

Dry weather likely



WEATHER TODAY

Weather may remain 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 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:20am.

Country's highest temperature 30.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at

Patuakhali and lowest 12.1 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		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage			
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening		Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.2	16.0	62	63	Khulna	28.8	17.0	57	68
Chittagong	27.6	17.4	75	68	Barisal	28.5	15.6	72	83
Rajshahi	28.5	12.2	76	77	Sylhet	29.2	14.6	67	75
Rangpur	28.5	15.5	72	68	Cox's Bazar	29.8	21.0	57	55



Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addresses a views-exchange meeting with nomination seekers of the party for the upcoming 10th parliamentary election at Gono Bhaban in the capital yesterday.

RANA PLAZA COLLAPSE CID asked to explain delay in probe

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and TAMANNA KHAN

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to explain why it was yet to finish the investigation into the Rana Plaza collapse, which killed 1,132 people and injured several hundred seven months ago.

On October 24, Senior Judicial Magistrate Kazi Shahidul Islam asked CID investigators to submit the report by yesterday. As they failed to do that, the court issued a show cause notice and extended the deadline for submission of the probe report to December 24.

Earlier, the CID failed to come up with the report on several occasions on different excuses.

Investigation of the three cases filed by Savar police, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) and a victim's family is yet to be completed even after seven months since the country's biggest industrial accident occurred on April 24.

In the meantime, eight accused out of the 22 arrested after the collapse have obtained bail from the High Court. Among them, Abdul Khalek, father of the building's owner Sohel Rana, returned to Savar and is lobbying with influential bodies for his son's bail, said sources in Savar.

Among the three cases under CID investiga-

tion, one was filed by Rajuk official Helaluddin against the building's owner Sohel Rana for the structural fault found at the building and constructing it using substandard materials and violating the building code.

The other case was filed by Wali Ashraf, a sub-inspector of Savar Police Station, against Rana, his father Abdul Khalek, and owners of the five garments housed in the nine-storey building for loss of lives and damage.

The last one was filed by Sheuli Akter, wife of Jahangir Alam, whose body was recovered on April 24, against Sohel Rana, Bazlur Samad Adnan, owner of New Wave Style, and chief engineer of the Savar municipality.

Regarding the delay, Assistant Superintendent of Police (CID) Bijoy Krishna Kar told The Daily Star that there was no mandatory provision for completing the probe within a certain time for cases filed under the Penal Code.

He said the investigation was time consuming as they had to collect statements of families of all the deceased as well as survivors, whose number exceeded 1,500.

"They are live witness as well as victims," he said, referring to the survivors. "Besides, we need to collect and analyse all the documents related to the design and construction of the building."

TAZREEN FIRE COMPENSATION HC orders Tk 7 lakh each to 20 victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government and BGMEA to provide within 15 days Tk 7 lakh as compensation to families of each of 20 Tazreen Fashions fire victims indentified recently through DNA tests.

The families of two of the 20 remains unidentified and hence must first be traced, the HC said while hearing a writ petition. The amount was fixed by the government and the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

The aforementioned 20 were in a list of 25 workers, who were either unidentified or missing and hence their families had not received compensation, submitted by the three petitioners.

The three, anthropologists Naznin Akter Banu, Saydia Gulrukh Kamal and Mahmudul Hasan Sumon, filed the petition on April 28 seeking directives for the arrest of Tazreen's owner Md Delwar Hossain to ensure his trial for criminal liabilities.

The remaining five workers are yet to be identified.

The November 24, 2012 fire at the garment factory in Ashulia killed at least 112 people and injured many others.

Delwar was present yesterday and will have to appear on January 5, 2014, fixed for further orders by the HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain.

Deputy Attorney General Bishwojit Roy could not provide The Daily Star the number of the deceased victims' families who were provided the compensation till date.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL Subhan's indictment decision Dec 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday fixed December 18 to decide whether it would frame charges against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdus Subhan for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity and genocide during the Liberation War in 1971.

