind Elaborating on how hard he and schedule. "We wait to see what his officials are working day and action the government takes for the night, he said that the books should delayed delivery," they said. be ready no later than by the end of

"Punitive actions will definitely be taken against the concerned firms. Many printers involved in print-But right now we are busy to ensure ing the books in previous years that the books are delivered to students on time. We will go for "The so-called printing presses of action after the books reach the Beximco, who are to print the books, students." Tapan Chowdhury said. haven't even procured enough

The chief of the NCTB which is paper for a lion's share of the books. dubbed by many printers and pub-How they will complete printing all lishers as "the corruption house." the books on time?" questioned a said that the books will reach the publisher, wishing to remain anonydistricts adjoining Dhaka earlier. For

distant districts it will take some time more, he said.

The printers point out to differences in the chairman's statements made at different times about the books. Though printing is yet to be completed, they allege that NCTB plans to send books first to the

districts of ministers and stalwarts. Quoting NCTB, Saleh Matin, Director General of the Directorate of Primary Education, however, told UNB that the primary school books, which are distributed free of cost, have already been sent to different

districts. The books will be sent to the upazilas from the districts. But, sources said, it will take time since books will only be sent to the upazilas after all books of all five classes of the primary school reach the districts. This will take time.

Concerned people said that the major debacle in printing school textbooks took place following "nepotism" on the part of authorities concerned. The NCTB gave out the major orders for printing to three

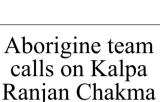
The three printing presses are to print 4.07 crore books for primary level and 2.51 crore pieces for secondary level. Orders for 1.55 crore pieces of primary school books went to 105 other printing presses in the capital city.

A total of Tk 78 crore is involved in printing books for classes six to ten. All the secondary books are almost new since NCTB went for massive correction and changes from last year's syllabus. The cost of printing books for primary schools is Tk 14 crore.

As the printing presses of the Beximco failed repeatedly in meeting deadlines, a fresh order for printing 1.45 crore pieces was made out to 105 other presses in the city which are already busy printing their original orders.

Many printers who have worked in previous years said that it is not clear whether the latest order was made out from the share of the three Beximco presses or whether fresh orders were placed

presses of Beximco



A delegation of National Aborigine Council met with CHT Affairs Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma at

salvaged and allowed to ply again. his office yesterday, reports UNB. Lauding the government steps and programmes for the minority appliances like buoys and lifejackets groups, including aborigines, the delegation members urged the Some don't even have fire minister to expedite the implementation of the government foghorns on board, they add. programmes.

The minister assured the delega-tion that he would properly perform his duty to ameliorate the lot of the aborigines, said a handout.

Council President and its General Secretary were present.

#### carriers ply without valid docu-Foreign secretary ments and qualified personnel.

From page 1 Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury till April 30, 2007.

It was learnt that government was actively considering two names for appointment as foreign secre-tary. They are Syed Muazzem Ali, who was also envoy to Iran and Dr. Toufiq Ali, who was the country's

and five others are facing prosecu-

overheard *talak* pronounced three

times by Saiful during a family feud

The Maulana arranged the

forced marriage of Shahida with

about a year and a half ago.

SYLHET, Jan 1: A class IV employee of the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital was beaten to death by agitated patients of the psychiatry ward Saturday night. Police arrested Abdul Malik, a patient of the ward in this connec-

tion on the same night. Sources inform that, Abdul

**Patients beat hospital** 

employee to death

One arrested from Osmani Medical College Hospital in Sylhet

**From Staff Correspondent** 

Malik, a patient in the ward had been agitated for some reason since the afternoon on the day. He shouted several times and went on rampage damaging some chairs for delay in supply of meal in the noon. He also declined food at 6 pm Brother Babul Kanti Dass, a first year student in the Nursing Institute who was on duty at the Ward. then gave the patient a mild beating and tried to feed him. Malik in retaliation swooped on the hospital employee. Dass then called MLSS Abul Hossain Mithu and sweeper Kamal from the adjacent ward to help him. Seeing them together the other patients also became agitated. Soon after, the panic stricken Babul Dass came out of the ward with Kamal. They locked the gate to the ward. MLSS Abul Hossain was trapped inside the ward where the

