

Valentine's Day or Cow Hug Day?

CNN ONLINE

For centuries, cows have been considered sacred by India's majority Hindu population, a symbol of both the Earth and the divine.

Indeed, so revered are the animals that authorities had planned to rebrand this Valentine's Day as "Cow Hug Day", hoping the move would both boost citizens' "emotional richness" and strike a blow for local heritage over what is seen as a western cultural import.

But the move appears to have backfired and been abandoned after it prompted a flood of internet memes, cartoons and jokes by TV hosts about the importance of consent.

The declaration of February 14 as "Cow Hug Day," had come in a statement Monday from the Animal Welfare Board of India, which called cows the "backbone of Indian culture and rural economy."

The cow is "the giver of all, providing riches to humanity" due to its "nourishing nature," said the agency, a statutory body that advises India's Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

It said the push to hug cows was part of an effort to promote "Vedic" or sacred Hindu traditions, which it claimed have been eroded by Western influence.



But within a week of the announcement - after days of mockery and ridicule online - the idea appears to have been dropped.

For days, media outlets have been mocking the government's plan, publishing satirical cartoons showing cows running away from amorous men, while internet users have delighted in posting videos of violent encounters between beast and man.

An anchor on one of India's leading English-language news channels, NDTV, was even filmed attempting to hug several cows, which appeared to rebuke his advances.

"Consent is important," he joked during the segment.

Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rise to power in 2014 on a wave of Hindu nationalism, the animal has also become increasingly politicized.

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is strongly aligned with conservative Hindu traditions and critics say cow-worship has been used as a tool to intimidate, harass and even kill people of other religion, who they accuse in some cases of disrespecting the animals.

According to Human Rights Watch, cow vigilante crimes in India have been ignored or covered up by authorities since Modi took office.

During Modi's 2014 election campaign, he promised to end a "pink revolution" - a phrase he used to describe the slaughter of cattle.



A Syrian boy, who lost his family and was also wounded as a result of the deadly earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria, sits amid the rubble of his family home in the town of Jindayris, in the rebel-held part of Syria's Aleppo province. The photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

QUAKE RESCUE EFFORTS IN SYRIA

Hope, resources in short supply

AFP, Jableh

As Syria's earthquake rescue efforts near the one week mark, an unsettling silence blankets the area as a search dog sniffs around a flattened home in the coastal town of Jableh.

It has been hours since the last rescue, when two people were pulled from the rubble by rescuers with only the most basic equipment.

"There is no hope" for survivors, said Alaa Moubarak, the head of Jableh's civil defence.

"Even so, with every step, we stop and scream: is anyone alive?"

The canine trained to detect life circles the area for 30 minutes and trots back without a single bark.

There are no more survivors.

This scene plays out almost daily in Jableh, where the hopes

of finding anyone alive under the rubble are quickly vanishing amid a lack of resources.

Of the 52 residents of the five-storey building being searched, only 14 have made it out alive.

Jableh is located in Latakia, a province largely under government control and one of the worst hit by the earthquake.

Monday's 7.8 magnitude quake that struck near the Turkish city of Gaziantep, about 40 kilometres (25 miles) from the Syrian border, killed nearly 3,600 in Syria.

In Latakia province alone, the quake has killed at least 638 people, according to local authorities.

The canine scavenging the rubble on Saturday is only one of a handful available in the region.

It was flown in by a 42-member search and rescue team from the United Arab Emirates, equipped

with sensors, search cameras, special drills and fuel containers.

"If we had this kind of equipment, we would have saved hundreds of lives, if not more," said Moubarak.

Other teams on the ground lack the means and advanced search equipment, often digging with nothing but their hands or shovels.

A supervisor of the rescue team said the chance of finding survivors at this point was so slim that emergency teams were permitted to use excavators and heavy machinery to clear the rubble.

"We are in stage four, which is an advanced stage of rescue operations, with most survivors already pulled out," he said.

"But there is still a chance to find survivors."

But without support, those saving those lives would be difficult.

