

# Kathin Chibar Daan festival begins in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Rangamati

Kathin Chibar Daan, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), has begun at Rangamati Rajban Bihar amid great enthusiasm and religious fervour.

On the first day of the two-day festival yesterday, devotees from three hill districts---Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari---took part in pancha-shilla prayer.

Protagonist Lanakar Mohather, abbot of Rajban Bihar, along with others monks, inaugurated the Bain Ghar (weaving house) around 3:00pm.

Later, chief of the Chakma Circle (Chakma King) Debasish Roy opened the weaving house and spinning wheel there.

Various programmes, including stitching of chibars, offering of pancha-shilla prayer, hoisting Buddhist flag, dyeing and drying of threads and lighting of candles, have been chalked out to mark the 40th celebration.

A fair was held at Rajban Bihar where merry-go-rounds and circus have



PHOTO: STAR

**Chakma Raja barrister Devashish Roy operates a spinning wheel after inauguration of 'Bain Ghar' at Rangamati Rajban Bihar yesterday marking the 40th 'Kathin Chibar Daan Utsab' in the town.**

been arranged. Different types of shops were also set up on the occasion, said organisers.

Addressing the programme, Devashish Roy said "It's quite different than other Buddhist countries and it helps to

keep the tradition of weaving spirit of the jumma people particularly women".

Roy also sought everyone's cooperation to make the festival successful.

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nurses of Goutam Buddha named Jibok and Bishakha with the help of devotees, had introduced making rob from jhum cotton within 24-hour to offer it to monks. Since then Buddhist have been observing it.

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nurses of Goutam Buddha named Jibok and Bishakha with the help of devotees, had introduced making rob from jhum cotton within 24-hour to offer it to monks. Since then Buddhist have been observing it.

The abductors then took him to a lonely place and phoned his family members on the following day, demanding Tk 15 lakh as ransom, said the inspector.

The gang killed the boy and then dumped the body in a sewage-disposal tank in T&T Para area of the town, said Inspector Mianur.

Family sources said a gang kidnapped Rifat while he was returning home from his school at around 12:00 noon.

Police arrested four alleged abductors, said Mianur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Rajbari

Sadar Police Station.

The arrestees are Rifat's cousin Kiam Uddin, 30, Rony Seikh, 24, of Char Narayanpur village, and Ranjit Sarkar, 55, and Rakhtim Ranjan Sarkar, of T&T Para in the town.

At least 20 people, including two policemen, were injured during the clash.

BNP leader Bokul alleged that they went to the police station to file a counter case, but police refused to take the case.

Our Rangpur correspondent adds: Police filed a case with Rangpur Kotwali Police Station on Wednesday night, accusing 150 leaders and activists of BNP and its associate bodies of attacking cops during hartal from its Grand Hotel intersection office at around 12:30pm.

He said when both processions were heading towards Jahaj Company intersection, police intercepted the processions in front of Rangpur Press Club. BNP swooped on police, exploded at least five crude bombs and hurled brick chips at police.

The complainant further said that police fired 17 rubber bullets and lobbed 20 tear gas shells to disperse the BNP men.

Md Shahbuddin Khalifa, Officer-in-Charge of Rangpur Kotwali Police Station said they have started drives to arrest the accused.

## Abducted schoolboy murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Kushtia

The body of a schoolboy, abducted from Char Narayanpur under Sadar upazila on November 6, was found in a tank in Rajbari town yesterday.

The victim was identified as Rifat Hossain, 11, son of Muktar Hossain, an expatriate in Bahrain. Rifat was a class V student at Rajbari Kindergarten.

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