

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 36.6 L 26.8	H 33.2 L 26.8	H 34.4 L 25.7	H 39.7 L 24.4	H 37.8 L 26.6	H 35.8 L 26.6	H 38.3 L 22.7	H 33.0 L 26.5

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Sylhet division till 6:00pm today. Severe heat wave is sweeping over the regions of Pabna, Jessore and Kushtia and mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Dhaka and Rangpur divisions and the rest part of Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and it may continue. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:19pm and rises tomorrow at 5:39am.

Bring back laundered money

TIB urges govt

UNB, Dhaka

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has urged the government to take steps to bring back the money laundered from Bangladesh although no name of any Bangladeshi is found in Panama Papers. "Against the backdrop of some recent international reports that reveal money is being smuggled outside the country, we urge the government to take steps to bring back the money through the Bangladesh Bank, the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC), National Board of Revenue (NBR) and attorney general's office," said Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of TIB. In a statement yesterday, he demanded ensuring harsher punishment against the people involved. Bangladesh is a signatory of the United Nations

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Jongibad O Shamprodaikota Protirodh Morcha holds a protest gathering in front of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University yesterday, demanding that the government ban Bangladesh Awami Olama League.

PHOTO: STAR

TERMING BAISHAKH FEST HARAM Banning of Olama League demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jongibad o Shamprodaikota Protirodh Morcha, a platform against communalism and militancy, yesterday urged the government to ban Bangladesh Awami Olama League. They also called upon "pro-liberation forces to resist such communal and militant organisations, which oppose the culture and tradition of the nation." At a press conference in front of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University, the platform's convener Abed Khar asked why police took action against opposition parties but allowed people who were opposed to the country on the streets. The Morcha organised the event protesting Olama League's demand to ban Pahela Baishakh celebrations, terming the Bangla New Year festival "haram" (forbidden in Islam). It also urged the government to cancel the festival bonus for Pahela Baishakh, saying the allowance should be provided to Muslims on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladunabi. The organisation went as far as to demand resignation of the chief justice, saying, "A Hindu chief justice in a country where 98 percent of people are Muslims is an assault on the sentiment of religious Muslims." Kamal Pasha Chowdhury, co-coordinator of the Morcha, said if two ministers could be penalised for "contempt of court" then why the judiciary was not taking any step against the Olama League for insulting the chief justice. The speakers cautioned people against thinking that Olama League was associated with the ruling Awami League just because the two names share a word. The Olama League claims to be an AL-affiliated organisation and has been using a floor of the AL central office on

Songs of humanity to usher in noboborsho

Declares Chhayanaut in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chhayanaut, a leading cultural organisation of the country and the founder of ushering in Pahela Baishakh with a dawn time cultural programme at Ramna Botomul in the capital, is set to begin the celebrations this year with the theme "Humanity". The programme will begin with a duet rendition of a morning raga Gunkeli at 6:15am on April 14. A press conference was held yesterday announcing the programme at Chhayanaut building in Dhanmondi where its President

Dr Sanjida Khatun, Vice-President Dr Sarwar Ali, and General Secretary Khairul Anam Shakil spoke. "Pahela Baishakh appears this year with an urge of our true rejuvenation in unison as a nation. The country has progressed economically in many regards; but our good conscience and sense of humanity are on the wane. Such a state is mounting the picture of decay, destruction and violence against woman in our society. That's why we have chosen the theme 'Humanity' for hailing Noboborsho this year," said Khairul Anam. "In the nation's journey towards self-

discovery and taking pride in its cultural identity, Chhayanaut has been an inseparable partner. The bomb blast at Chhayanaut's Borshoboron programme, something what even we didn't face in the then uncongenial Pakistani era, is of deep-seeded pain to me. What we want is to diffuse the essence of Bangla culture through the presentation of melody and rhythm," said Sanjida Khatun. This year's programme has been designed with 12 choral songs, 15 solo songs, three recitations, and a concluding speech by

