

## DRY WEATHER LIKELY

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Chances of light rain or drizzle at one or two places over Rangpur and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Mymensingh, Met Office said. A mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions

of Pabna, Rajshahi and Sreemangal. Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:21pm and rises tomorrow at 6:40am.** Country's highest temperature 25.5 degree

Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and Teknaf and lowest 8.5 degree Celsius at Ishwardi. 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	
22.0	13.3	94	77	Khulna	24.0	12.4	100	76
24.0	14.0	96	79	Barisal	22.6	12.0	100	86
17.3	09.9	100	91	Sylhet	22.7	10.6	100	81
15.5	12.0	94	89	Cox's Bazar	25.5	14.5	83	61

Passengers had to wait for hours at the capital's Airport Railway Station yesterday as the government apparently restricted train operations to foil the BNP-led opposition's "March for Democracy" to Dhaka today.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



## Manpower export drops by over 2 lakh, remittance by 3pc

*RMMRU cites government failure to stimulate foreign markets into accepting Bangladeshi migrants*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's manpower export, compared to last year's, has decreased by over two lakh and remittance by nearly three percent, said Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) yesterday.

The export and remittance of last year were over 6.8 lakh and \$14.17 billion but this year's figures stand at 4.5 lakh and \$13.79 billion respectively, said RMMRU founding chairperson Tasneem Siddiqui.

The gradual decline has been accompanied by the return of a large number of migrants, she added.

The drop was a result of the government failure to stimulate labour markets in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait through diplomatic channels into accepting Bangladeshi migrants, she said.

"If we cannot come out of this continuous downtrend, our foreign reserves will fall significantly," she said.

The foreign reserves are also being threatened by the present political instability for which Bangladeshis searching for work are failing to go abroad, she added, urging the ruling and opposition parties to refrain from further confrontation.

The Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training sources said manpower export stood at 35,203 in September and 33,630 in October but in November, when the political violence started, the figure reached 29,628.

Tasneem was addressing a press conference RMMRU, a manpower research organisation affiliated with Dhaka University, organised in the capital's Jatiya Press Club to reveal the data.

She said the diplomatic failure resulted in the government failing to reach its targeted manpower export to Malaysia despite launching a government to government

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## NEWS IN brief

### Missing man's body recovered from Buriganga river

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a man from the river Buriganga in the capital's Postogola yesterday morning four days after he had gone missing.

The deceased, identified as Anwar Hossain, 45, was a machinery trader at Nababpur.

Locals found the body under the Buriganga Second Bridge around 11:00am, said South Keraniganj police.

Anwar's brother Khorshed Alam said Anwar went out of his shop for prayers on December 24 and he had been missing since then.

### Lack of knowledge poses risk of HIV/AIDS spread: Workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although HIV has not spread alarmingly in the country since the first case was detected in 1989, its prevalence in the neighbouring countries and the people's lack of knowledge are posing a risk of spread, said speakers at a workshop yesterday.

Low use of condoms and the tendency to share needles among intravenous drug users can also contribute to the spread of HIV, they added.

Titled, "Advocacy Workshop with Media Personnel on HIV and AIDS," the event was organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission at its office in the capital.

Dr Abdul Waheed presented the keynote paper on the occasion.

### Violence by anti-liberation forces protested in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A social organisation staged a rally in Chittagong city yesterday protesting the countrywide ongoing violence created by anti-liberation forces.

Shantir Onneshay, also a cultural and humanitarian body, in the programme before the Central Shaheed Minar, urged all the people to stand beside the pro-liberation forces to resist the trouble makers.

Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury, pro-vice chancellor of Chittagong University, presided over the rally.

Freedom fighter Sahidul Haq Mama, among others, spoke on the occasion.

### Flights disrupted by fog at Ctg airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Four domestic flights at Shah Amanat International Airport were delayed for almost an hour yesterday because of poor visibility due to fog.

Flight schedules returned to normal after 10:00am, sources added.

Meanwhile, two empty container vessels, which were supposed to get loaded on a jetty, could not set out from the outer anchorage of the Chittagong Port due to thick fog, said port sources.

However, vessels moored at the port left on schedule, they added.

### Harunur Rashid re-elected president of Dhanmondi Club Ltd

CITY DESK

Harunur Rashid was re-elected uncontested as president of Dhanmondi Club Ltd for the third time through its Annual Executive Committee Election-2014 held on the office premises on Friday.

The 10 executive members are: Md Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, AZM Akramul Haq, Md Hanif Bhuiya, Kh Asadul Islam Ripon, Mozammel Hoque Alamgir, Md Rakibul Karim Khan, Shafique Mohammed Khan, Arif Masud Chowdhury, Azizul Haque (Ratan) and Tapan Kanti Sarkar.



### CHILD, MATERNAL HEALTH Govt launches data collection programme to improve services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to monitoring the progress of its programmes, the health ministry has developed the "Country Accountability Framework" to collect information about maternal and child health from around the country in a uniformed way, an official said yesterday.

At present, different NGOs and government field workers use different methods to collect and process such information which often contradicts with each other's.

In order to bring all agencies' data under a single system, an online form has been developed for all field workers of health and family planning, said Prof Abul Kalam Azad, additional director general for planning and development, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

"The step will also set a standard in terms of monitoring and reporting for workers of both the government and private sectors," he told a dissemination workshop of Management Information System, DGHS and Bangladesh Health

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## Thousands shiver in cold in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Thousands of destitute people of Rajshahi and other northern districts are suffering immensely due to a lack of warm clothing as a cold wave is sweeping across the region.

The biting cold coupled with dense fog and winds have crippled life in the district. The authorities have initially distributed some blankets but these were barely enough.

The local Met office yesterday recorded the season's lowest temperature at 9.9 degrees Celsius in the morning while the officials apprehend further fall in the coming days.

Around 9:00 in the morning, the entire city was blanketed in fog so thick that things even eight to ten feet apart were barely visible.

Many farmers who carried vegetables like tomato to local markets from the other side of the Padma

river had to wait on the bank, as no boats plied amid low visibility.

Many rickshaw-pullers also idled away sitting, wrapped in blankets, on their vehicles.

The sun appeared not until it was 11:00am.

On Friday night, this correspondent saw groups of three to four floating people sharing one warm cloth to fight the biting cold at the platforms of Rajshahi Railway Station.

Mesbah Uddin Chowdhury, deputy commissioner of Rajshahi, said a total of 5,500 blankets had been distributed in 11 upazilas this season.

"The number of blankets available is negligible against the necessity. We've called upon the affluent people to extend help to the poor," he said.

The DC said they had applied to the government for Tk 80 lakh for distributing warm clothes among the poor in the district.

## OBITUARY



**Farooq bin Nasiruddin Chowdhury**, popularly known as FBNC, passed away on December 27<sup>th</sup> 2013 at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, NY. He was the first Bangladeshi to hold the post of Treasurer at the United Nations Treasury. He was a very loving, caring, immensely well-respected man and was

considered a legendary banker by many in the field. He left behind his wife and daughter and his entire family and friends who love him dearly.

**- Family Members**

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