

Financial woes force Khasi people to scrap festival

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The Khasi Social Council has announced the cancellation of this year's annual Khasi Seng Kutsnem programme, citing an ongoing economic crisis that has gripped the community.

Traditionally held on November 23, the festival is a significant cultural event for the Khasi people, marking the end of the old year and welcoming the new one.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Philah Pohthmi, general secretary of the Khasi Social Council, explained that the community's primary source of income – betel leaf cultivation – is currently facing a severe downturn.

"Farmers are not receiving fair prices for their betel leaves, which has led to widespread financial hardship," she said.

The program typically costs around Tk 2 lakh to organise, a sum the community has been unable to raise this year due to economic challenges. Instead of the usual grand celebration, the Khasi people will observe the day with smaller, domestic programmes, Pohthmi confirmed.



The Khasi Seng Kutsnem festival, held at the Magurhhara Khasi Community grounds in Kamalganj, Moulvibazar, usually draws participants from 70 Khasi communities in Sylhet Division and attracts tourists from both home and abroad.

Saju Marchiang, publication secretary of the Khasi Social Council, reminisced about the vibrant festivities of previous years. The event features traditional attire,

folk dances, songs, and communal activities like fishing, sports, and cultural performances, aimed at strengthening social ties. A fair also takes place, with stalls offering clothes, betel leaves, and handicrafts made from bamboo and cane.

Despite this year's challenges, Marchiang expressed his confidence on the community's resilience, saying even in modest celebrations, the Khasi people will uphold the spirit of unity and tradition.

Polls delay

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that an election roadmap would be announced soon but refrained from providing a specific timeline. His remarks that the polls could still be delayed even after the roadmap's release have further fuelled suspicions among BNP leaders.

Top BNP figures believe a faction within the government is opposed to holding elections in the near future.

They cautioned that such an approach could escalate tensions and provide ousted autocrats with opportunities to exploit the situation and incite disorder.

"Any election delay will further alienate the government from political parties and deepen the crisis," a standing committee member told this correspondent.

Earlier, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir called on the interim government to quickly announce a roadmap to maintain public confidence. He urged advisers to avoid making misleading or unguarded statements, saying, "It is not your responsibility to govern the country. Organise the election and let politicians take over."

The BNP accused the government of taking advantage of their support, with leaders arguing that until a free and fair election is held, the Awami League will continue leveraging domestic and international allies to undermine the interim government.

Standing committee member Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku criticised the government for neglecting its primary responsibilities.

"Organising the election is their top priority, followed by addressing inflation and maintaining law and order. Their inaction is sowing uncertainty in people's minds," he said.

Another top leader Abdul Moyeen Khan said reforms and elections can proceed simultaneously.

"Reforms are a continuous process and should not be used as an excuse to delay polls," he said.

A conspiracy

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people's right to vote.

He also instructed party leaders and activists to avoid using titles like "Desh Nayak" or "Rastra Nayak" (national hero) before his name.

"As a colleague, I request you, and as your leader, I instruct you that from today[yesterday]onwards, no one should use these titles like Desh Nayak or Rastra Nayak when mentioning my name," he said.

He said that without achieving political and economic emancipation for the people, any reforms would remain meaningless.

"Accountability must be ensured... In any

democratic country, accountability comes through establishing the right to vote," he said.

"The right to speak, political rights, and voting rights are what we are fighting for. Thousands of our colleagues [leaders and activists] have been abducted and killed over these. Over 60 lakh of our activists have faced false cases," Tarique said.

"We are fighting to establish the people's right to vote and their right to freedom of expression. This battle must succeed at any cost. We have to raise public awareness about this," he added.

121 children killed

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The coalition recommended measures including proper documentation and compensation for children killed or injured during protests, establishing a separate directorate for children affairs, redefining

the legal framework on rape, and ensuring swift trials for cases of violence against children.

MKabir, country director of Terre des Hommes Netherlands, and Tamanna Hoq Riti, coordinator of ASK, were among the speakers at the programme.

Suspended

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court, wishing not to be named, said, "Mamun was suspended after some pro-BNP lawyers verbally alleged to the judge of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, demanding his punishment for replying to former minister Qamrul in the CMM Court today."

Mamun said, "When I was returning to my office after completing personal work at the CMM Court, suddenly former minister Qamrul shouted 'nazir' gesturing at me and asked how I was. I replied and left there. Nothing else happened."

