

Dry weather likely



WEATHER TODAY

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.

Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:12pm and rises tomorrow at 6:18am.

Country's highest temperature 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at

Comilla and lowest 12.0 degree Celsius at Sreemangal.

The highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka 29.4	17.2	52	52
Chittagong 28.8	19.0	75	71
Rajshahi 29.6	14.4	82	64
Rangpur 29.3	14.7	60	72

Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Khulna 30.0	16.0	58	69
Barisal 29.9	15.9	77	83
Sylhet 30.3	16.9	61	70
Cox's Bazar 31.5	21.5	72	67

MINISTERS WHO RESIGNED

Hearing on continuing in offices adjourned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday adjourned for six days the hearing on three separate writ petitions filed challenging the legality of holding offices by the ministers and state ministers, who recently submitted their resignation letters.

It fixed November 25 for resuming the hearing, as Attorney General Mahbubey Alam prayed for adjournment of the proceedings on the petitions.

Supreme Court lawyers Tuhin Malik, Abdullah-Al Baki, and Eunus Ali Akond filed the petitions.

They said in the petitions that the offices of the ministers and state ministers are vacant as per article 58 (1) of the constitution, as they handed over their resignation letters to the prime minister on



The Election Commission led by Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad meets President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban yesterday. They told him that the commission was almost ready to conduct the upcoming national election and urged the president to make efforts to ensure participation of all parties.

PHOTO: PID

It's a reshuffle of old govt

Eight left parties say of 'all-party' cabinet formation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League-led government has been reconstituted in the name of formation of an all-party government, an alliance of eight left-leaning parties said yesterday.

The new one is actually a reshuffled cabinet of the grand alliance government, Gonetantrik Bam Morcha (GBM) leaders told a press conference the alliance's office in the capital.

The government is convining to hold a one-sided

REGISTRATION OF BNF

BNP demands EC's resignation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP joint secretary general Rizvi Ahmed yesterday demanded resignation of the chief election commissioner and four other election commissioners for registering the much talked-about Bangladesh Nationalist Front (BNF) as a political party.

The government has used the Election Commission as well as intelligence agencies to get the new party registered with an aim to splitting the main opposition BNP, he said during a press briefing at the party's central office in the capital's Nayapaltan a day after BNF was registered.

The BNP leader demanded immediate cancellation of the registration of BNF, which applied for "sheaf of wheat" as its electoral symbol but got the "television" symbol.

Rizvi said the EC had done this even after repeated complaints from BNP. The commission is now playing the role of an agent to carry out the government's anti-democratic agenda, he alleged. "The EC has become an extended part of the Prime Minister's Office." He also said the aim of registering the party was to create confusion about BNP and BNF among the people.

Unite against anarchy, violence: Hasina

UNB, Barguna

Again accusing the opposition BNP-Jamaat, and Hefajat of attacking the people as well as burning them to death in vehicles during the countrywide shut-downs, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the country's people to unite against such anarchy and violence by the opposition.

"They (BNP-Jamaat-Hefajat) want to take political benefit in the name of Islam. They unleash sniper attacks on people, burn sleeping people to death in buses being aggrieved as people don't respond to their call for movement," she added.

Hasina was addressing a public rally organised by Bamna upazila Awami League at the Sarwar Jahan Pilot High School ground in Barguna.

Newly inducted Ministers Amir Hossain Amu and Tofail Ahmed, local MP Shawkat Hasanur Rahman Rimon and chairman of parliamentary standing committee on Shipping Ministry Nur-e-Alam Chowdhury Liton also spoke at the rally chaired by Bamna upazila AL president Adv Md Harun ur Rashid.

Listing various development activities of the present government, Hasina sought vote for "Boat", the election symbol of AL, in the next general election and thus give her party another opportunity to serve the nation.

Wondering how a Muslim could pour petrol and burn another Muslim, Harun ur Rashid said, "What type of politics is this

NEWSIN

brief

NU admission test December 27

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The first year honours admission test under the National University (NU) for the session 2013-2014 will be held on December 27.

The hour-long examination will begin at 11:00am. Detailed information will be available on www.nu.edu.bd/admissions. Result can be checked by sending SMS to 16222 from any mobile operator.

Malaysian first lady opens CLIPP at Dhaka Community Hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Datin Paduka Seri Haj. Rosmah Mansor, wife of Malaysian prime minister, inaugurated a Cleft Lip and Palate (CLIPP) operation programme at Dhaka Community Hospital on Monday.

Datin Seri Rubiah Abdul Samad, wife of Malaysian foreign minister, also attended the event, said a press release yesterday.

CLIPP is a collaborative project between MERCY Malaysia and Dhaka Community Hospital Trust (DCHT), aiming to provide free cleft lip and palate reconstruction surgery to underprivileged children of Bangladesh.

Prof Quazi Quamruzzaman, DCHT chairman, and Prof Mahmuder Rahman, DCHT coordinator, were also present.