From page

Queen of Patuakhali, a passenger

vessels do not carry life-saving

as required by law, sources say.

extinguishers, navigation lights and

Existing rules also require each

vessel to dock and check for cracks,

visible or hidden, every two years

According to sources in the

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport

Authority (BITWA), most of the

private vessels including passenger-

and but these are hardly enforced.

patients beat him up severely. He died on the spot. Later, a case was lodged with the Sylhet Kotwali Police by ward master Hamidul Haque on behalf of the

Hospital Administration. Babul Kanti Dass has been absconding since the incident. Namaz-e-janaza of the deceased was held at the premises of the

shrine of Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) on Sunday afternoon. Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital Employees Co-ordination Council began a 3-day mourning programme from Sunday and also emanded Babul's arrest within 7 days and for payment of compensation to the family of the deceased The council further demanded strengthening of security measures in the hospital. There has been an acute shortage of manpower in the hospital since the Eid vacation. Most of the doctors and employees of all classes are yet to join duty causing a stalemate in hospital affairs

Mithu's father Deen Mohammad was a guard in the hospital and his mother Imam Bibi is a retired Ava of the hospital as well.

# **Most launches**

the Eid festivals, the more mon the inspectors make. Sources in the Launch Malik

double-decker launch, reportedly sank three times, leaving scores Samity said about 80 per cent of the dead. However, each time it was vessels evade inspection bribing the surveyors who issue fitness certifi renamed immediately after being cate against each vessel. Ninety per cent of the passenger

According to official sources major mishaps took place in Kirtonkhola, Paira, Lohalia, Tetulia, Meghna, Sandhaya, Sugandha Biskhali, Agunmukha, Kalabadai rivers in the last decade.

While the authorities have formed probe committees to look into each major accidents on the riverine routes, hardly has there been any punitive measures taken anybody

The offenders remain beyond the grips of law by striking underhand deals with the authorities, sources pointed out.

Azam Hassan Khan, an expert in Inspection and annual surveys marine safety who is also general are virtually absent. Moreover, there manager of BIWTC, said, "Some of the main reasons why accidents "We pay bribe and the surveyors occur could be overloading of vesdon't bother us." said a launch sels, vessels manned by unqualified owner at Sadarghat launch terminal people, absence of navigation lights. structural faults of the vessel and

racing on the river, etc.

first ambassador to the Netherlands.

নিহাঁত গ্রান্ম হা

BNP city convener Sadek Hossain Khoka leading a colourful procession in the city brought out yesterday to mark the founding anniversary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

# **Cracker blasts mark JCD rally**

leaders asked the agitating JCD men call off its rally to avoid confrontation, saying that Khaleda Zia had

A mobile subscriber said, "The government is charging an annual greed to sit with

the issue.

formed.

evening.

From page 1 to rural areas and its village phone scheme has achieved considerable The GP had a target to provide at least one mobile telephone in each village by the end of 2000. But it has

From page 1 aggrieved leaders and activists. so far covered only 3,000 villages due to BTTB's refusal to provide The meeting, convened at the advice of the BNP chairperson, the interconnection with its fixed net-

give priority to party interest instead of petty personal or individual interest," he told the rally.

Amanullah Aman said that a mass upsurge like the 1990 is awaiting the Awami League government and hoped that Pintu and Laltu

BNP's student affairs secretary and former DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman was present during the mazaar visit. Sources said Aman

went there against his will and at the dictate of Khaleda. Witnesses said the new commit-

ministry and enjoying the confidence of the prime minister would be in his favour, they say.

vesterday. "This is a common practice. So, overloading of both passengers and goods goes unabated. The more passengers the launches and steamers carry, especially during

is the bribe factor.

Fatwa illegal: HC



From page 1

However, many believe that Sami could be retained as the foreign secretary on an extended contract to maintain sort of status quo before the elections.

