

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 37.0 L 27.3	H 32.9 L 27.3	H 34.8 L 23.5	H 39.5 L 22.9	H 38.8 L 27.0	H 36.2 L 27.3	H 36.2 L 20.6	H 32.2 L 28.2

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, said Met Office. Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the regions of Dhaka, Tangail, Faridpur, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Pabna, Barisal and Patuakhali and it may continue. The sunsets in the capital today at 6:20pm and rises tomorrow at 5:38am.



CCTV cameras being set up in front of TSC of Dhaka University yesterday as part of the authorities' move to bring the entire area under scanner ahead of Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla calendar.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

DU stiffens Pahela Baishakh security

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University has taken a host of security measures to celebrate the Bangla New Year with traditional festivities tomorrow.

Law enforcers and volunteers will fan across the campus, while 190 watch towers will be set up and the whole area will be under CCTV cameras, said Pro-Vice Chancellor (administration) Shahid Akter Hossain, also convener of the Pahela Baishakh celebrations committee, addressing a press conference at DU. Last year an organised sex assault on women during the celebrations created a huge uproar and resentment.

The pro-VC said, "Besides personnel of different law enforcement agencies, 400 Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC) and Rover Scout members will be deployed at different points in Dhaka University area to avert any untoward incident."

The DU authorities banned open concerts, use of loud-speakers and band music on the campus after 5:00pm on the day. Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Asaduzzaman Miah said the steps were not aimed at regulating the celebration, but rather facilitating it. Both DMP and DU authorities banned use of high-sounding "vuvuzela".

All entrances to Suhrawardy Udyan will be closed at 5:00pm, he said, adding that wearing masks during Mangal Shobhajatra (procession) and donning T-shirts with advertisements of different companies and their products were also prohibited. Vice Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique will lead the procession. Meanwhile, the students of the fine arts faculty were passing busy time, preparing for the traditional march. Tuhin, a ceramics student of the faculty, said, "We have been working for the last two weeks and have almost completed our preparations."

Eminent citizens demand Manna's release

STAR REPORT

Some eminent personalities yesterday demanded Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna's immediate release, providing him the scope for self-defence and ensuring his proper treatment for, what they said, ailments resulting from mental torture following arrest.

The proper treatment's absence was worrying the country's citizens as they knew the media personality and columnist played an important role in restoring democracy and implementing human rights, they said through a Nagorik Oikya press release, reports UNB.

Manna has been in jail for over a year without trial and has neither been given division nor granted bail, it added.

The signatories to the statement include Dhaka University teachers

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Water crisis grips some Dhaka city pockets

Admits Wasa, claims doing their best for solution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Acknowledging that there is a water crisis in some pockets of the capital, including those in Rampura, Moghbazar and Jatrabari, the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) yesterday said they were doing their best to solve the problem.

Expressing regret for the sufferings, Dhaka Wasa Managing Director Taqsem A Khan, at a press conference at his office, said this usually happened as the water level drops in the dry season and one or two percent of Dhaka Wasa's tube-wells require either repairs

or renovation.

The solution lied in using surface water and Dhaka Wasa plans on providing 70 to 75 percent of its supplies from it by 2020, he said. The situation prevailed for a certain period in some areas, especially Old Dhaka, for the absence of reservoirs, said one of the deputy managing directors of Dhaka Wasa, SDM Quamrul Alam Chowdhury.

Water is being provided to the affected areas through lorries and, if the lanes are narrow, rickshaw-vans, he said, adding that dependence on surface sources must be increased as early as possible since attaining land for

deep tube-wells was a "big challenge".

Currently, Dhaka Wasa can produce 245 crore litres of water daily, 78 percent of which comes from ground water through 713 deep tube-wells and 22 percent from surface water through five water treatment plants.

Each year, the groundwater level in the central area of the capital is dropping by one to three metres due to excessive extraction, said a Wasa official. He said new treatment plants would be set up at Gandhabpur of Rugganj, Jasaldi in Mawa and Sayedabad phase-III in Dhaka, capable of producing 140 crore litres of water per day.

BNP calls 7.05pc growth projection a stunt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming baseless and unrealistic Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics's (BBS) projection of achieving a growth of 7.05 percent for the first time, BNP yesterday said it was the government's "statistical stunt" in its bid to hang on to power.

"We think the government is making people puzzled with false statistics. We ask people not to get confused with such amiable statistics as you know it very well how you are," BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir told a press conference at party chief Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office.

"This claim is not substantiated. It's unrealistic and unfounded," he said, adding that the economic indicators suggested that it was not possible to reach the 7.05 percent GDP growth rate in the fiscal ending this June.

On April 5, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said Bangladesh was

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