

# Mahaa Wagyawai Powe festival begins today

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban**

Traditional Mahaa Wagyawai Powe festival, the second largest festival of Marma community in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, will begin in Bandarban today.

Indigenous Buddhists will celebrate the three-day festival welcoming Probarana Purnima.

However, the festival, Probarana Purnima, was celebrated in other hill districts yesterday.

Shuvo Probarana Purnima, also known as Ashwini Purnima, marks the conclusion of the three-month-long seclusion of the monks inside their monasteries for self-edification and atonement for defilement.

Later, the month-long Kathin Chibar Dan is followed by Probarana festival, when devotees present monks with robes for the welfare of every being and entire mankind.



People of Rakhain community release fanus (sky lantern) in Kalapara of Patuakhali yesterday as they observe Shuvo Probarana Purnima, the second largest festival of the Buddhists. PHOTO: COLLECTED

# ENROLMENT IN EDUCATIONAL INSTTS Girls ahead of boys in Pirojpur

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur**

The number of female students enrolled in different schools and madrasas in seven upazilas of the district has increased compared to boys in the last few years.

According to upazila education office, about 13,000 girl students are enrolled in different schools and madrasas against 10,000 boys in Nesarabad upazila.

Besides, the enrolment differences between girls and boys are around 2,000 in Sadar and Bhandaria upazilas.

Though the difference is very small in Nazirpur and Kawkhali upazilas, girls are still ahead of boys.

Sources at district education office said the number of girl students has increased at different educational institutions in the last five years.

Sultan Hossain, headmaster of Amamkathi Haji Ibrahim School and College, said the presence of female students are increasing as they are getting stipend and books free of cost from the government.

Besides, when a male child starts growing, parents engage him in different sorts of informal jobs so that he can support his family financially, the headmaster added.

Shahidul Islam, headmaster of Chan Mia High School, said now parents are more caring about their daughters' education as they have realised the importance of female education.

Since the girls are getting chances to enroll in nearby colleges, their interest has increased a lot, said Al Helal, a teacher in Pirojpur town.

# Try killers of Pradip Speakers demand at Kishoreganj rally

**A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj**

Speakers at a rally in the district town yesterday demanded trial of the killers of school student Pradip Dutta and punishment to them.

Kishoreganj Nagorik Adhikar Suraksha Mancha organised the rally at Akhra Bazar Bridge protesting the killing of Pradip. Mancha convenor Sheikh Selim Kabir presided over the rally.

Government Railway Police (GRP) recovered the body of Pradip Dutta, 13, from Char Solakia Kanikata Rail Crossing area in the town on Tuesday.

Pradip was son of Shyamol Dutta of Kharampatti area and a student of Class VII at Model School and College in the town.

An unnatural death case was filed with Kishoreganj Railway Police Station while the victim's relatives claimed that Pradip was killed by throwing him under a train.

Relatives said Pradip went out of his house to visit the puja mandaps at around 6:30pm on Tuesday. As he did not return by 10:00pm, his family members searched for him but failed to find him.

Hearing that the body of a boy was found near the rail line, Pradip's uncle Bikash Sarker went to the place and identified the body on Wednesday.

Quoting witnesses, relatives said Pradip was taken to the spot on a motorbike and pushed under a train. The killers immediately fled the scene.

# 350km walk to create road safety awareness

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur**

A grocer started travelling to Dhaka from Rangpur on foot to raise public awareness about road safety across the country.

Fifty-year-old Alok Nath started his 350-kilometre journey towards the capital from in front of Rangpur Press Club yesterday.

During his journey, Alok would hold meetings with the students of different educational institutions along the highways.

Alok Nath said nearly 15,000 people are killed in road accidents every year which can be reduced by growing public awareness.

# Woman beaten, groans in hospital Her cow ate neighbour's paddy plants

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon**

Mercilessly beaten by a neighbour, a woman is groaning in pain at Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

The victim is Mosammam Begum, 35, wife of Lutfar Rahman of Gazirhat village in Ranishankoil upazila.

Begum said one Khajimat of the village took her cow to his house on Friday as the cow allegedly ate his paddy plants.

On hearing the news, Begum along with her daughter Labony went to Khajimat's house to bring back the cow, and a quarrel ensued.

"At one stage of altercation, Khajimat, his son Karim, younger brother's wife Amena Begum, her son Mamunur Rashid and daughter-in-law Ricta Akhter beat us mercilessly with iron rods and bamboo sticks," said the victim.

Later, locals rescued the two and brought them to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital. However, Begum's daughter was given first aid.