Around 1:10pm, a group of BNP backed lawyers vandalised the office where Mamun sits on the first floor of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, said court staffers.

Mamun was not in the office room during the attack, said staffer Mizanur Rahman.

Contacted, Sayed Nazrul Islam, a leader of pro-BNP

lawyers' group, said, "Some aggrieved lawyers vandalised the nazir's office, but I am not sure whether they are our followers or not."

Court administrative officer Abu Hasan said the authorities did not file any case or general diary over the vandalism in their office till 9:30pm.

Meanwhile, Marjia Hera, a pro-BNP lawyer, yesterday submitted a written complaint to the CMM for taking necessary steps against Mamun.

In the complaint, Marjia stated Mamun exchanged views with Qamrul Islam and helped his son enter the courtroom when she and her fellow lawyers were present at the additional CMM Court-4 yesterday.

Hours after the incident, an official of the law ministry called the authorities of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court to take steps against Mamun. His suspension followed that, a court official told The Daily Star.

Graduation ceremony 'Where is Milon?'

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General (Training-1) of Police Headquarters, Mohiul Islam, confirmed the postponement of the closing parade for 66 apprentice ASPs under the 38th and 40th BCS police batches.

He assured that a new date would be set and that training for the apprentice ASPs would continue till then.

This marks the second postponement of the apprentice ASPs' graduation ceremony. Earlier, on October 19, the event was cancelled just hours before it was scheduled.

The postponement followed a press conference on October 17, where BNP standing committee member Salahuddin Ahmed demanded the cancellation of appointments of over 800

SlIs and 67 ASPs, accusing the ousted Awami League regime of making partisan appointments.

A separate press release, signed by Additional DIG (Training-2) Shahala Pervin, also confirmed the postponement of the graduation ceremony for trainee SlIs under the 40th outside cadet batch. The release said the parade date would be announced later, and training of the trainees will continue till then.

The issue of appointments has been a contentious one, particularly following the fall of the Awami League-led government on August 5, amid a student-led mass uprising. Since then, 313 out of 823 trainee SlIs were discharged from the police academy in three phases, reportedly for breaching discipline during training sessions.

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car. I looked at the bodies but my brother was not there. I went on to look for him in every hospital morgue in Ashulia, Gazipur and Dhaka, and also the jails, but found him nowhere," Milton said.

Savita said they had posted Milon's photo in a Facebook group, requesting information on his whereabouts. A person contacted them saying Milon was held hostage and demanded Tk 10,000 for his release. However, once the money was paid through a mobile financing app, the family did not hear from that person again, and realised they were duped.

"After that, we advertised in the newspaper but to no avail," she said.

Savita also said she went to Ashulia Police Station on August 10 to file a missing diary, but the police took a copy of their general diary and sent her back. Later, on August 21, they sent her back again without letting her file the missing diary.

"I want to know what happened to my husband. Where will I go now with my 14-month-old child?" Sabita said.

Contacted Abu Bakr Siddique, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station, could not say anything about Milon's missing dairy.

"We have received 3-4 missing diaries after August 5. We are working on them. No one has been found so far," the OC added.

Security of NBR server

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"Alongside its revenue collection activities, the National Board of Revenue is committed to enhancing safety and security of all its automated systems. To identify and bring to book

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STATUTORY NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
Company Matter No. 1367 of 2024
An Application under Section-12 read with Section-13 of the Companies Act, 1994.
AND
IN THE MATTER OF:
Bashundhara Agro Chemical Industries Limited
..... Petitioner.
-VERSUS-
The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies & Firms, 1, Kawran bazar, TCB Bhaban (6th Floor), Dhaka-1215.
..... Respondents.

Take Notice that an application under Section-12 read with Section-13 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on behalf of the above-named Petitioner for the alteration of the object Clause III to the Memorandum of Association of Bashundhara Agro Chemical Industries Limited.
Upon hearing of the application on 13/11/2024 Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has been pleased to admit the said application and directed to file affidavit-in-compliance within 1 (one) week i.e. on or before 11/12/2024 from the date of publication of this notice.
If anybody is interested to oppose the said application he may appear before the Hon'ble High Court Division either in person or through an Advocate.
Copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary cost.
A.K.M. Badruddoza
Senior Advocate
Alamin Center (Floor M)
25/A, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
Phone: 017115411141

**এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড**
৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা
ঢাকা-১২০৮।

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