

Pahela Baishakh 1408



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totally family occasion and initial entertainment is provided by Chhayanaut, which is the pioneer in this regard.

attention to the rendering of popular Bengali songs welcoming the new year, there was an explosion of a bomb.

through those exits hundreds would have been victims of stampede. Somebody with the microphone had the presence of mind to announce that everybody should stay calm and the programme would continue.

a well laid out plot to create mayhem at a place considered nearly holy by the Bangladeshis. Over decades sentiments have been woven around Chhayanaut and people spontaneously attend the Pahela Baishakh celebration at Batamul.

Shahid Minar has been repeatedly vandalized by them, the last time on the night of 25 March 1971. Pahela Baishakh celebration under the aegis of Chhayanaut has never been attacked the way it did on Pahela Baishakh 1408.

PAHELA Baishakh 1408 is bound to remain engraved in the memory of Bangladeshis for a very long time.

Pahela Baishakh is the advent of the Bangla New Year. It has to do with the harvesting and in rural Bengal it is a very joyous occasion.

The celebration of Bengali New Year in the cities and particularly the capital city Dhaka is of more recent origin. It can be traced back to the early sixties and the advent of the cultural organisation Chhayanaut.

In a completely indigenous style Batamul has been attracting an ever growing public full of enthusiasm, finely dressed men, women and children.

throughout Dhaka and other large cities of Bangladesh.

Whereas New Year's Day is ushered in at the strike of midnight in the West, here in Bangladesh the New Year's Day arrives with the rising of the sun and in its capital Dhaka pours forth from the stage at the Batamul the unforgettable song of Rabindranath Tagore.

Over the years the New Year's party has grown enormously in size and starting at 6 am it continues upto 10 am.

On Pahela Baishakh 1408, when the hundreds of thousands of people assembled in Ramna Batamul and they were listening in rapt

THE HORIZON THIS WEEK

Over last few years we have witnessed foul political murders in various parts of the country. They all seem to form a chain. It is surprising that the authorities dealing with law and order are unable to take appropriate action.

would have triggered a major tragedy as the exits from park are narrow and with thousands pouring

people. From reports gleaned from various sources it appears that it was

recalling that since 1952, when the Language Movement offered its first martyrs to Pakistani authorities, the



Ramna Batamul: After the blast...

PHOTO STAR

State Assembly Election

Which way West Bengal goes this time, right or left?

AMM SHAHABUDDIN, an return from Kolkata

THE heat is already on. Even a casual visitor to Kolkata can feel it. The West Bengal State Assembly election is practically waiting round the corner.

They would, undoubtedly, be a lucrative target as a solid 'vote bank' for the contesting parties.

One thing must be mentioned here that CPM, during its 24-year rule, has built up a solid grassroots base, particularly in the rural areas, thereby winning the support of the Muslim population.

opportunities. Just go round the slum areas, inhabited by them, there is nothing but signs of frustration and despondency.

Basu's exit, 'Undemocratic'? Meanwhile, Left forces, led by CPM, are tightening their belt to pull all their resources to face a turbulent situation in the up-coming election.

Mamata's Thrust! Taking advantage of this deplorable situation, Trinamul Congress leader Mamata Banerjee had made a big thrust to win over these frustrated Muslims.

Basu's exit, 'Undemocratic'? Meanwhile, Left forces, led by CPM, are tightening their belt to pull all their resources to face a turbulent situation in the up-coming election.

Basu's exit, 'Undemocratic'? Meanwhile, Left forces, led by CPM, are tightening their belt to pull all their resources to face a turbulent situation in the up-coming election.

Ultimately it would be the 'voice' of the majority of the people that would dictate the future shape of things to emerge in West Bengal.

There is a joke about the competitive ads by two dairy farms for marketing their pasteurized milk. One company ad said 'Drink our milk and be devil'.

Rift in CPM widening?

Perhaps a section of the CPM leaders had already realised what is up in the forthcoming events. A widening rift is already visible in the CPM.

Now, all told and written, it is for the people of West Bengal to decide what they want to make the future of their province (state) brighter in the fields of education, economy and industries.

As they say, he laughs best who laughs last. Only time will show who enjoys the best laugh in West Bengal.

Excerpts from the 'declassified' main report of Hamoodur Rahman Commission

POLITICAL BACKGROUND-XXII

DURING this broadcast the General said that he had come to the conclusion that the task of framing the Constitution by the Assembly was not feasible.

procrustinations, violence and counter violence during the course of which a great number of innocent lives were sacrificed both of East Pakistan and of Pakistani soldiers.

then not only to outside political observers but even to those in government, as they have now deposited before us including General Yahya himself, that a military action could only be justified as a means of securing an atmosphere peaceful enough to attempt once again a political solution.

any Awami League who had been cleared and who was available in Pakistan, as most of these had fled across the border and were either in India or in foreign countries propagating their cause with a view to influencing world opinion in their favour.

and even the necessity of finding a political solution and, if not expressly at any rate in terms of clear implication, the suggestion was being made to him that he must talk with Sheikh Mujib.

merely of political mistakes but of serious and anti-national crime? If this was the purpose it was hardly served by trying him before a military court which was held in camera and about whose proceedings the public received not the slightest information.

Advertisement for Dr. Rubaiul Murshed. Text: 'HAVE A NICE DAY', 'All health information to keep you up to date', 'For women only', 'Breastfeeding is nature's way of feeding babies...'

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