That he has been successfully handling the affairs of the foreign

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 1: Scores of angry people set up barricades for about two hours this morning the death of two people in an accident, reports BSS.

Police said the accident occurred at about 8 am when a Cox's Bazarbound coach S. Alam knocked down bicycle riders Kamrul Islam, 20, and Firoz, 22, on the Marine Drive Road. They said that Kamrul died on the spot while Firoz died on this way to Ćox's Bazar Sadar Hospital.

Police restored communication two hours later.

They seized the coach and filed a case. But the driver and helper of the coach fled.

#### Neurologist dead

Eminent neurologist Major General (retd) Siraj Zinnat died of cardiac arrest at his Baridhara residence yesterday afternoon. He was 72, reports UNB.

Dr Zinnat left behind his wife, two sons, mother and a host of relatives, colleagues and admirers to mourn his death.

He will be buried at Banani graveyard after arrival of his two sons from abroad, family sources said.

His body was kept at the Com-



### Obituary

Abdullah Md Saqi, computer and graphics businessman died yesterday, says a press release. Saqi is survived by his wife, two

daughters and a son. He is the son of late Abdul Maiid of Tutatuli village in Narsingdi

district. Saqi completed his education in Public Administration in 1980.

His qulkhawani will be held after Asr prayers on January 4 at E-2/2 Postal Officer Colony at Motijheel,

rovalty of Tk 1100 for every mobile connection irrespective of its access to fixed network or only mobile to mobile network. We pay the additional amount of Tk 1,100 per year although we do not have access

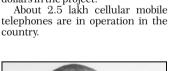
work, the sources said.

even to emergency services like ambulance and fire and police." Mobile operators are not allowed to provide their subscribers access to BTTB network as it does not have

necessary infrastructure. Four mobile operators had earlier proposed to the MOPT to take up a project to upgrade BTTB's infrastructure

The operators Pacific Bangla-desh Telecom Limited (PBTL), GrameenPhone (GP), Telecom Malaysia International Bangladesh (TMIB-Aktel) and Sheba Telecom

agreed to invest five million US dollars in the project. About 2.5 lakh cellular mobile



motorcycles.

Addressing the rally, Sadek Hossain Khoka MP asked the JCD activists to forget all differences and launch massive student movement against the government. "All should

From page 1

was not assisted by any lawyer.

filing of a rape case.

report

case

in the murder case.

Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu in his One of the rebel ICD leaders told speech said government agents under the banner of JCD letting lose the reporters that they had called off terrorism and obstructing the new committee. He said city JCD leader the rally upon assurance that the new committee would be dissolved soon and a fresh body would be Sagir Ahmed was an accused of Dr Milon murder case and accused "We have been waiting at the residence of the BNP secretary him as government agent.

Expressing his allegiance to the leadership of Khaleda Zia, Pintu general from 2-00pm today as party chief may call us at any time to sit for said, "I love Khaleda Zia more than negotiation," city's south unit Presimy life, my mother and my organisa dent Sagir Ahmed told The Daily tion."

Star by telephone at about 6-30 last He vowed to resist the government's agents at any cost and carry Later, Khoka and Aman attended forward the sojourn of JCD.

the Muktangan rally at the instruc-tion of Khaleda Zia. BNP standing Laltu alleged that the miscreants and terrorists tried to foil the rally through resorting violence, but the committee member Abdul Matin Chowdhury was seen watching the activists made the programme a rally from a building at Paltan crosscomplete success braving bombing and firing of gunshots.

ing. Witnesses said most of the partic Later, a colourful procession paraded Paltan, Press Club and Kakrail roads and ended at 29 Minto ipants of the rally were non-student and equipped with firearms and bombs. Several armed squads were Road.

deployed around the gathering to Earlier, as part of the founding anniversary programmes, a group JCD activists led by Pintu and Laltu resist any attack from the rival faction. Many cadres backed by the Pintu-Laltu faction were seen placed wreath at the mazaar of late guarding the rally sitting in President Ziaur Rahman at about 9microbuses and jeeps, and on 30am

Police personnel were deployed in and around the mazaar area to avert any untoward incident. However, several hand bombs were exploded around the mazaar when the Pintu faction placed wreath.

tee's president and general secretary as well as their supporters completed the mazaar programme quickly apprehending attack by the

rivals. The Pintu-Laltu faction could not hoist party and national flags at the JCD central office at Nayapaltan as the rival faction continued to occupy the premises.

