

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 27.6 L 21.8	CHITTAGONG H 28.5 L 19.0	SYLHET H 25.1 L 19.1	RAJSHAHI H 26.2 L 17.6	KHULNA H 29.2 L 20.5	BARISAL H 29.7 L 19.4	RANGPUR H 29.7 L 16.6	COX'S BAZAR H 28.8 L 29.4
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Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Moderate to thick fog at places over the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur at places elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:14pm and rises tomorrow at 6:33am.

59 eminent citizens call for release of Manna

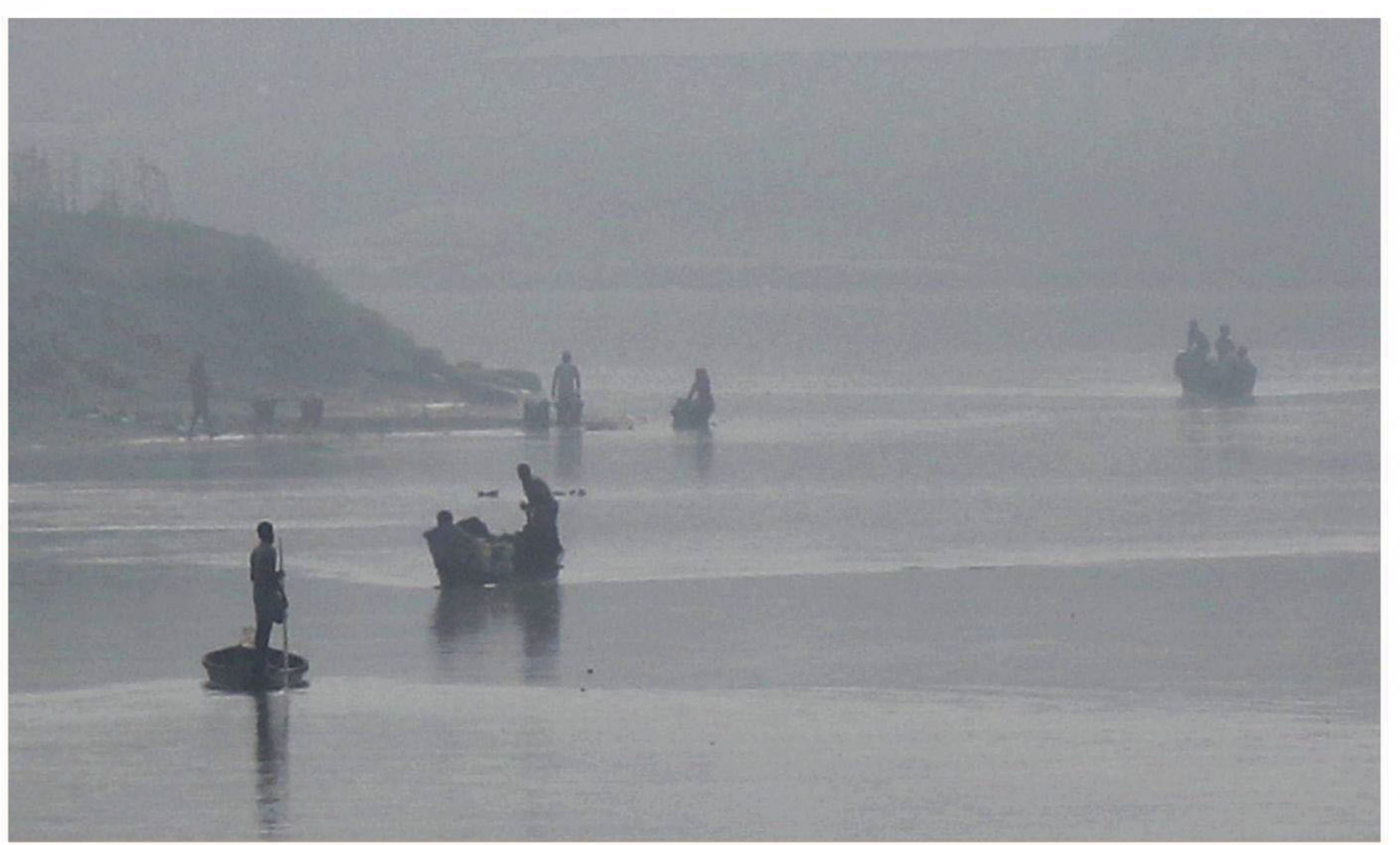
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-nine noted personalities have signed a statement calling for releasing Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna from prison and giving him a chance to defend himself in a trial.