Led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir, the tribunal set the

DRAFT VERDICT LEAK SQ Chy's lawyer remanded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Barrister AKM Fakhrul Islam, a lawyer of convicted war criminal Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, on a four-day remand for his alleged involvement in leaking the draft verdict against the BNP lawmaker.

Metropolitan Magistrate gave the order after the investigator, Md Shahjahan, inspector of the Detective Branch of police, prayed for seven days to quiz the lawyer to find out vital clues and the details of those involved in the leak.

Meanwhile, Fakhrul appealed to be interrogated at jail gate instead of at remand house.

The draft verdict was leaked a day before International Crimes Tribunal -1 handed down the death sentence on SQ Chowdhury on October 1 for committing crimes

Greens worried at factory pollution in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Environmentalists yesterday expressed their concerns over the continuous pollution of river and other water bodies in Savar and blamed the inaction of the local authorities against the factory authorities and individuals responsible for it.

They were addressing a two-day counselling meeting beginning yesterday jointly organised by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) and Savar Nod o Poribesh Unnayan Parishad in VERC auditorium of Savar, on the outskirts of the capital.

They threatened to go for tougher movement engaging the local victims if the authorities do not take action in this regard.

The parishad President Prof Ataur Rahman Khan, Secretary Khandoker Abdul Hamid Ranju, Savar Upazila Vice-Chairman Rokeya Haque, the parishad activist Rafiqul Islam Thandu, and Advocate AMM Mamun of Bela, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Locals stop gas line installation in Sylhet

Demand gas supply to 2 other unions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet


Locals of three unions in Dakshin Surma upazila of Sylhet yesterday joined a rally staged by "Dakshin Surma Gas Supply Bastobayan Parishad" on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Lalabazar demanding gas supply to Tetli, Silam and Lalabazar areas.

Earlier on Saturday, the state-run Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd, in the face of locals' protest, had to stop a pipeline installation work in Tetli area to supply gas to Biswanath and Balaganj.

The Project Director Jashim Uddin Ahmed told The Daily Star that the locals resisted them as the pipeline would go through their area.

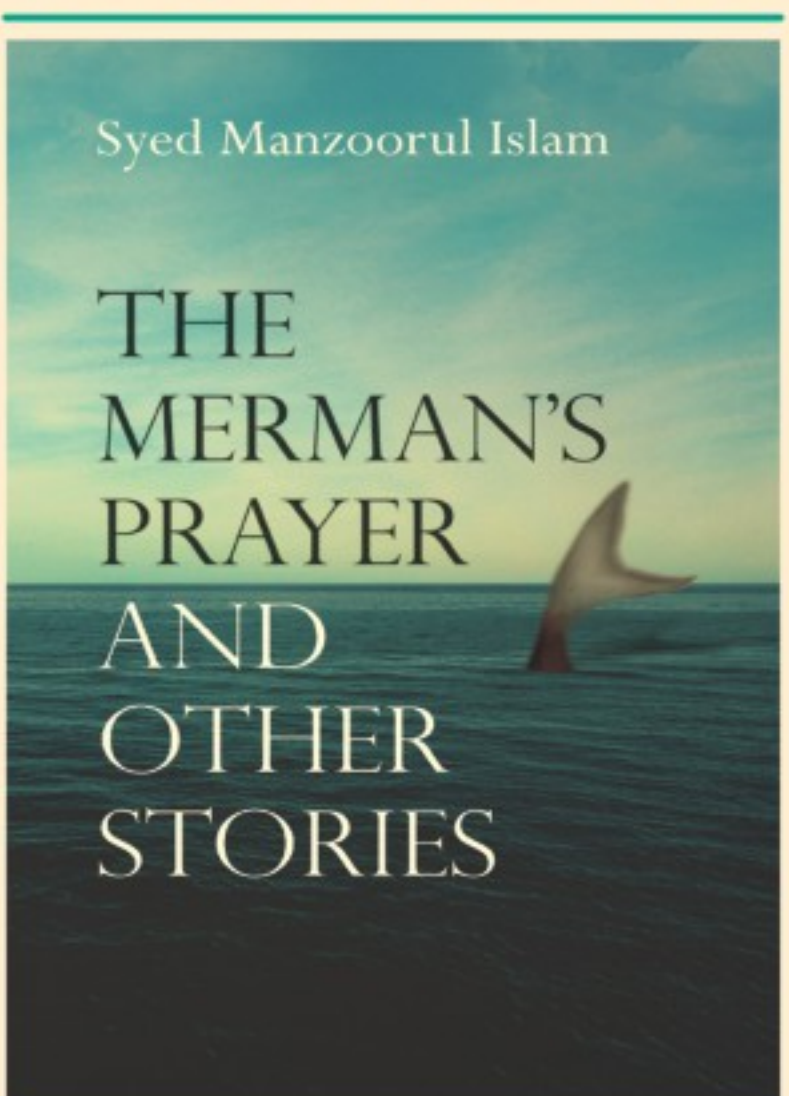
The demonstrators said the authorities concerned earlier pledged a commitment to supplying gas to the areas but they were yet to do so.