The rival faction also foiled an attempt by the new committee loyalists to take possession of the party's central office on Sunday night

The rival faction that comprising leaders and activists of the party's units at Dhaka University, city South and North, Jagannath College and other educational institutions, hoisted party and national flags at the central office at 6-01am yesterday, sources said.

The anti-Pintu-Laltu group visited Zia's mazaar of Zia at about 1-30pm and placed wreath and offered fateha. Leaders and activists also

brought out colourful processions at Dhaka University campus, Jagannath College and other campuses and chanted slogans against the new committee and demanded immediate cancellation of the committee led by Pintu and Laltu.

Peaceful welcome prayers. From page 1

proper documents were produced

police said. Another spot for celebration was Dhaka University campus. A large number of people, mostly youths, started gathering at the TSC (Teachers Students Centre) since the evening, ignoring a large number of police and BNCC personnel deployed there to maintain order. DU Vice-Chancellor and the Proctor were seen at the TSC at about midnight. While joining the celebrations, the VC also asked the law enforcers to guard against any

untoward incident. Police did not allow any motorised vehicle inside the campus and were seen intercepting outsiders.

Police escorted some females when they went to the campus at about 1am for New Year celebration. Police also asked them not to stay on the campus for long. No untoward

incident took place. Police and riot police equipped with water cannons were seen patrolling different streets in the city and on the outskirts.

Police said they held over 100 vouths and seized more than 30 vehicles in the city for plying without proper documents.

im Family Ordinance in th district administration of Naogaon curriculums of madrassahs and schools and sermons during Friday In November last year, Shahida was forced to go for hilla as dictated by the Maulana. He claimed to have

As a long-term measure, the court recommended "an unified education system and an enactment to control the freedom of religion subject to law, public order and morality within the scope of Article 41 (1) of the Constitution." It noted, "The state must define and enforce public morality. It must educate society"

The Bench directed the court office to send copies of the judgement to the ministries of Home, Law, Education and religious Affairs immediately.

A large number of women's rights activists including Maleka Begum and Barrister Tania Amir who was the amicus curie in the case were present in the court yesterday.

Meanwhile, Maulana Haji Azizul Islam who gave the *fatwa* for *hilla* 

Saiful's cousin Shadidul when he was away from the village and subsequent divorce after a day. But Saiful refused to accept her. The DC of Naogaon told the HC in an affidavit that Maulana Azizul Islam was arrested on December 6

Five others including the person who conducted the forced marriage are also in custody. At the initiative of local Union Parishad, Shahdia and Saiful are now living together. the DC added.

## Vajpayee warns against building temple at mosque site

NEW DELHI, Jan 1: Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee today said his government would not tolerate any illegal attempts to build Hindu temple on the ruins of a historic mosque razed by Hindu fanatics in 1992, reports AFP.

The Press Trust of India quoted the prime minister as saying in a newspaper article written during his New Year holiday in the southern Indian state of Kerala, that a status quo on the Babri mosque would be strictly

maintained. "I wish to make it absolutely clear that the law will take its course should any organisation attempt to disturb the status quo. The government will not remain a silent spectator and adopt delaying tactics, as unfortunately happened eight years

ago," he wrote. The demolition of the 16th century Babri Mosque by thousands of Hindu fanatics in the northen town of Ayodhya eight years ago sparked nationwide Hindu-Muslim riots in which 2,000 people were killed. It was the worst religious violence since the 1947 partition of the

Indian subcontinent into Hindudominated India and Muslimmajority Pakistan and severely dented New Delhi's secular creden-

The controversy over plans to build a Hindu temple on the Babri ruins was revived in December

#### New DG of BWDB A K M Halimur Rahman has taken over as Director General of

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) recently, says a release press

After obtaining engineering degree from the BUET in 1965, Rahman joined the then EPWAPDA as an Asstt. Engineer in 1966. He was born in a famous Muslim family in Mymensingh in 1944.