A press release, issued by Nagorik Oikya yesterday with the photocopy of the signatures, read that Manna, a former student leader and politician, had been in jail for the last nine months without a trial.

Former caretaker government adviser Hafizuddin Khan, Communist Party of Bangladesh President Mujahidul Islam Selim, human rights activist Nur Khan Liton, Gonoshasthaya Kendra Trustee Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury were among the signatories.

Manna was arrested on February 24, a day after his telephone conversation with BNP leader Sadeque Hossain Khoka about strengthening the anti-government movement, among many other issues, was leaked. A sedition case was filed against the two on March 5.



Fog hangs over the Shankha river in Satkania, south of Chittagong yesterday around 8:00am signalling an intensification of winter following a drop in temperature during the night before. However, the temperature rose again as the sun's rays pierced through and the day rolled on. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Speeding truck snubs journo's life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior journalist Abdullah Al Faruk died in a road accident near Kakrail intersection in the capital yesterday.

The former deputy editor of the daily Kaler Kantho was hit by a truck while crossing the road around 1:30am. He died at a private hospital at 7:50am.

A CNG-run three-wheeler driver Anwar Hossain took Faruk, 53, to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with critical injuries on his head, said officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station Moshuiur Rahman.

Based on some papers found in his pocket, police from DMCH phoned his former colleagues. Later, his family members took him to Square Hospital at 4:00am, said his brother-in-law Akhlakur Rahman.

The first namaz-e-janaza was held on the Jatiya Press Club premises. Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu



Sense of solace after over four decades

Children of martyred journalists urge repatriation and punishment of all killers of intellectuals in 1971; many programmes chalked in capital in observance of Martyred Intellectuals' Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Martyred Intellectuals' Day will be a bit different this year for some children of martyred journalists as they witnessed for the first time in around 44 years implementation of their demand for trying and hanging one of the killings' masterminds.

The day is being observed today by, among others, Dhaka University,

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, BNP, the Communist Party of Bangladesh and National Awami Party.

Expressing their thoughts at a book launching yesterday, the descendents thanked the government for carrying out the execution of Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed in the first hour of November 22 and demanded the same for two others at large.

Chowdhury Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan, Al-Badr leaders, were handed down death penalty in November 2013 for abducting and killing 18 intellectuals near the end of the 1971 Liberation War, are now in the UK and US respectively.

They could not be brought back yet due to different legal complications as

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Jamalpur war crimes accused sent to jail

Court allows prosecutors to quiz another of Moulvibazar Dec 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday sent to jail a war crimes accused from Jamalpur produced by police.

AKM Yusuf hails from Harinakundu upazila's Chandpur and is a forest official working in Bagerhat.

He was arrested from Dublar Char in Bagerhat on Wednesday evening hours after the tribunal issued an arrest warrant against him and seven others over their alleged involvement in crimes committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

That day, Jamalpur police arrested Yusuf's brother Yunus Ali and Omar Faruk from their village while Mymensingh police arrested another accused Rezaul Haque alias Akkas Moulvi.

The next day, Yunus, Faruk and Rezaul were produced before the tribunal which sent them to jail.

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Street children speak of dreadful nights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All a 15-year-old boy wanted was a place in Karwan Bazar in the capital where he could have some warmth at night.

Md Naim made this request when he was asked to say something at an opinion-sharing meeting on rehabilitation of street children yesterday.

His job is to load and unload papaya from trucks from 9:00pm till 6:00am three nights a week. During the day, he stays at Aparajeya Bangladesh's drop-in centre in Karwan Bazar. Street children can eat, sleep, shower, study or just relax at the centre. The centre is closed at night.

