

HOOMGUTI KHELA

A rural game that withstood the test of time

MD AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

In Phulbaria upazila of Mymensingh, the shivering cold of winter couldn't dampen the spirit of hundreds who gathered in Laxmipur to witness a spectacle of heritage.

The 266th annual Hoomguti Khela, a game steeped in over two centuries of tradition, brought together people of all ages, castes, and creeds for a day of vibrant celebration.

At the heart of this unique event is a 40-kilogramme brass ball, affectionately called the "Guti". The game's essence lies in skill, strategy, and teamwork as participants work to hide and transport the heavy ball to their designated villages while evading their opponents.

"This game has been part of our tradition for generations," said Abdul Jabber, a 70-year-old resident of Laxmipur village. "In my youth, I used to play it myself during the Poush Sankranti festivities."



Legend has it that Hoomguti Khela was introduced by two influential zamindars -- Maharaja Shashikanta Acharya Chowdhury of Muktagacha and Hemchandra Roy of Boilor in Trishal. According to Md Abdul Kalam, a local journalist, the zamindars devised the game to resolve disputes over land demarcations, testing the strength and strategy of their subjects.

"This is the 266th edition of the event, held every year during Poush Sankranti or Pahura as we call it locally," said AB Siddique, convener of Hoomguti Khela Smriti Sangsads, the organising committee.

On Tuesday, the entire Laxmipur area transformed into a vibrant hub of festivity. Four teams -- East, West, North, and South -- competed to take the Guti from Boroita in Deukhola to their respective villages. The challenge was simple yet demanding: hide the Guti from opposing

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A child sits with two kittens in her lap, providing warmth to them during the winter morning. As temperatures drop, both humans and animals struggle to deal with the cold so this five-year-old has come up with a creative solution. The photo was taken from the Khulna Railway Station area yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Sarjis leads 'March for Felani' Makes 5-point demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Student leader and Jatiya Nagorik Committee chief organiser Sarjis Alam led the "March for Felani" programme in Kurigram yesterday, presenting a five-point demand to address border-related violence.

During a press briefing at the Independence Victory Monument in Kurigram town around 10:30am, Sarjis demanded justice for Felani Khatun, who was killed at the border in 2011, along with an end to border killings and the use of deadly weapons in the area.

"If another innocent life is lost, hanging from the barbed wire fence like Felani, we will launch a long march

through the fence itself," he said.

"Whoever comes to power in Bangladesh must not act as brokers for any foreign country or group. If they do, they will meet the same fate as Hasina," he added.

The event was attended by key figures of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee including joint chief organiser Nizam Uddin, joint convener Atiq Mujahid, central organisers Abu Sayeed Leon and Shakib Mahdi, and central coordinator of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement Rifat Ridwan.

Following the press briefing, participants marched to Felani's house in Ramkhana village of Nageshwari upazila.

Farmer dies of electrocution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A farmer died of electrocution in Kaliganj upazila of Lalmonirhat yesterday.

The deceased is Abu Bakar, 55, of Sundrahabibi village, said police.

Bakar was electrocuted and died on the spot after he came in contact with an electric cable of an irrigation pump while he was preparing a field for paddy cultivation at Sundrahabibi village around noon, said Selim Malik, officer-in-charge of Kaliganj Police Station.

Women leading change thru vermicompost

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Amilu Nasrin, a farmer from Borichhara village in Pabna's Ishwardi upazila, began producing vermicompost at her home about 10 years ago, despite facing criticism from relatives and locals.

Her initiative to produce organic fertiliser from animal waste not only brought her financial stability but also inspired other women in the village to follow her example.

Currently, 30 women farmers in the village are commercially producing 15-20 tonnes of vermicompost each month, selling it to farmers across the upazila.

"I participated in a training programme organised by the Department of Agricultural Extension in 2015 as a community member. That's where I first learned about vermicompost and was inspired to start producing it at home with the help of the local agriculture office," Amilu said.

"Although many relatives and locals criticised me, my husband supported me. We started with a small setup of three vermicompost rings, 2,000 earthworms provided by the DAE, and locally collected cow dung to produce the fertiliser," she added.

"It took about two months to turn the cow dung into vermicompost, which my husband used for growing vegetables and fruits, reducing our dependence

on chemical fertilisers. Soon, other local farmers began buying the organic fertiliser from us, and we haven't looked back since," Amilu said.

Her husband, Ahmedur Rahman, said he now relies primarily on vermicompost instead of chemical fertilisers for cultivating crops.

"For one bigha of land, cultivating vegetables requires at least 50 kilogrammes each of TSP and urea fertilisers. Using

She currently produces about three tonnes of the fertiliser each month.

Inspired by Amilu, 30 other women in the village have started producing vermicompost at their homes.

Anni Khatun, another woman farmer in the village, said, "It costs about Tk 2,500 to produce a tonne of vermicompost, which can be sold for Tk 10,000."

Shahnaz Parvin, another farmer, echoed her.



organic fertiliser, I no longer need TSP and use only 25kg of urea, significantly lowering costs while achieving similar yields," he said.

By using just 2 maunds of vermicompost costing Tk 800, Ahmedur said he saves Tk 3,000 per bigha of land.

"Many local farmers are now using vermicompost, and its demand is increasing," Amilu said.

According to the DAE in Pabna, the district produces around 24,000 tonnes of vermicompost annually, with 6,000 tonnes coming from Ishwardi upazila alone.

Ishwardi upazila has become a major agricultural hub in the country, with fruits like litchi and mango and various vegetables being cultivated successfully.