Silver jubilee of The Aga Khan School, Dhaka on Friday

CITY DESK

The Aga Khan School, Dhaka will celebrate its silver jubilee on Friday.

The school authorities will organise a "Grand Meena Bazar" in Bashundhara to celebrate 25 years of "Educational Excellence" in Bangladesh. With this year's outstanding O-Levels and A-Levels results under the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), the school has recently rolled out Phase I of its three-year Technology Development Plan.

The school was established in 1988 with 25 students, seven teachers and a principal and now it has 1,200 students and 200 staff.

Pakistani held with smuggled cigarettes at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Airport Armed Police yesterday afternoon arrested a Pakistani national with 298 cartons of foreign banned cigarettes worth approximately Tk 6 lakh at Shahjalal International Airport in the capital.

Alamgir H Shimul, senior assistant superintendent of police of AAP, said they checked Muhammad Sahajat after he crossed the green channel area of the airport and found the illegal goods with him.

Sahajat, in primary interrogation, admitted that he smuggled the cigarettes to supply to the Bangladeshi agents, a press release said.

BSMRAU to celebrate 15th University Day on Friday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU) will celebrate its 15th "University Day" on Friday.

Several programmes including a colourful rally, discussion and cultural function have been chalked out to mark the day.

Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof Dr Md Mahbubur Rahman will inaugurate the celebration programme.



Bangladesh Chhatra Jubo Oikya Parishad brings out a protest procession in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, demanding rehabilitation and compensation of the arson victims of Nomopara, a Hindu locality about six kilometres east of Barisal city. At least 16 houses were burnt on Friday morning following the death of a youth in a clash the previous evening.

PHOTO: STAR

BHOLANANDAGIRI ASHRAM

Two sent to jail for land grabbing

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent two people to jail rejecting their bail after they surrendered in a case filed for grabbing 13 decimal-land of Bholanandagiri Ashram Trust in the capital's Tikatuli area through forged documents.

The accused are Hosneara Begum and her brother Rezaul Karim.

The same court, however, granted bail to eight other accused in the same case after their surrender.

They are Aunjunanara Begum, Nigar Sultana, Enayet Karim, Fazlul Karim, Iqbal Karim, Nurul Karim, Rehanan Parveen and Shanaz Sultana. All

CTG ARMS HAUL CASES

Nizami pleads innocence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Former industries minister and Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami yesterday claimed his innocence in the Chittagong arms haul cases, saying the charges against him were unfounded and he was implicated in the cases with an ulterior motive.

Appearing at Chittagong Metropolitan Special Tribunal No-1, he prayed for some time to produce witnesses, submit a written statement and documents to prove his innocence. In response, Judge SM Mojibur Rahman asked him to produce the witnesses today.

Nizami claimed his innocence after the prosecution read out the charges against him and cited from the statements of two witnesses--former industries secretary Dr Shoyeb Ahmad and former chairman of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) Maj Gen (retd) Mohammad Imamuzzaman--who testified against him.

In their depositions, the witnesses brought the allegations against Nizami, said Public Prosecutor Kamal Uddin Ahammad.

Quoting the two, he said though

Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL), where the arms and ammunition were seized in the wee hours of April 2, 2004, was under the control of his ministry and he was informed of the smuggling, Nizami neither did take any step at that time nor launch any investigation into the incident.

Rather, Nizami sent former acting industries secretary Nurul Amin, a fugitive accused in the cases, to CUFL on that night to supervise the unloading of the arms and ammunition, the prosecutor added, citing from the witnesses' statements.

In reply, Nizami's lawyer Abdus Sattar prayed for some more time to produce witnesses and submit a written statement to prove his client's innocence but the prosecutor opposed that appeal, saying it was a "summary trial", which should end as soon as possible.

The trial has already been delayed for different issues and is close to its end now, said Prosecutor Kamal, urging the court to allow him to place arguments instead. Though there is no rule for arguing in summary trial cases, the tribunal can allow it, he added.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS IN AZIMPUR GRAVEYARD


HC summons DSCC administrator for not removing items

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the administrator and two other high officials of Dhaka South City Corporation before it for not executing its directive to remove construction materials from Azimpur graveyard in Dhaka.

The court asked the administrator, chief executive officer and chief health officer of DSCC to appear before it on December 10 to explain why they have not responded to its order.

