

DRY WEATHER LIKELY

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country and chances of rain or thundershowers at one or two places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.



WEATHER TODAY

Unb. Dhaka

Night temperature may fall by 1-4 degree Celsius and day temperature may rise by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:55pm and rises tomorrow at 6:29am.

Country's highest temperature 25.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Jessore and lowest 14.4 degrees in Syedpur.

Highest and lowest temperature 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	23.0	17.0	92	57	Khulna	23.8	16.5	99
Chittagong	21.5	15.5	93	86	Barisal	21.5	16.7	96
Rajshahi	24.4	16.2	85	53	Sylhet	19.0	16.0	99
Rangpur	22.7	14.7	84	52	Cox's Bazar	21.0	18.0	98

NEWS IN brief

Pvt medical colleges taking students past deadline to be punished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health ministry will take legal action against private medical colleges that are admitting students violating the government deadline.

Registration of students who were admitted after February 15 will be considered illegal, said a health ministry press release yesterday.

A number of colleges are continuing to advertise in newspapers for admission of students even though the government mandated private medical colleges not to admit students after February 15, said the statement.

Runaway trailer kills one, injures 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A student died and three other pedestrians were injured when a trailer rammed the entrance of a clinic after getting detached from a 12-wheeler lorry coming down the Khilgaon flyover in the capital's Bashara last night.

Atiqur Rahman, 26, was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 10:45pm while the others took treatment. The driver fled in the cab.

Man dies from electrocution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A cleaner of Dhaka North City Corporation died after being electrocuted in the capital's Bhataro yesterday morning.

The incident occurred when Moslem Miah, 35, a resident of Hazaribagh Sweeper Colony, held a lampost for support after walking for a while. The lampost had become electrified due to rain, said Bhataro police.

DB cop imposter held for trying to kidnap RU student

RU CORRESPONDENT

A Detective Branch official imposter was arrested while trying to pick up a student of Rajshahi University yesterday afternoon.

The arrestee is Uzzal Hossain, 30, of Rajshahi city.

The victim, Nuruzzaman, a third-year statistics student, said Uzzal and his cohort intercepted him on the campus and asked him to get on their motorbike after introducing themselves as DB personnel.

When Nuruzzaman wanted to see their identity cards, they forcibly tried to pick him up on the vehicle but Uzzal was caught by some students when Nuruzzaman shouted for help.

Later, the students handed Uzzal over to police but his cohort escaped.

Book on Nazrul launched at IUB

CITY DESK

A book on the national poet, "Kazi Nazrul Islam: Man and Poet", authored by noted musician Mustafa Zaman Abbasi, was launched at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) in the capital's Bashundhara yesterday.

Prof Rafiqul Islam unveiled the cover of the book as the chief guest and Prof Niaz Zaman discussed about the book, sponsored by the IUB.

Towhid Samad, former chairman of the IUB Board of Trustees, attended the launching ceremony as the special guest.

Nine held for making counterfeit cosmetics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine people were arrested yesterday for manufacturing and selling fake foreign branded cosmetics and toiletries, worth Tk 10 lakh, in three factories in the capital's Lalbagh area.

A mobile court assisted by Rapid Action Battalion members also sealed off the factories and sentenced two of the arrestees, Abdus Salam, proprietor of Akash Cosmetics, and Yasin Sheikh, whose factory had no name, to six-month imprisonment each while the nine were fined Tk 3.7 lakh, said the court officials.

They have been selling the products, including shampoo,

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SYCOPANCY, DISREGARD CONTINUE HAND IN HAND

About 300 students of Medical Assistant Training School (MATS) line up for about an hour before Tangail General Hospital in the district headquarters to greet Health Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday. The MATS authorities asked the students to do so though such an instruction breaches a 2009 education ministry order that prohibited closing of educational institutions and queuing up of students during the visit of any government high-up.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

Speedy trial act to be in force for 5 more years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The speedy trial act, which is claimed to have helped significantly to contain crimes like extortion, tender manipulation, and destruction of public properties, will remain in force for five more years with the provision of a maximum of five years and a minimum of two years' prison sentence.

The cabinet yesterday approved "The Law and Order Disruption (Speedy Trial) (Amendment) Law, 2014" in principle. The tenure of the act was supposed to expire on April 7 this year. Now, its expiry date falls on April 7, 2019.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who chaired the cabinet's regular meeting at the Secretariat, expressed her disappointment over her cabinet colleagues' absence in parliament and asked them to attend sessions in due time if they stay in Dhaka.

