

## Dhaka Day by Day

## Esho Hey Baishakh, Esho Esho

by Parveen Anam

With the eternal song ringing out in the early morning of the first of Baishakh, the first day of the Bangali New Year, it is time yet again to welcome and to renew.

And the Bangalee welcomes his new year, as always, with love in his heart and joy in his eyes. For that one day of the year, he forgets his differences and rubs shoulders at the Ramma 'Battala', singing out the old year and singing in the new.

For the Bangalee, the year ends in a fiery day in April with the sun beating down mercilessly during the day and the storms sweeping away everything in its path. And yet, his love with the new year is immortal. Dressed in all his finery, sitting out in the open, with the clouds desperately collecting overhead, heralding the 'Kalbaishakhis' the Bangalee sings in the new year. The hot, dusty storms are of course followed by the merciful showers in the late evenings and the passionate storms seem to blow away all that is old, dreary and doleful.

The trip to the Ronna 'Battala' is almost a pilgrimage for the Bangalee. Old and young, men, women and children, come in their thousands, to listen to the melodious, haunting music echoing out over the greenery even as the sun rises over the horizon, bringing with it for the beleaguered Bangalees a lot of misery. But this one morning, all that is behind him. He refuses to think of anything

that is not beautiful and romantic. The 'rajanigandha' adores the dark tresses of the women as they sing with abandonment and not a dark thought finds place in the beauty of the moment.

The old shrugs off its mask to make way for the new; 'Pahela Baishakh' is the promise of life renewing itself perpetually. The nostalgia for the past which temporarily overwhelms us at times, has no place on this glorious morning amongst all the music and beauty. The year holds shocks and hurts for all of us, no doubt, but as we sing along with everybody else, there is only joy in our hearts. For this is the element of the Bangalee. His gentleness and love for music is evident on the first day of the Bengali New Year, as he takes the day off, to sing and partake in the day's festivities.

One musical soiree after the other makes the day an endless one of pleasures. We saunter from one place to another, in sheer happiness and delight. Delight in ourselves, in our eternal music. In our eternal hope for a better land.

Some friends will have a spread of Bangalee delicacies for each other and amongst merrymaking and much bantering, all will share whatever there is. 'Time to love, a time to laugh', this first day of Baishakh. It enriches and it gives, it teaches the Bangalee yet again his strength in his deprivations and humility in his success.



Welcoming the New Year

— Star photo



A sequence of Nandan's drama 'Kanyadaan' staged at the British Council auditorium yesterday. —Star photo



Visitors at the solo exhibition of paintings by Anwar Hossain at the Zainul Gallery of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University yesterday. —Star photo

## 44 arrested on various charges

Police rounded up 44 people from different parts of the city in last 24 hours on various charges, reports UNB.

Of the arrested, six were wanted criminals, two were held under the Arms Law and four for stealing.

All the arrested people were produced before court.

## BISS seminar

The discussion on Pakistan's Threat Perceptions in the Post-Cold War Era: Continuity and Change scheduled to be held at the auditorium of the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), today has been cancelled for unavoidable reasons, says a press release issued by BISS.

## Matiur Rahman Chowdhury's arrest condemned

Different organisations condemned the arrest of Editor of the Bangla Bazar Matiur Rahman Chowdhury and demanded his immediate release, reports UNB.

These organs included Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHR), Sangbadpatra Hawkers Kalyan Buhumukhi Somabaya Samity and Sangbadpatra Agents Association.

Terming the arrest as a direct attack on freedom of press and right to express opinion, CCHR said 'any corner aggrieved by any press report, has the right to take shelter of law but it should not bypass the Press Council.'

They also demanded immediate release of Matiur Rahman.

Besides, Sangbadpatra Hawkers Kalyan Buhumukhi Somabaya Samity and Sangbadpatra Agents Association, in separate statements, condemned Matiur's arrest and demanded his immediate release.

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**BTV**  
Saturday

4.30 Opening announcement  
Al-Quran  
Programme summary  
Children's programme  
Moner Kotha  
News in Bangla  
5.10 Cartoon: Peterman and the Pirates  
6.00 Tarunmaya  
6.30 Ongikar  
7.00 Banchuri  
8.00 News in Bangla  
8.30 Manti-o-Manush  
9.00 Oriharan  
10.00 News in English  
10.30 Drama series: Dynasty  
11.30 Khabar/The news  
11.40 Tomorrow's programme summary  
11.45 Closing

## Weather

## Kalbaishakhi likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 12 hours commencing 6 am today (Saturday) says, rain or, showers accompanied by temporary kalbaishakhi and squalls are likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions.

The Met Office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

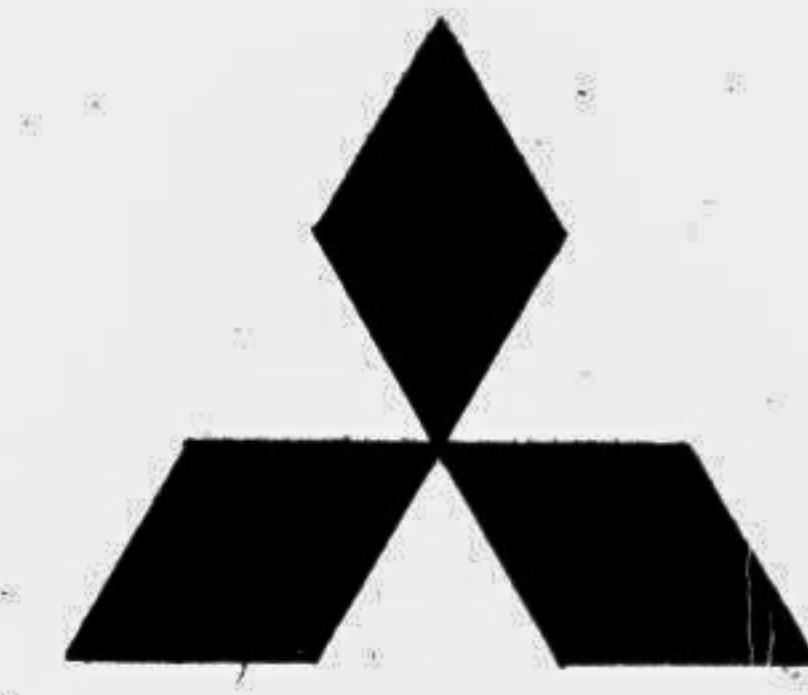
The sun sets today (Saturday) at 6:23 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 5:30 am.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 32.0 degrees Celsius was recorded in both Cox's Bazar and Teknaf and the lowest 18.8 degrees in Sylhet.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and relative humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday are:

Cities/Towns	temperatures in degrees Celsius	humidity in percentage		
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	23.7	20.2	88	91
Chittagong	27.2	20.3	71	95
Rajshahi	29.9	22.4	78	-
Khulna	30.6	23.5	81	79
Barisal	27.4	20.8	83	91
Cox's Bazar	32.0	22.0	70	77
Sylhet	29.0	18.8	89	68

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