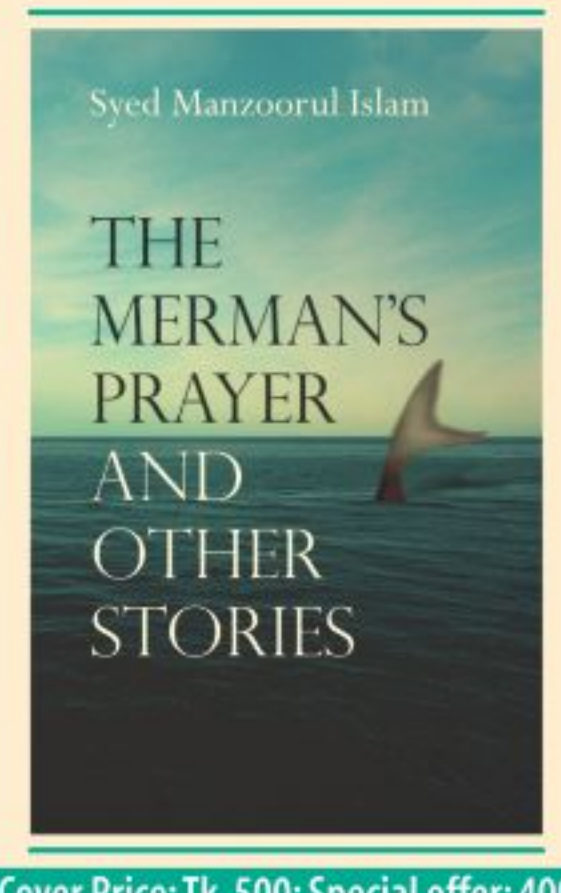
The HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam and Justice Md Ashraful Kamal came up with the order following a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).



NEW ARRIVALS

Syed Manzoorul Islam's

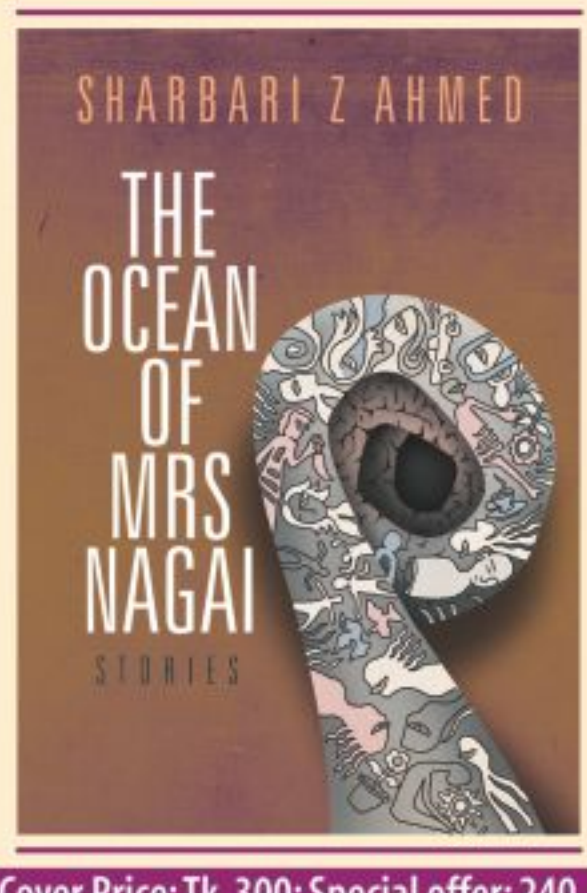
THE MERMAN'S PRAYER AND OTHER STORIES



Cover Price: Tk. 500; Special offer: 400

Sharbari Z Ahmed's

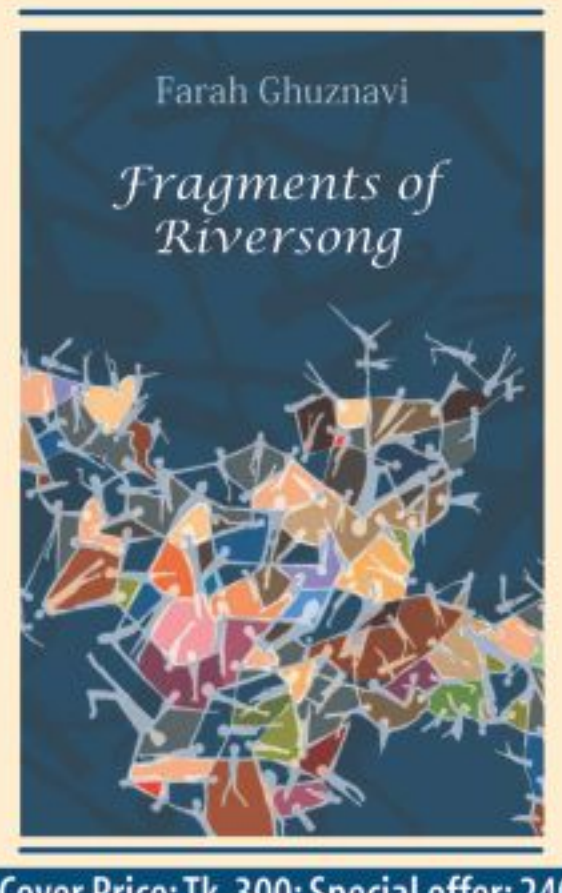
THE OCEAN OF MRS NAGAI



Cover Price: Tk. 300; Special offer: 240

Farah Ghuznavi's

FRAGMENTS OF RIVERSONG



Cover Price: Tk. 300; Special offer: 240

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