"We sleep on the ground floor of a red building. Sometimes we sleep on top of empty delivery trucks. There are about 40 of us who do not have a place to sleep at night," he said, adding, "Many of us are small children and it becomes difficult to sleep under one blanket in winter."

At the meeting in the Family Planning Directorate office in the capital, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Ministry Meher Afroze Chumki said, "Let us

make sure that not a single child has to sleep out in the open at night in 2016."

Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence against Women of the ministry and the social welfare ministry organised the programme to discuss rehabilitation strategies with NGOs and development partners.

Nasima Begum, secretary to the women and children affairs ministry said after the prime minister's announcement in October that no child should live on the streets, two committees under the two Dhaka city corporations were formed to rehabilitate street children of two wards.

Project director of the programme on violence against women, Abul Hossain, also head of the committee under Dhaka North, presented results of a survey carried out in 36 wards of Dhaka North this October and November.

A total of 317 children -- 232 boys and 85 girls -- were interviewed. About 70 percent of the respondents were between six and 10 years, 13.56 between 11 and 15, 12.93 under five and 3.16 percent were between 16 and 18 years. About 70 percent said they want rehabilitation and the rest fear shelters as

"We don't want to exist. I don't want there to be any street children."

BROTHER LUCIO BENINATI
FOUNDER OF POTHOSHISHU
SHEBA SONGOTHON



Dancers perform at a daylong programme organised by Sammilita Sangskritik Jote on the Central Shaheed Minar premises in the capital yesterday ahead of Victory Day on Wednesday. PHOTO: STAR

Jeacon Garments Ltd. & Concord Fashion Export Ltd. receive ACCORD CERTIFICATION

(The first two companies in the country to receive this prestigious recognition)

Recently Concord Group's Ready-made Garments Factory Jeacon Garments Ltd. and Concord Fashion Export Ltd. at South Salna, Gazipur have been awarded the ACCORD Certification as the **First ACCORD certified organizations in Bangladesh.**

Mr. Brad Loewen, Chief Safety Inspector, Bangladesh Accord Foundation handed over the certificates to Mr. S. K. Lala, Managing Director, Concord Group. Mr. Kazi Morshed Ali, General Manager, Jeacon Garments Ltd. and other officials were present in the programme.

Student convention seeks recognition for Adivasis

Recalls their sacrifices in Liberation War

RU CORRESPONDENT

The indigenous people fought by the side of Bangalees for the country's independence in 1971 but the constitution has not recognised them as Adivasis and their right to land yet, a convention of indigenous students was told yesterday.

Although the ruling party had pledged to give the recognition, it has taken a controversial role now, speakers said at the gathering of over 150 indigenous students of Rajshahi University on the campus. Vice Chancellor Prof Muhammad Mizanuddin inaugurated the programme.

The speakers placed a 12-point demand including creation of a separate land commission for plain land Adivasis in order to reclaim their land and solve land disputes. Other points include giving primary education in their mother languages, preserving a 5 percent quota for indigenous students in all public educational institu-

tions, including their cultures and lifestyle in textbooks, and providing scholarships to indigenous students.

Addressing the convention as special guest, RU Pro-VC Prof Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan expressed solidarity with the demands.

Students should come forward to ensure the rights of the communities, he said. "Only education can protect the rights of indigenous people," he added.

Bishuram Murmu, vice president of Indigenous Students' Council, presided over the convention, while Rabindranath Soren, president of National Indigenous Council, was present as chief guest. Among others, RU students' adviser Prof Sadekul Arefin, presidium member of National Indigenous Council Anil Marandi, lawyer Babul Robi Das, and Associate Professor of RU's mass communication and journalism department Dulal Chandra Biswas spoke.

Lawyer Manzill Murshid gets death threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court lawyer Manzill Murshid filed a general diary with New Market Police Station in the capital yesterday, saying he received a death threat from militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team.

Around 11:00am yesterday, he received a letter in a sealed envelop which read, "Manzil Murshid... your days are numbered. The countdown has begun."

Inspector (investigation) of the station Mahbubur Rahman said mobile police teams were alerted in this regard. Manzill Murshid has filed over 200 public interest litigations so far.

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