

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 26.2 L 15.0	H 27.5 L 17.0	H 28.2 L 16.4	H 23.0 L 13.8	H 27.5 L 14.5	H 26.5 L 13.3	H 26.2 L 14.8	H 28.7 L 17.0

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country, having chances of light rain or drizzle at one or two places over Rangpur division, in next 24 hours till 6:00 pm today, reports UNB. Moderate to thick fog may occur at places over the river basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said. Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:23pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am.

CWASA move to increase water tariffs worries residents

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Residents feel aggrieved at the decision of Chittagong Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (CWASA) to increase water charges for household purposes by over 18 percent from today.

Without taking proper initiatives to reduce system loss and "corruption", the authorities have increased the charge, they said.

CWASA sources said the system loss has increased to over 30 percent from 17 percent due to "illegal water connections" and leakage from pipes.

Earlier, CWASA used to increase water charges by 5 percent every year through approval from its board meeting.

To increase more than that, CWASA needs approval from the higher authorities concerned, said its sources.

This time, it sent a proposal to the local government ministry to increase the water rate for household purposes by 31.40 percent and commercial purposes by 48.42 percent to cope with production and maintenance costs, they said.

The ministry approved the charges to be increased by 18.26 percent in the household sector and 38.88 percent in commercial sector, they said, adding, the present water charge is Tk 7.61 per thousand litre in the household sector while Tk 18 in commercial sector.

AKM Fazlullah, managing director of CWASA, said, "I have heard that the ministry fixed Tk 9 for per thousand litre water in household sector and Tk 25 in commercial sector from January."

The city dwellers said the landlords will find an excuse to increase house rent due to water price hike.

Moreover, they said the CWASA cannot supply water as per demand in many areas but they are increasing the charges instead of meeting water crisis. The CWASA can supply only 31 crore litre water per day against the demand for 50 crore litre, said its officials.

SM Nazer Hossain, vice president of Consumers Association of Bangladesh, told The Daily Star that the CWASA's move to increase the rate is "illogical" and "unacceptable".



A human chain, inset, formed near the Kornotoli canal in Savar yesterday by Bangladesh Nodi Bachao Andolan (Save the River Movement, Bangladesh) demanding steps to protect water bodies from encroachment and pollution.

Save Dhaleshwari, Turag rivers from pollution

Demands Nodi Bachao Andolan

A CORRESPONDENT, Savar

With a demand for a stop to pollution and grabbing of the Turag, Bongshi, Dhaleshwari and Kaliganga rivers and Kornotoli Khal, environmentalists formed a human chain at different spots in Savar outside the capital yesterday.

The human chain was organized by Bangladesh Nodi Bachao Andolan (Save the River Movement, Bangladesh).

At the human chains, the activists demanded that all of the rivers and the canals be saved from encroachment, and environment-friendly factories be set up around the waterbodies to ensure pollution-free water.

The human chains were formed in different areas including Aminbazar bridge, Shahid Rafiq bridge, Savar Namabazar bridge, Noharhat bridge, Vanga Bridge, Banktown bridge, Shollah bridge, and Nabinagar.

The programme started at 10:00am ended around 12:00 noon. The speakers at the programme said the liquid waste released by the factories built on the both sides of Tourag, Bongshi, Dhaleshwari and Kaliganga rivers are continuously polluting their water.

The speakers also alleged that the garbage from tannery industrial estate in Savar is being dumped into the Dhaleshwari River.

Save the Environment Movement, Bangladesh president Anwar Sadat said the government should take legal steps immediately against the persons responsible for such pollution.

The movement secretary Anwar Hossen, and its joint secretary Monower Hossen Rony were, among others, present on the occasion.

President hopeful about neutral, competent EC

Wants ban on indiscriminate use of political leaders' pictures in posters, placards

BSS, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid has expressed the hope that formation of a competent, neutral and acceptable Election Commission would be possible through discussions with the political parties.

