



THANKSGIVING IN ALL COLOURS

WANGALA is a thanksgiving festival of Mandi (Garo) people who express gratitude to their god for harvest and also to their well-wishers.

They believe fruits and roots collected from jungles were their main food thousands of years ago. One day they prayed to god for seeds and the next day they found two types of paddy seeds.

They preserved them and started cultivating on the hills. After the harvest they did not consume rice without thanking god and celebrating the occasion.

Wangala gradually became their major annual festival celebrated after harvest in late autumn when they eat, drink Chu (rice beer) and dance in full tune to the brim.

With the decrease in jhum cultivation and deterioration of the Mandi's financial condition, very few of them can now afford to celebrate the festival.

The Mandi community residing in Dhaka organised such a festival at Banani Bidyaniketan on Friday.

On the occasion, the participants also paid homage to Tongan N Sangma, a Mandi leader who was martyred while fighting the British in December 1872 in West Garo Hills, Meghalaya.

Photo: ANISUR RAHMAN