"You all have to join parliament. If you join regularly, MPs will feel encouraged to participate in the sessions," Hasina was quoted by a minister as saying.

In his speech, Finance Minister AMA Muhiith assured the cabinet that the government would be able to construct the Padma bridge with its own fund, saying special allocations would be made in the budget. "No need to worry about the construction of the Padma bridge, as we have to spend the money in phases," sources quoted him as saying.

While briefing reporters, Cabinet Secretary M. Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said the draft of the speedy trial act would get the final approval after scrutiny.

The law was first enacted in 2002 during the BNP-Jamaat coalition government for two years in order to curb crimes and ensure fast prosecution of culprits. Later, it was amended in 2004, 2006, and 2012.

"The home ministry considers the law effective and fruitful to fight crimes and hold trials. The law has won the test of time, so tenure of the act should be extended in the interests of the people," the cabinet

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Polls in 97 upazilas begin tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Elections to 97 upazila parishes of the country will be held tomorrow in the first phase with participation of large numbers of candidates loyal to different political parties, including Awami League and BNP.

A total of 432 aspirants are contesting for chairmen, 513 for vice chairmen, and 329 for vice chairwomen in 98 upazilas. Election to the remaining one upazila will be held on February 24.

The voting will start at 8:00am and will continue till 4:00pm uninterrupted, said EC officials.

As per electoral law, all sorts of campaign are forbidden from 12:01am Tuesday to Friday midnight. Besides, vehicular movement will be restricted from 12:01am Wednesday to 12:01am Thursday.

However, people will be allowed to arrange programmes marking International Mother Language Day on February 21, according to the EC.

Besides, the government has announced Wednesday as public holiday in the polling areas.

Alongside regular security forces, the army has been deployed in the upazilas to maintain law and order.

There are 1,64,78,172 voters, 6,995 polling stations, and 43,290 booths in the 98 upazilas.

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PIB, ACC to award journos for corruption reporting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will award five journalists from print and electronic media based on their reports on corruption.

Three journalists of print media, including national and local dailies, and magazines, while one journalist and one cameraperson from electronic media will be selected, said journalist Abed Khan, a member of advisory committee for the award, yesterday.

He was describing the details of the "Media Award on Corruption Prevention

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Jamaat-Hefajat linked with al-Qaeda Says Imran H Sarker

DU CORRESPONDENT

The recent statement of al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri proves its links with Jamaat-e-Islami and Hefajat-e-Islam, therefore the latter two should be banned, said Gonjagoron Mancha Spokesperson Imran H Sarker in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday.

Before leading a procession carrying flaming torches, he said al-Qaeda's global Jihadi terrorist network had penetrated Bangladesh and Jamaat and Hefajat were all out to implement al-Qaeda's ideologies.