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

5:00pm deadline stays for outdoor celebrations only

Masks can be carried but not worn, says DMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday slapped a ban on holding outdoor celebrations of Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla New Year, after 5:00pm on April 14. "No cultural event or concert could be arranged at open places after 5:00pm on the day," DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Miah told a press briefing at its media centre. He also requested the city dwellers to leave the capital's Ramna Park and Suhrawardy Udyan, the two places where

people are expected to gather most in number, after the given time. The commissioner, however, said people would be able to hold indoor programmes after the stipulated time. He further said people would be prohibited from wearing masks, but they would hold those in hands while joining Mangal Shobhajatra, brought out by the students and teachers of the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University. Specialised SWAT team would provide security to the Mangal Shobhajatra, while women

police would be deployed to provide security to females, said the DMP chief. He said they discussed the celebration and their security measures with different stakeholders, including cultural organisations. Golam Kuddus, president of Sannilata Sangskritik Jote, an alliance of cultural organisations, said they requested the DMP formally to extend time for arranging events at Rabindra Sarobar until evening on April 14, but were yet to get any reply. Commissioner Asaduzzaman

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



Sanjida Khatun, president of Chhayanaut, announces a dawn time cultural programme at Ramna Botomul from a press briefing in the capital yesterday. Vice President Dr Sarwar Ali, right, and General Secretary Khairul Anam Shakil, left, also spoke.

PHOTO: STAR

DHAKA CITY Water crisis makes life tough on Bepari Goli

HELEMUL ALAM

Alamin Hossain, a resident of Bepari Goli in the capital's Moghbazar, was moving out of the neighbourhood to Malibagh yesterday. His family could no longer bear with the acute water crisis, which has been going on for the last one month, with the house owner failing to solve it. "Every day, we had to spend Tk 500 to buy 10 jars of water to meet the demand of our family," said Alamin. Though many residents of Bepari Goli get water supply for half an hour to one hour every day, they did not get a single drop of water in the last one month, he said. Alamin said because of the water shortage, he was forced to bathe twice a week while his mother, sister and aunt

used to go to a relative's home to take bath every day. "My father would bathe at his office, Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital," he said. Siddique Ahmed Chowdhury, another resident of the lane, said they received supply for around half an hour daily in the last 15 days. He said they formed a human chain on Sunday protesting the crisis and demanding an immediate solution. "The amount of water which we get is so little that the tenants cannot collect more than one small container of water a day," said Rahima Khatun, another resident of Bepari Goli. "We have been buying three lorries full of water every day from Wasa for the apartment building over the last one month because the water we get

from the supply line is too little," said Kabir Mallik, security guard at the building named Green Valley. Several thousand people live on Bepari Goli. A deputy managing director of Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa), SDM Quamrul Alam Chowdhury, said the crisis occurred due to the hot weather in the last few days. Voltage fluctuations at Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant, which reduced production from Thursday to Saturday, may be another cause, he added. He said they were trying to solve the problem soon, adding that Wasa had already sent two lorries to the area to provide free water to the residents and would send more. Ismail Hossain, operator of T&T

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

CONTEMPT OF COURT HC exempts 3 tanners from appearance

After they inform court that they shut down their Hazaribagh tanneries, offer unconditional apologies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday exempted three tannery owners from personal appearance before it in connection with a contempt petition, after they informed that they have shut down their tanneries at Hazaribagh, and offered unconditional apologies. They are Mahbubur Rahman Panna of Pubali Tanneries, Giasuddin Ahmed Pathan of Rumi Leather Industries Ltd, and Akbar Hossain of Paramout Tannery. Earlier on April 10, the HC had kept them in custody for over five hours for not implementing its 2001 judgment on relocation of the factories to Savar and for not replying to its rule. HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice AKM Shahidul Huq also ordered them not to run their industries at Hazaribagh in future, petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star. The bench on April 10 issued arrest warrants against

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

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