



NEW YEAR IN HILLS

TO leave behind the sorrows of the previous year and welcome the Bangla New Year, indigenous communities in Chittagong Hill Tracts take part in a variety of traditional events. Though the celebration there is widely known as 'Biju', the ethnic people have distinct names for the occasion. The Chakmas call it 'Biju', the Marmas 'Sangrain', the Tangchangyas 'Bishu', the Tripuras 'Boisuk' and the Ahmias call it 'Bihu'. This photographer visiting Rangamati on the occasion last month captured the custom, colour, joy and festivity of Sangrain. The programme included song, dance and ethnic sports. The Marmas arranged an elaborate Sangrain Jal Utsav (water festival); young boys and girls sprayed each other with water jets to symbolise cleansing of weariness of the past year.

Photo: ANISUR RAHMAN