Raisi to visit China

AFP, Tehran

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will head to China within days for a three-day visit aimed at strengthening economic cooperation, state media reported yesterday. Raisi will set out for Beijing today evening in response to an official invitation by Chinese President Xi Jinping, Iran's state news agency IRNA said. On his upcoming trip, Raisi is expected to hold private talks with Xi, and delegations from both countries are due to sign "cooperation documents", according to IRNA. Iran and China have strong economic ties, especially in the fields of energy, transit, agriculture, trade and investment. Both countries signed in 2021 a 25-year "strategic cooperation pact" said to include "political, strategic and economic" components. China is Iran's largest trade partner, IRNA said.

US jet shoots down 'object' over Canada

AFP, Ottawa

A US fighter jet shot down an unidentified object over Canada on Saturday, the second such incident in North American skies since the dramatic downing of a suspected Chinese spy balloon a week ago. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said a joint US-Canadian military operation led to the takedown of the object, the latest in a series of mysterious air intrusions. The new incursions into Alaska and the Yukon came after the United States said Wednesday that suspected Chinese spy balloons like the one it shot down February 4 were part of a "fleet" that has spanned five continents. Nato also voiced concern.

IS attack in central Syria kills 11

AFP, Beirut

At least 11 people, mostly civilians, were killed in a central Syria attack blamed on the Islamic State group, a war monitor said yesterday. The IS group "attacked about 75 people on Saturday while they were collecting truffles in the Palmyra area, in the eastern countryside of Homs", the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The attack killed "10 civilians, including a woman, and a member of the (Syrian) regime forces," it said, adding that others remain missing. After the jihadists lost their last scraps of territory following a military onslaught backed by a US-led coalition in March 2019, IS remnants in Syria mostly retreated into desert hideouts in the country's east.

Netanyahu pledges more action against Palestinian attackers

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday promised a stronger Israeli response in dealing with a spate of Palestinian attacks in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank, as pressure swelled within his right-wing government to employ more severe tactics.

His remarks came two days after a car ramming attack in the Jerusalem outskirts killed three Israelis and two weeks after



a lone Palestinian gunman killed seven people outside a synagogue, adding to rising anxiety in Israel over security.

Tensions are also high in the West Bank, where Israeli forces have carried out hundreds of arrests in recent months during near-daily raids that have seen bloody gunbattles with Palestinian militants. At least 42 Palestinians, including gunmen and civilians, have been killed this year.

He did not offer specifics in his comments prior to the meeting.

Ukraine 'holding defence in Donetsk'

REUTERS, Lviv

Ukraine's forces hold defence along the frontline in Donetsk, including the besieged town of Bakhmut, with the fiercest battles raging for the cities of Vuhledar and Maryinka, Kyiv's top military commander said on Saturday.

Valeriy Zaluzhnyi, commander-in-chief of Ukraine's Armed Forces, said Russia carries out some 50 attacks daily in Donetsk, a region in Ukraine's southeast that Moscow has been trying to occupy fully.

"Fierce fighting continues in the area of Vuhledar and Maryinka," Valeriy Zaluzhnyi said in a Telegram message after a call with US General Mark Milley.

"We reliably hold the defence. In some areas of the front, we have managed to regain previously lost positions and gained a foothold."

Zaluzhnyi did not specify where the gains were made. He added that Ukraine continues to hold Bakhmut, trying to "stabilise" the frontline around the town.

WEST BANK CLASH Israeli troops kill Palestinian boy aged 14

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israeli troops yesterday killed a 14-year-old Palestinian boy during a raid on a flashpoint town in the occupied West Bank that led to clashes with gunmen, medical officials and witnesses said.

An army spokesperson said troops sent into Jenin to detain a suspected militant came under fire and shot back. "We are aware of the report that a number of gunmen were wounded in the exchange of fire," the spokesperson said.

Two Palestinians were wounded, local medical officials said.

The West Bank - one of the areas where Palestinians seek statehood - has seen rising violence since Israel intensified raids last year in response to a series of street attacks in its cities.