"The tenure of the present EC will end soon and with an aim to form a new EC, I have already started talks with different political parties that they are placing their proposals in this regard," Hamid said while inaugurating the newly constructed "EC Bhavan" at Agargaon in Dhaka yesterday.

Side by side with the EC, good intension and cooperation of political parties, candidates, their supporters and general people are essential for holding a free and fair election, he said.

EC's role in preparing voter lists with photos, using transparent ballot boxes and introducing smart national identity card deserves appreciation, he said, adding, as the EC has set up office at regional, district and upazila levels, its activities have been expanded and people are getting services from their respective areas.

If the election process gets hampered, democracy faces hurdle and aspirations of the people are dashed, he said, adding, the democratic process that has been established in the country will have to be maintained unitedly for the sake



of the country.

"The EC will have to be cooperated properly so that it can carry out its responsibilities properly and peacefully. According to the section 126 of the constitution, it is the duty and responsibility of the all executive bodies to extend cooperation to the EC in discharging its duties," he added.

The president said the main attraction of democracy is election but holding only election is not enough for practicing and flourishing democracy. Political and administrative transparency and accountability is needed to give democracy a firm footing, he said, adding, participation of political parties that conduct activities democratically in election is the main precondition to holding a real democratic election.

The president said the recent Narayanganj City Corporation election has drawn the attention of the countrymen as it has been completed peacefully with cooperation of all quarters.

Meanwhile, the president sought strict EC restrictions against the indiscriminate use of his and political leaders' pictures in posters and placards calling it a "bad culture" which should be denounced by the Jatiya Sangsad as well.

He said he did not feel good seeing "this new culture of using pictures" of top political leaders particularly demanding release of people whoever were arrested for whatever reason.

Unite for multiparty democracy

Says Khaleda in New Year's message

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon all democratic forces to forge a united movement for restoration of a multiparty democracy in the country.

"The democracy which we had earned at the cost of immense bloodshed has been hijacked. The anti-people force has confined all rights of people. In this situation, all the democratic forces need to unite in a bid to restore multiparty democracy in the country," Khaleda said in her New Year's message.

"Last year, we had gone through several bitter experiences including losing our rights which will make us sad in the new year. On the other hand this bitter experience will inspire us to move forward with new strength," she added.

She said everyone has to work in unison for peace and advancement.

Drive against illegal establishments on N'ganj roads starts

A CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Narayanganj District Administration and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday conducted drives in different places against illegal establishments with a bid to keep roads free from traffic jam.

Fifty illegal shops were demolished on Bangabandhu road. They also demolished bus stands of Duranta and Sitalakkhya Paribahans which were set up illegally at Chashara Mor on the road. Owners of Shishir Photocopy, and Pacific Fast Food were fined for keeping their furniture and equipment on the road. They also seized illegal hoardings from the front of Narayanganj hospital. Owners of Dewan Steel Products, and Kazi Sharif and Brothers were fined Tk 2,000 each as their shops were illegally set up on Don Chamber crossing road.

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সকল সম্মানিত করদাতা, অংশীজন (Stakeholder) ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের ইংরেজি নববর্ষ-২০১৭ এর আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা।

জাতীয় জীবনের সর্বত্র একটি রাজস্ব-বান্ধব সংস্কৃতি সৃষ্টির প্রয়াসে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড তার সকল সম্মানিত করদাতাগণকে ইংরেজি নববর্ষ-২০১৭ এর আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা জানাচ্ছে। জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড অত্যন্ত আনন্দের সাথে জানাচ্ছে যে, ইতোমধ্যে ই-টিআইএন সিস্টেমে নিবন্ধিত করদাতার সংখ্যা ২৬,০০,০০০ (ছাব্বিশ লক্ষ) গত ২৭ই ডিসেম্বর ২০১৬ তারিখে অতিক্রম করেছে। গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের এ অসামান্য অর্জনের জন্য সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের ভূয়সী প্রশংসা করেছে। আপনাদের আয়কর প্রদানের সদিচ্ছা ও জাতীয় রাজস্ব ভান্ডারকে সমৃদ্ধ করার অংশীজন হওয়ার প্রবল আকাঙ্ক্ষা জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের এ ঐতিহাসিক অর্জনকে সম্ভবপূর্ণ করেছে। একজন সম্মানিত করদাতা হিসেবে ই-টিআইএন সিস্টেমে নিবন্ধিত হওয়ায় রাজস্ব পরিবার আপনাদের সকলের প্রতি কৃতজ্ঞতা জ্ঞাপন করছে।