Contacted, Khajimat said Begum and her family members beat his younger brother's wife Amena Begum and daughter-in-law Ricta Akhter as their goats ate Begum's paddy plants on Thursday.

Following the incident, they beat the mother and daughter, he said.

# For fishing in ban period

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur**

A hearing and speech impaired youth was kept tied for three hours in the sun on Friday on charge of catching fish during the ongoing ban period.

Tipu, 19, son of Abdus Salek of Goshuntara village in Kawkhali upazila under the district, was caught by fisheries department men while he was fishing in Chirapara canal, witnesses said.

With hands tied from behind, Tipu was kept sitting in the sun on the stair of a pond at the upazila office premises from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. Meantime, a guard from the upazila office gave him some rice.

As local journalists protested the incident, fisheries department men untied the boy and took him to Kawkhali Police Station from where he was later released.

Asked about the matter, Manoj Kumar, Kawkhali upazila fisheries officer, said, "Tipu is a professional fisherman. Earlier we caught him two times. To keep him sitting we tied only his hands."

"We informed his parents. But none of them came. In the evening one of his relatives



took him away, promising that Tipu will not catch fish in the ban period," he said.

To help safe breeding of fishes, the authorities concerned have imposed a ban on fishing from October 12 to November 2.

Abdul Motalib, president of Kawkhali Union Matsajibi Samity, told the local journalists that Tipu's father kept his fishing boat with fishing net anchored as it is banned time for catching fish. But without informing anybody, Tipu went to catch fish with the boat in the canal

# Tragedy at DMCH

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"We went to buy breakfast for my father near the emergency gate. All of a sudden, the ambulance appeared and ran us over," he said.

Zakir was crying inconsolably after the incident. "My son and wife looked after me. Now who will take care of me," he said.

Gulenur's father Abul Hossain Sardar said he along with his daughter, son-in-law Ferdaus and grandchildren -- Shakib and Akash -- got down from rickshaws near the hospital's entrance. Ferdaus went to get change to pay the rickshaw fare.

Shakib was ill and they went to the hospital to see a doctor.

"At that time, the ambulance first hit a few pedestrians outside the gate before running towards us," he said.

The ambulance ran Gulenur over and stopped, Abul added. Later, people

# Zafar Iqbal, wife

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number, 01629967551, which read, "Hi unbeliever! We will strangulate you soon."

The couple were then staying at Banani DOHS in the capital. Returning to Sylhet on Friday, they filed a general diary with Jalalabad Police Station.

"Despite threats, I have to discharge my duties," Prof Iqbal told our Moulvibazar correspondent. He had received threats earlier, but this time his wife got too, he said.

In the messages threatening eminent personalities, the sender sometimes mentioned his affiliation with banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team, sometimes with ISIS.

Prof Anu Muhammad, who has been heading a

# The amount may go up or down

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Earlier this month, the finance ministry sent a draft of the MoU to the Chinese embassy where it was stated that Bangladesh would get \$40 billion from Beijing over the next five years.

But Chinese embassy asked for the clause to be dropped. "It's not the normal practice for Chinese government to make commitment on G2G financial arrangement for a single country," it said.

However, China, for the first time under a single cooperation deal with Bangladesh, committed to giving soft loans to 28 projects, an Economic Relations Division official said.

About the official status of this commitment, the ERD official said it was still only commitment. China would finance those when the projects become viable after feasibility studies, he said.

The official also said there would be scope for dropping projects or including new ones in the list later. The agreement signed spells this out.

A finance ministry official said Chinese side's argument was that Exim Bank of China would make commitments on money for the projects after feasibility studies. Before that, the Chinese side was unwilling to say anything.

The total financing may go up or down after the details of the project were studied.

According to finance ministry rules, when Bangladesh government signs loan agreements with an institution or country, it is considered an actual commitment and the money is included in the aid pipeline of the ERD.

The 28 projects for which the deal was signed involve billions of dollars and there were various procedures to be completed before loan agreements could be signed.

Another ERD official said getting Chinese loans for the projects depend on how quick and efficiently the ministries concerned could complete all necessary procedures.

The ERD during the last several years got actual commitment of billions of dollars they could not

spend, resulting in a huge amount of money being piled up, the official said.

In three projects, including the Karnaphuli tunnel project, six agreements were signed between Bangladesh and China on Friday. These also include loan agreements.

More than three years were spent on the process of signing the loan agreements for the three projects.

Until yesterday, neither side gave any details on the MoU and the loan agreements signed on Friday.

Late Friday night, the two sides issued a joint statement, which did not contain any details of the agreements or financing.