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ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA: Applications in prescribed form, obtainable from the Office of the Registrar, are invited from the Bangladeshi nationals for filling up 1 (One) permanent vacant post of Lecturer in the Department of Disaster Science and Climate Resilience.

Pay scale: Tk. 22,000-53,060/- for Lecturer (National Pay Scale -2015).

QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must have a first class/a minimum CGPA 3.50 out of 4.00 in both Honours and Master degrees in Disaster Science and Management with a first division/a minimum GPA 4.25 out of 5.00 in both SSC and HSC examinations. Requirements for either the SSC or HSC examinations may be relaxed for the candidates who have obtained the first position/the highest CGPA in both Honours and Master degrees. Candidates having a Ph.D. in the relevant field and research publications(s) in a quality journal may get preference. Relevant notes and conditions apply. (For details, see the Dhaka University Website).

Eight copies of application together with attested copies of certificates, testimonials, mark-sheets/Grade Sheets and proof of experience along with a Pay Order/Bank Draft of the value of Tk. 750/- (seven hundred fifty) only, payable to the Registrar, should reach him on or before 09.02.2025. Applicants already in service must apply through the proper channel.

GD-166

Committee formed to review Press Accreditation Policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed a 17-member committee to review the Press Accreditation Policy 2022.

The committee was formed under the directive of the Chief Adviser's Office, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The notification said the committee will be chaired by Sarwar Alam, press secretary to the president, with Mohammad Kamruzzaman Bhuiyan, deputy chief information officer of the Department of Information, serving as the member secretary.

The committee's mandate is to reassess the policy and provide recommendations for necessary additions, amendments, and refinements.

It will submit its report to the secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting by February 10, the notification added.

No alternative to Jamaat for peace Says Shafiqur Rahman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday claimed that there is no alternative to the party in order to establish peace in the country.

"There is no alternative to Jamaat-e-Islami in order to establish peace in the country. If you want peace in the country, you should come under the banner of Islam," he said while addressing a road meeting in front of Madhukhali Akhchashi Kalyan Bhaban in Madhukhali upazila, Faridpur.

The Jamaat ameer was on the way to Magura when he joined the meeting organised by the party's Madhukhali municipal unit.

"Bangladesh is our birthplace. We are all living here together irrespective of caste, religion. May Allah accept our devotion and bless us so that we can work together to build a new Bangladesh....," he said.

Hundreds of Jamaat leaders and activists from Madhukhali, and neighbouring upazilas joined the event.

CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY BANGLADESH

Office of the Superintending Engineer
Civil Circle, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229.

File No. 30.31.0000.421.04.011.25.1789

Date: 15/01/2025

E-Tender Notice

This is to notify for all concerned that e-Tender is invited and published in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of works for the following Tender. Interested persons/firms can see details by visiting the website www.eprocure.gov.bd

Sl No	Tender ID	Brief description of Works	Tender Reference No.	Last date & time of selling	Last date & time of submission
01.	859014	Reconstruction of damaged slab in front of Biman Hangar from GSE Maintenance apron (North side) towards north at HSIA, Kurmitola, Dhaka.	30.31.0000.401.14.242, 23.20602421, Date: 27-07-23	09-Feb-2025 16:00	10-Feb-2025 14:00

Further information and guidelines is available in the e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

নং-৩০, ৩১, ০০০, ০১১, ১২, ০০১, ২৫/২৩

তারিখ: ১৬/০১/২০২৫ খ্রি।

(A.H.Md Nuruddin Chowdhury)
Superintending Engineer (C.C)
Civil Circle, CAAB, Dhaka-1229.
email:- supengcivil@caab.gov.bd

GOVT. OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (EED)
LALMONIRHAT

Invitation for e-GP Tender (LTM) TENDER NOTICE NO: e-Gp-17/XEN/EED/LAL/4931-SHED/2024-2025

Memo No : XEN/EED/LAL/2025/17

Date: 15/01/2025

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. The Tender who have registered in the National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is eligible to participate in this Tender. The fees of downloading the e-Tender documents of following Packages from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches up to the following date and time.

Sl. No	Package No.	Name of Works	Tender ID	Last Date & Time of Selling Documents	Last Date & Time of Opening Documents
01	4931-SHED/2023-24/13	Repair and renovation works at Govt. Alimuddin Degree College, Hatibandha, Lalmonirhat.	1043264	02-Feb-2025 Time 17:00	03-Feb-2025 Time 11:00
02	4931-SHED/2023-24/12	Repair and renovation works at Hatibandha S S Govt. Model High school, Hatibandha, Lalmonirhat.	1043263	02-Feb-2025 Time 17:00	03-Feb-2025 Time 11:00
03	4931-SHED/2023-24/11	Repair and renovation works at Govt. Josimuddin Kazi Abdul Goni College, Patgram, Lalmonirhat.	1043262	02-Feb-2025 Time 17:00	03-Feb-2025 Time 11:00
04	4931-SHED/2023-24/10	Repair and renovation works at Dohogram Govt. high school, Patgram, Lalmonirhat.	1043261	02-Feb-2025 Time 17:00	03-Feb-2025 Time 11:00
05	4931-SHED/2023-24/09	Repair and renovation works at Patgram Hujur Uddin Govt. Girls high school, Patgram, Lalmonirhat.	1043260	02-Feb-2025 Time 17:00	03-Feb-2025 Time 11:00

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Sultan Mahmud)
Executive Engineer (Add. Charge)



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