আপনারা নিশ্চয় লক্ষ্য করেছেন যে, জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড তার সেবাসমূহকে পর্যায়ক্রমে ই-সেবায় রূপান্তরিত করে সম্মানিত করদাতাদের দোর গোড়ায় পৌঁছে দিতে নিরলসভাবে কাজ করেছে। এ প্রয়াসের অংশ হিসেবে গত ১ নভেম্বর ২০১৬ খ্রিঃ তারিখ হতে Online Return Filing ব্যবস্থা চালু করা হয়েছে। জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড করদাতা বান্ধব রাজস্ব সংস্কৃতি গড়ে তোলার লক্ষ্যে বিভিন্ন কার্যক্রম চালিয়ে যাচ্ছে। সম্মানিত করদাতাগণও পূর্বের যে কোন সময়ের চেয়ে রাজস্ব প্রদানে অধিকতর আন্তরিকতা ও স্বতস্কৃততা নিয়ে এগিয়ে এসেছেন। যার ফলশ্রুতিতে রাজস্ব আহরণ পূর্ববর্তী বছরের তুলনায় ১৭ ভাগ এবং সম্মানিত করদাতাগণ কর্তৃক রিটার্ন দাখিলের হার ৪০ শতাংশ বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে। সর্বস্তরের করদাতাগণের এ অকুণ্ঠ সমর্থন ও আস্থার জন্য জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড সকলের প্রতি সম্মান জানাচ্ছে। আগামী দিন গুলিতেও সম্মানিত করদাতাগণ এরূপ স্বতস্কৃত ভূমিকা অব্যাহত রাখবেন বলে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড দৃঢ়ভাবে বিশ্বাস করে।

করদাতাগণ কর সংক্রান্ত যে কোন প্রয়োজনে সংশ্লিষ্ট সার্কেলে যোগাযোগ করলে কর কর্মকর্তাগণ কাঙ্ক্ষিত সেবা প্রদান করবেন। এছাড়াও অনলাইনে রিটার্ন দাখিল সংক্রান্ত তথ্য, সেবা ও পরামর্শ গ্রহণের জন্য অফিস দিনে সকাল ০৯টা থেকে রাত ১০টা পর্যন্ত নিম্নোক্ত নাথারে কল করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

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জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড [NBR]

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GD-2646

Shafique Farida

Shafique president, Farida general secretary of Jatiya Press Club

UNB, Dhaka

The panel, led by Muhammad Shafiqur Rahman and Farida Yasmin, swept the election to the executive committee of the Jatiya Press Club held yesterday, bagging 14 posts out of 17-member executive committee.

Senior journalist Shafiqur Rahman was elected president (672 votes) while Farida of the Daily Ittefaq (439) general secretary, beating their nearest rivals MA Aziz (279) and Kader Goni Chowdhury (350) respectively.

Other office bearers are Senior Vice-President Saiful Alam (807), Vice-President Azizul Islam Bhuiyan (570), Joint Secretaries Shahed Chowdhury (627) and Elias Khan (452) of Aziz Gani panel, and Treasurer Kartik Chatterjee (478) while 10 members are Shaymal Dutta (574), Kuddus Afrad (535), Mainul Alam (511: independent candidate), Rezanul Haque Raza (488), Molla Jalal (459), Shahmuddin Ahmed Charu (452), Hasan Hafiz (423: Aziz Gani panel), Shahnaz Begum (399), Kalyan Saha (378) and Hasan Arefin (360).

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