Sources said Bangladesh was set to receive \$24.45 billion in bilateral assistance from China for the 28 projects and six other projects and programmes, which include a coal-fired power plant.

Officials at the finance and foreign ministries said that besides these, another list of 22 projects was submitted before the two sides during official talks on Friday.

In this regard, a joint statement said, "The Chinese side agreed to consider and encourage Chinese enterprises to explore cooperation on the 22 projects proposed by the Bangladesh side in power, ICT, river management, infrastructure and other areas on the basis of equality and mutual benefit."

"The two sides agreed that specific cooperation would include, among others, construction and operation of infrastructure, metallurgy and material, resource processing, equipment manufacturing, light industry, electronics and textiles, semiconductors and nanotechnology, industry clusters, and other areas agreed by both countries."

World Bank lead economist Zahid Hussain said it was difficult to comment on the agreements without knowing the details. However, there was no question about the need for such projects.

He said in the public sector the country needs Chinese investment mainly in expanding transformative infrastructure assets, meeting the growing energy

# Pak-linked

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The military-run newspaper Myawady had earlier said soldiers had recovered "RSO flags and RSO badges" in Maungdaw.

Several videos showing armed men speaking the language of the mostly stateless Rohingya have circulated online this week. Reuters has not been able to verify the authenticity of the videos, but government officials say they believe they show the perpetrators of the attacks that began on Oct 9.

The 1.1 million Rohingya living in Rakhine state face discrimination, severe restrictions on their movements and access to services, especially since inter-communal violence in 2012 that displaced 125,000 people.

The Rohingya are not among the 135 ethnic groups officially recognised in Myanmar.

Suu Kyi has appointed former United Nations chief Kofi Annan to head a panel to propose solutions to Rakhine state's problems.

Officials have said hundreds of men - some armed with automatic weapons and

# Khadiza

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recovery," he said.

On October 3, Khadiza, a student of Sylhet Government Women's College, was hacked multiple times by Badrul Alam, a Chhatra League leader and fourth-year student of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology after she reportedly refused his romantic advances.

The 23-year-old girl was admitted to Square Hospitals in critical condition.

She was in a coma when admitted to the hospital and was on life support till Thursday. She was shifted from the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) yesterday.

# Race 'rigged' for Clinton

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Trump tweeted out a similar allegation earlier to his 12 million followers, charging: "Hillary Clinton should have been prosecuted and should be in jail. Instead she is running for president in what looks like a rigged election."

In a bizarre new attack on the Democratic nominee, he suggested she had taken performance-enhancing drugs during their last debate.

He called for her to be screened ahead of their final televised duel Wednesday in Las Vegas.

"I don't know what is going on with her. At the beginning of her last debate, she was all pumped up at the beginning. At the end, it was like, take me down, she could barely reach her car."

"Athletes, they make them take a drug test. I think we should take a drug test prior to the debate. Why don't we do that?"

As the Manhattan billionaire tanks in the polls, he has spent the last week claiming the media and a "global elite" is working against him, and that Clinton had plotted to destroy the sovereignty of the United States.

"Either we win this elec-

tion or we lose this country," he told supporters in New Hampshire.

The Clinton camp issued an immediate response, accusing Trump of seeking to erode public faith in the November 8 vote.

The virulence of Trump's attacks on the Clinton camp have raised concerns about whether the real estate mogul would even acknowledge a defeat, and how his legions of fired-up supporters would react should he lose.

President Barack Obama on Friday warned that America's very democracy is at stake in the election because of the Republican presidential candidate.

Earlier on Friday, Trump rejected claims of women accusing him of sexual misconducts.

Summer Zervos -- an ex-contestant on his reality TV show "The Apprentice" -- came forward to accuse him of kissing, groping and thrusting his genitals at her during a meeting at a California hotel in 2007.

The Trump campaign said in a statement that he "vaguely remembered" Zervos, but shot down her accusation.

# Govt employee

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Chandpur's Matlab Uttar upazila on Friday night. He is the imam of Naburkandi Mirbari Jame Mosque, reports our Chandpur correspondent.

OC Alamgir Hossain of Matlab Uttar Police Station said Huda in a Facebook status had made derogatory remarks about the PM. A case was filed against him under article 57(2) of the ICT Act.

UNB reports: Police arrested Ahmed Ullah, an office assistant of the Rangamati district administration, at his home in the town on Friday afternoon for allegedly sharing a distorted photo of the PM and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi on his Facebook wall.

Mohammad Rashid, OC of Kotwali Police Station, said Ahmed shared the photo on Thursday.

Following the incident, local Jubo League leader Jhinuk Chakma filed a case with the police station against Ahmed.