Chaired by Tetli Union Parishad Chairman Usman Ali, the rally was addressed, among others, by Dakshin Surma Upazila Parishad Chairman Lokman Ahmed, Silam Union Parishad Chairman Iqbal Hossain, Lalabazar UP Chairman Khairul Afian Chowdhury and Jalalpur UP Chairman Solaiman Hossain.



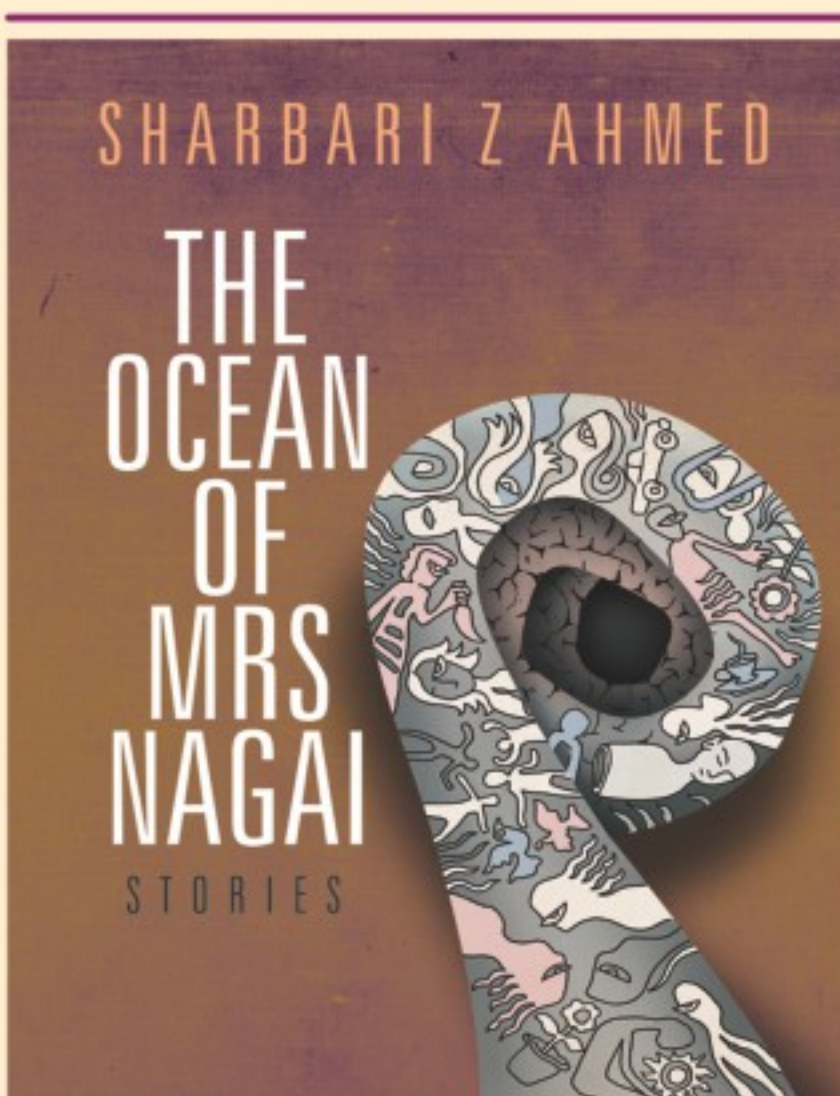
NEW ARRIVALS

Syed Manzoorul Islam's
THE MERMAN'S PRAYER
AND OTHER STORIES



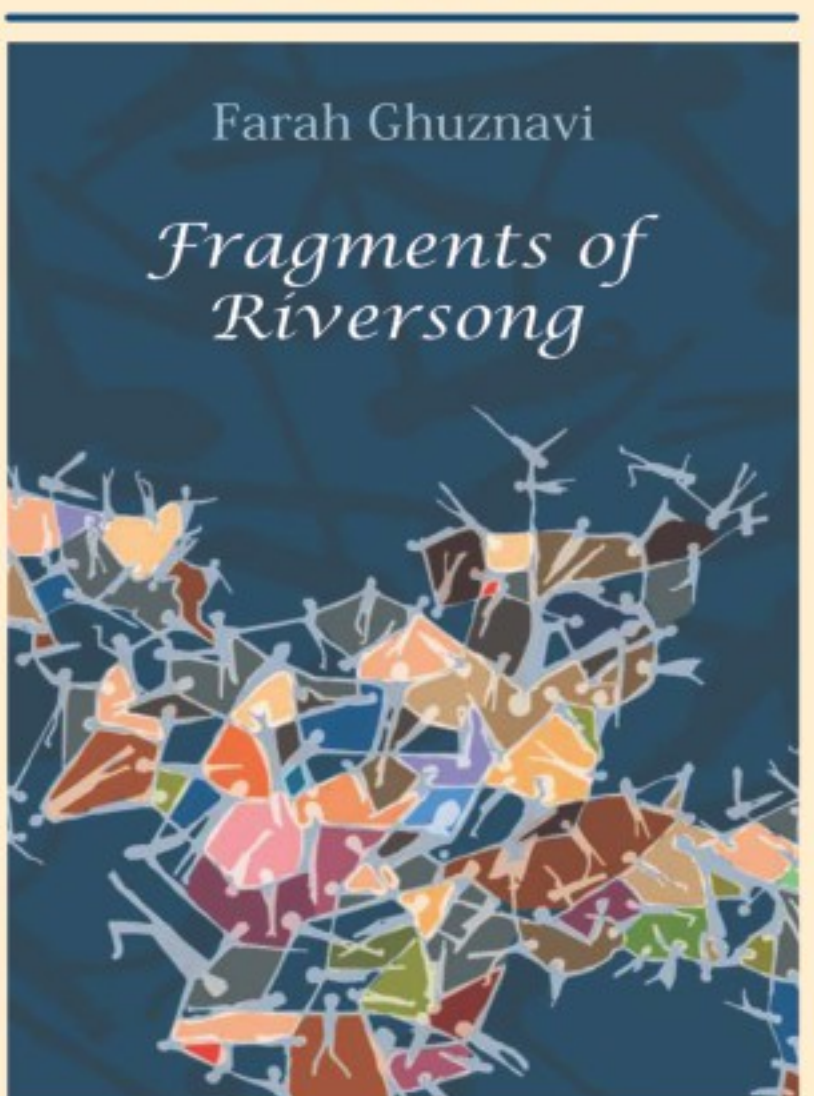
Cover Price: Tk. 500; Special offer: 400

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