

KATHIN CHIBOR DAN ENDS Buddhists pray for religious harmony

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Thousands of Buddhists yesterday attended the concluding session of the two-day Kathin Chibor Dan, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community in Chittagong Hill Tracts, in Rajban Bihar of Rangamati with prayers for peace and religious harmony.

Chakma circle chief Barrister Raja Devasish Roy offered a Kathin Chibor (robe) to Progya Lanker Mohathero, disciple of the late most venerable monk Bana Bhante and now chief monk of Rajban Bihar.

The annual festival marks the handing over of robes, manually made by devotees in 24 hours from jhum cotton and then dyed saffron, to monks.

Raja Devasish thanked devotees for making the festival a success and urged all to be aware in upholding their traditions and customs.

Delivering a sermon from the Holy Tripitak, Progya Lanker Mohathero said all should refrain from crimes and telling lies, shun all kinds of malice and discrimination and take the path shown by Lord Gautama Buddha.

"It is true that we are observing the festival without Bana Bhante. But he is still with us. His works were all for the welfare of all people," he said.

Rajban Bihar Upasak Upasika Parishad Secretary read out a special written prayer to honour monks.

The festival ended through the lighting of candles in the evening.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua, State Minister for CHT Affairs Dipankar Talukdar and Rangamati Hill District Council Chairman Nikhil Kumar Chakma attended the function.



Chakma circle chief Barrister Raja Devashish Roy holds a Kathin Chibor (robe) for Progya Lanker Mohathero, chief monk of Rajban Bihar, on Rajban Bihar premises in Rangamati yesterday on the concluding day of the 39th Kathin Chibor Dan festival.

PHOTO: STAR

Ethical journalism to prevail

Says Abed Khan
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent journalist Abed Khan yesterday said although Bangladesh's journalism is currently facing corporate onslaught, ethical journalism would win in the long run.

"Corporate sector has gripped everything today. It is harming journalism too," he said at a reception organised at Liberation War Museum in the capital to mark his 50 year career in journalism.

"I dream that the days of unethical journalism will be over," said Abed Khan, now chief executive officer (CEO) of ATN News.

Beginning with Dainik Jehad in 1962, Abed Khan later served different positions at Daily Sangbad, Ittefaq and ETV, and as editor at Bhorer Kagoj, Jugantar and Kaler Kantho.

RP Saha's 116th anniversary of birth today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail



Today is the 116th birth anniversary of Ranada Prosad Saha also

known as RP Saha, a philanthropist and 1971 Liberation War martyr.

Kumudini Welfare Trust, which runs the welfare institutions founded by RP Saha, will observe the occasion by playing wreaths at his Mirzapur village home at 6:30am, bringing out a procession at 7:00am, and holding a memorial meeting at Kumudini Complex at 4:00pm.

Students of Kumudini Women's Medical College, Kumudini Nursing College and Bharateswari Homes will put up a cultural show at Ananda Niketan at 7:00pm.

RP Saha was born of a poor family of Mirzapur, Tangail in 1896. At 7, he lost his mother Kumudini Saha due to lack of medical care and vowed to set up a hospital which would treat people free and never turn anyone back.

He founded Kumudini Hospital, which now has 750 beds, after his mother's name in Mirzapur in 1944.

RP Saha was killed by Pakistani army on May 7, 1971.

Dalit leader Jharna Lal Das passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal



Jharna Lal Das, a leading personality of dalit community in

Barisal, died of old age complications at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital yesterday. He was 85.

He left behind his four daughters and a son and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

His body would be cremated at Barisal Maha Shamsan cremation ground at 10:00am today.

Jharna Lal was an advisor of Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights

Movement, member of Barisal Gymnasium, and secretary of Falpatty Kali Mandir in Barisal city.

Tarique's torturers to be brought to book

Says Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed yesterday said if BNP takes office in the next general election, the persons responsible for torturing BNP leader Tarique Rahman would be brought to book.

Describing torment of the senior vice chairman of BNP, Moudud said tortures inflicted on Tarique during 1/11 were akin to tortures that took place 500 years back.

He was addressing a seminar styled "The torture and filing cases during 1/11 and harassment on Tarique Rahman, senior vice chairman of BNP, during the present government", organised by Bangladesh National Human Rights Forum (BNHF) at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

He also said it would be suicidal for Awami League, if the ruling party presses for one-party general polls.

Criticising the present Election Commission (EC), Moudud said current election commissioners were appointed unilaterally.

Abu Naser Md Rahmatullah, president of Shwadhinata Forum, and Shirin Sultana, general secretary of Jaiyatabadi Mahila Dal, addressed the seminar among others.

BNP trying to foil war crimes trial: Inu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu yesterday alleged that the main opposition BNP was trying to foil the ongoing war crimes trial and save militants and communal forces in the country.

"She [Khaleda Zia] has been trying to foil the war crimes trial in different ways and now remained silent after Jamaat-e-Islami openly announced to stop the trial," Inu claimed at a discussion.

"And, her silence is nothing but a support to Jamaat's conspiracy to foil the trial," added Inu, also the president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal.

The Anti-Corruption Commission has brought back laundered money of Khaleda's younger son Arafat Rahman Koko, which proved that "her sons used to lead dishonest lives," said Inu.