### **Business bodies**

From page 1 businessman and his son Faisal Morshed Khan, the managing director of Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited," the statement said

"It only deepens the widespread public apprehension that no one is safe from the arbitrary application of PSA, causing deprivation of liberty and humiliation," it added.

# **Shazneen Case: IO cross-examined**

#### regarding filing of a rape case. In the murder case, he recorded state-He submitted the charge sheet in ments of 61 prosecution witnesses the murder case as an investigation

officer. He had also filed a rape case He could not remember whether before submitting the charge sheet the witnesses in the murder case and in the rape case were the same. He said that he had started The statements of prosecution investigating the murder on order witnesses in the murder case and in from higher authorities and submitthe rape case were not similar, he

ted the charge sheet in the murder added. Minu and Parvin were arrested in case. The Act for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, the murder case. They were later 1995 was in force when he submitshown arrested in the rape case.

ted the charge sheet in the murder The former investigation officer of the murder case had earlier Rahman said he along with some produced Minu and Parvin before high police officials scrutinised the court as witnesses. The court recorded their judicial statements autopsy report, which he got before the rape case was filed. He said he under Section 164 of the Cr Pc. Rahman said.

He also told the court that at the He could not say where they were end of investigation in the murder sent after recording their judicial case, he realised the necessity of statements

After taking over charge of inves-He said that before submitting tigation of the murder case, he the Memo of Evidence in the murarrested Minu and Parvin from the der case to the CMM's Court, he house of Latifur Rahman, comreported to the higher authorities plainant in the murder case, and

took them on remand. He said they were sisters but did not know when they came to Latifur Rhaman's house and what was their salary as maids

only Minu gave judicial statement before the CMM's court, Dhaka when the two were produced. Parvin refused to give statement.

in the rape case.

at the CID office. During remand the murder took place.

youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman of Transcom Group, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23,

24, 1998 accusing Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, who worked as a domestic help at his house.

Mojibur Rahman had filed a rape case with Gulshan thana after six months' investigation into the murder.

> Shahidul Islam is the principal accused in the case while contractor Hasan is the alleged mastermind.

All the accused -- Shahid, Hasan, Badal, Shaniram, Minu and Parvin were present at the court during the cross-examination vesterday.

Special public prosecutors A B M Sharfuddin Khan Mukul and Mahbub Ahmed appeared for the state while Advocate Mosarraf Hossain Kajol and M A Kamrul Hasan Khan Aslam appeared for the accused.

The murder case, pending with the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's court, Dhaka was earlier stayed by an order of the Supreme Court. The order will remain valid till disposal of the rape case.

tials.

when Prime Minister Vajpayee said the campaign was an expression of "national" sentiment and an "unfinished" task.

Vajpayee had to face a censure motion in parliament over his remarks on the temple campaign despite his argument that his remarks had been taken out of ntext.

However, his ruling BJP party managed to secure the support of its more secular coalition allies to easily win the day in the lower house although it was rapped on the knuckles in the upper house where

the ruling alliance is in a minority. However, the controversy over the issue has not died down as religious leaders have flayed the prime minis-

ter for disregarding the sentiments of minority communities. Adding fuel to the fire was a recent statement by the powerful Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Forum) which has said it will unveil

plans to build a grand temple at the site during the major Hindu pilgrimage of Kumbh Mela starting next week.

The VHP is closely allied to Vajpayee's party.

The prime minister, however, in his newspaper article on Monday, said a peaceful resolution of the issue was a national challenge.

## under Section 161 of the CrPc. He further told the court that

They were then taken on remand

He further said that husbands of Minu and Parvin were not produced

Minu and Parvin were not taken to the house of Latifur Rahman where

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15,

Latifur Rahman filed a murder case with Gulshan thana on April