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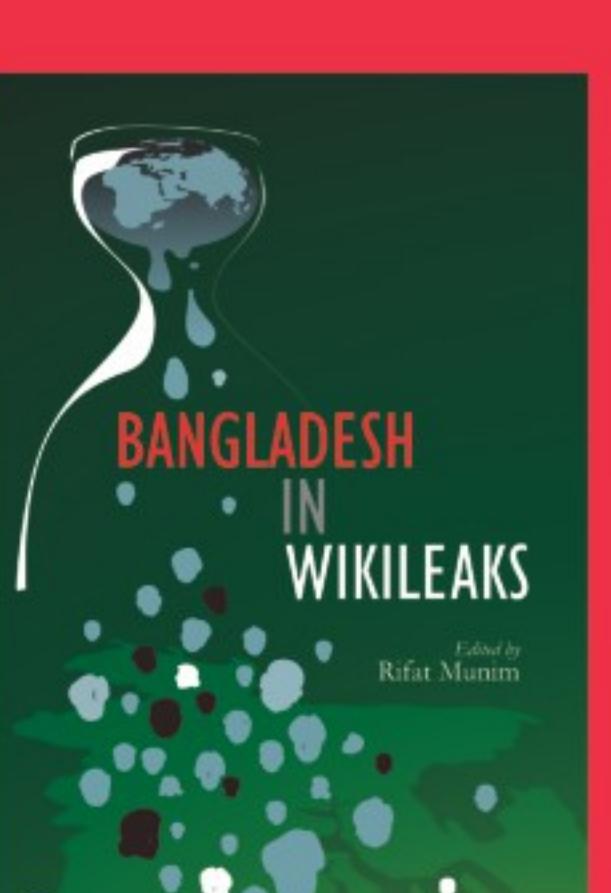
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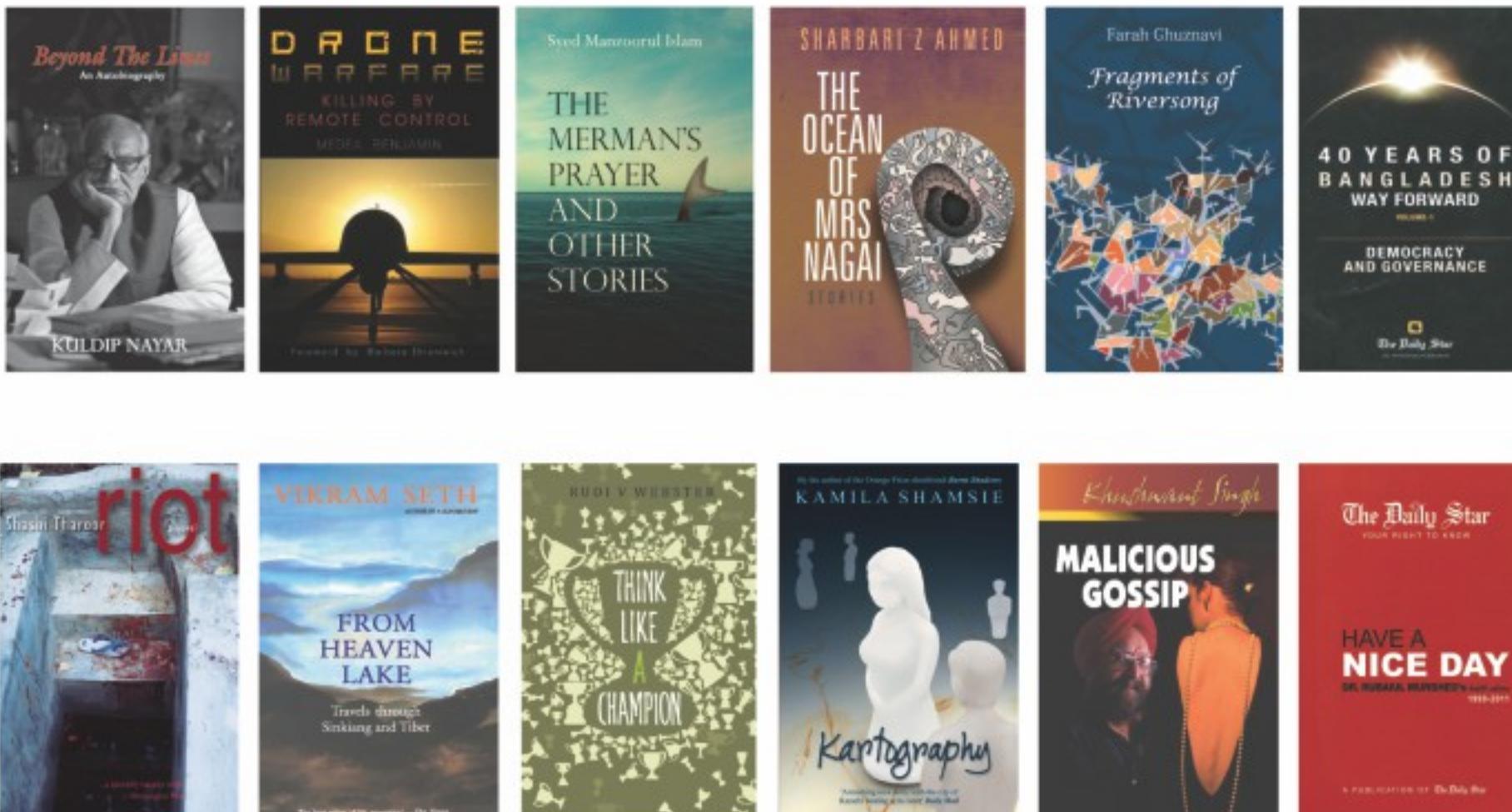
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