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Memo No. 46.03.0100.061.16.010.17-147 Date: 12/02/2023.

e-GP Tender Notice No-11(2022-2023)

1	Ministry/ Division	Local Government Division
2	Implementing Agency	Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE)
3	Project/Program Name	Primary Education Development Program - 4 (PEDP 4)
4	e-Tender IDs	786328,786346,786359,786364,786369,786373,786378
5	Description of Works	Construction of 2 storied RCC WASH Block having 2 storied foundation for MT & Boys and FT & Girls including all associated construction, sanitary, plumbing & electrical works Total (49 nos) School at Different Upazila In Bagerhat District Under PEDP-4. FY-2022-23
6	This is online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Interested persons/firms can see details in the website : (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) Size : 4" x 3"	

GD- 248

দি ইনস্টিটিউট অব ব্যাংকার্স, বাংলাদেশ (আইবিবি)
ডিআর টাওয়ার (১৩ তলা), ৬৫/২/২, বীর প্রতীক
গাজী গোলাম দস্তগীর সড়ক (বঙ্গ কালভার্ট রোড), পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০
www.ibb.org.bd, ফোন # ৫৫১১২৮৫৭-৬০

১৪তম পুরস্কার বিতরণী অনুষ্ঠান

দি ইনস্টিটিউট অব ব্যাংকার্স, বাংলাদেশ (আইবিবি) এর ১৪তম পুরস্কার বিতরণী অনুষ্ঠান (২০২০ ও ২০২১ সাল) আগামী ১৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৩ খ্রিস্টাব্দ, ০৩ ফাল্গুন ১৪২৯ বঙ্গাব্দ রোজ বৃহস্পতিবার সন্ধ্যা ৬.০০ ঘটিকায় হোটেল পূর্বাবী ইন্টারন্যাশনাল, ১, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০ এ অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। প্রয়োজনে বিজয়ী প্রার্থীদেরকে (তালিকা www.ibb.org.bd তে প্রকাশিত) ইনস্টিটিউটের প্রধান কার্যালয়ে, ই-মেইলঃ ibb.diploma@gmail.com বা মোবাইলঃ ০১৫৫৬৩১৩৯২৭, ০১৭১৮৭৭৪৭৫০ নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য বিনীত অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

জিডি-২৫০ মহাসচিব, আইবিবি

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
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Memo No: 37.02.0000.CEDP/IDG/Rajshahi College/OTM/Goods/G-11/07 Date: 12/02/2023

e-Tender Notice - 02/2022-2023

e-Tender is invited in the National e-Gp System portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following package:

Sl. No	Tender ID No.	Description of Works	Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
01	788682	Supply Lab Equipments & Instruments for Science Departments of Rajshahi College (OTM Package No. G - 11)	02/03/2023 01:00 PM	02/03/2023 02:00 PM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-Gp portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-Gp portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-Gp system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks Branches up to 01-March-2023 04:00 PM
Further information and guideline are available in the National e-Gp System portal and from e-Gp Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Principal Rajshahi College, Rajshahi 12.02.2023

GD- 249

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e-Tender Notice

An e-Tender has been invited for the following work through e-Gp portal, which will be visible from Today. Registered person/organization on e-Gp portal can visit (http:// www.eprocure.gov.bd).

Tender ID No	Name of Work	Last Selling date & Time	Closing date & Time	Opening date & Time
31/e-GP/RHD/EE/DRD/ 2022-2023 Tender ID No: 789388	Repair & Seal Coat work at 13th, 14th, 15th & 16th(p) Km of Madhypara-Aftabgonj-Nawabgonj (Z-5561) Road under Road Division, Dinajpur during the Year 2022-2023.	28/02/2023 16.00	01/03/2023 12.00	01/03/2023 12.00

Reference No. 35.01.2764.413.07.003.23-234
Date: 12.02.2023

Assistant Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Dinajpur.

Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Dinajpur.

GD- 251