He said Khaleda failed to be a leader of the country by defending her "corrupt sons".

Colonel Taher Sangsad organised the discussion as part of a daylong "Taher

Mela" marking 74th birth anniversary of Shaheed Col Abu Taher at TSC on Dhaka University campus.

Jahangirnagar University Vice Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain said after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the country fell into "deep darkness" and Taher along with pro-liberation forces came forward to change the situation.

"But his efforts were not a complete success," said Anwar, Taher's brother.

He said the anti-liberation forces which killed Bangabandhu and other national leaders were still active.

Pilkhana mutiny, Ramu incident and the recent Jamaat attacks on police surfaced this conspiracy, said Anwar, also vice president of Col Taher Sangsad.

Communist Party of Bangladesh leader Haider Akbar Khan Rano, former DUCSU general secretary Mostak Hossain, and the sangsad General Secretary Mohammad Ali, among other, spoke with Prof Anwar in the chair.

RESISTING JAMAAT Jalil slams home minister's call

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League leader Abdul Jalil yesterday criticised the home minister for his call to BCL and Jubo League to resist Jamaat-e-Islami, saying it would only create anarchy in the country.

"Sometimes ministers of this government talk too much. By urging Chhatra League and Jubo League to prevent Jamaat, a state-level call has been made to create anarchy in the country.

"The home minister was not right in this case from political point of view," Jalil said while addressing a discussion meeting at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital.

Pointing at Jubo League and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), he said, "We must remain aware about Jamaat's activities...we'll have to resist them through a social campaign, not by locking in fights."

The senior AL leader also came down heavily on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for her comment that Tarique Rahman was leading an honest life.

Environment and Forests Minister Hasan Mahmud and former AL joint secretary Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, among others, addressed the discussion organised by Bangabandhu Academy.

BID TO GO TO MALAYSIA BGB detains 14

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) on Thursday nabbed 14 people for allegedly attempting to go to Malaysia illegally. A BGB team led by its Company Commander Nurul Amin detained them at Khuremukh area of Teknaf coast.

They also seized an engine-run boat but could not detain either the boat owner or its operators, said Amin. Of the detainees, two are Rohingyas while the rest are local people including a woman.

On Wednesday and Thursday afternoon, Bangladesh Coast Guard and BGB officials in separate drives nabbed 52 men from Teknaf coast and the Bay of Bengal when they were heading for Malaysia.



Illegal structures occupy Dhanmondi playground in the capital despite a March 15, 2011 High Court order on the then Dhaka City Corporation, Rajuk and authorities concerned to remove such structures and keep the playground open for all. Inset, Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, Institute of Architects Bangladesh and Nirapad Development Foundation form a human chain on Mirpur Road, beside the playground, yesterday demanding implementation of the HC order.

PHOTO: STAR

DHANMONDI PLAYGROUND Stop to commercial activities demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Green activists at a rally yesterday demanded a stop to the use of Dhanmondi playground for commercial purposes.

They also called on the government to hand over the management of the playground to the Public Works Department from the city corporation.

Political and social programmes and fairs are held on the playground during most of the year, disrupting sporting activities, the speakers said, adding that the city corporation had failed to protect it.

The rally was organised in front of the playground by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), the Institute of Architects Bangladesh and Nirapad Development Foundation.

On March 15, 2011, the High Court asked the authorities concerned, including the city corporation and Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk), to protect the playground and to evict all establishments from it within 15 days, says a Bapa press release.

Niketan Society's new executives

METRO DESK

Shamsul Arefin Chowdhury and Taznur Rahman Chowdhury have been elected as president and general secretary respectively of the new executive committee of Niketan Society for 2013-2014, said a press release.

Abdur Rob Nishat was elected as senior vice president, Rafiuddin Ahmed as vice president, Faruk Ahmed as joint secretary and Abu Kaisar as treasurer of the committee.

The election was held on November 16.

Form alternative political force: CPB

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Mujahidul Islam Selim yesterday urged the country's people to form an alternative political force by rejecting the two political parties, Awami League and BNP.

He was addressing a meeting organised by CPB Manikganj district unit at Sangskritik Biplobi Sangha (SABIS) premises.

There is no alternative to forming an alternative political force, he said, adding that the two parties have failed to run the country.

Terming the country's present political situation as the one which prevailed in 1954, Mujahidul Islam said both the AL-led grand alliance and BNP-led four party alliance have no popularity.

People have to come forward to save the country as it is moving forward to a crisis situation, he said.

CPB Manikganj district unit President Azaharul Islam and General Secretary Mizanur Rahman Hazrat, among others, spoke on the occasion.

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LINKING YOUNG MINDS TOGETHER
COMING OUT TOMORROW
LINKING YOUNG MINDS

This week's Star Campus, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, will have some interesting features for the readers. The Spotlight is on the new campaign that was initiated by Jaago Foundation, spreading awareness about the importance of education for all. The Campus Trends this week is on the use of mufflers and shawls to keep warm for this winter. There will also be an interesting feature on the Hay Festival, Dhaka, 2012 for the literature lovers who had missed out on the event. The Star Chat this week is with Film Actor Emon, as he shares, with the readers, his inspirations, aspirations and dreams. Do not forget to grab your copy of Star Campus as it hits the country tomorrow, Sunday. And, as always, have a great read!

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