

## WHAT'S THE HAPS?

## 'Rishka Festival 2025'

Get ready to step into a world where tradition meets creativity. *Rishka Festival 2025* returns to celebrate Pohela Boishakh in full festive flair. After the roaring success of *Rishka Fest 2024*, this year promises an even more vibrant experience – packed with music, art, food, and the spirit of Noboborsho 1432.

DATE: FRIDAY-MONDAY | APRIL 11-14  
TIME: 11AM-10PM DAILY  
VENUE: ALOKI, DHAKA



## 'No Other Land' director freed following detention by Israeli settlers

Hamdan Ballal, a Palestinian co-director of the Oscar winning documentary *No Other Land*, has been released after being and assaulted and arrested, as confirmed by the documentary's Israeli co-director, Yuval Abraham.

Ballal's release came after concerns grew over his well-being, following Abraham's report on Monday that he was attacked by Israeli settlers outside his West Bank home.

Ballal and two others were detained by Israeli soldiers in Susiya, after around two dozen armed, masked settlers attacked the village, according to witnesses including co-director Basel Adra.

*No Other Land*, a film documenting the destruction of Masaler Yatta by the Israeli military, has won multiple awards but faced backlash, including a brief proposal in Miami Beach to end the lease of a theatre screening it.



PHOTO: AP

## NEWS

## Yunus leaves for China today

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a speech at the opening plenary session of the Boao Forum for Asia Conference, popularly dubbed the Asian Davos, and hold separate meetings with China's Executive Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang and some business leaders.

Yunus, who last attended the conference in China's Hainan Province in 2007, will present his famous theory of Three Zeros and sustainable solutions to global problems.

On March 28, he will meet President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

He is likely to visit a high-tech enterprise under Huawei and give an interview with a leading Chinese media outlet. On March 29, he will be conferred with an honorary doctorate by Peking University, where he will also deliver a speech.

The two countries are likely to sign

a few agreements and memoranda of understanding on economic and technical assistance, support for human resources development, cooperation in disaster mitigation, the establishment of a Chinese book centre, translation and publication of Chinese classical literature, collaboration in the sports sector and cooperation between the state news agencies of the two countries.

Teesta river water management, the Rohingya crisis, development assistance, cooperation in the health sector and Bangladesh's position on various global issues will come up during Yunus's meeting with Xi.

Asked if the Teesta river water management project will be discussed, Jashim said the meeting with the Chinese president is not agenda-driven; rather the two sides will choose issues of their choice for discussion.

"However, there is interest from both sides to discuss the water management issue. Under that, there is a scope to discuss the Teesta issue as well," he said.

Asked if defence cooperation will take place, Jashim said this issue may come up during the discussions given the history of defence cooperation with China.

On the Rohingya issue, he said that Bangladesh has been trying for Rohingya repatriation for the last several years and China is also involved in an initiative.

"What we are expecting from this meeting is the Chinese views on the situation in Myanmar and share our views. Based on that, we can discuss the future course of action," he said.

There might be announcements on financial assistance, concessions in loans and a specialised hospital by China in Bangladesh.

first time the Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist Christian Unity Council has misreported such stories.

Time and again, the council has made controversial claims about the abuse of minorities in Bangladesh. Yet, when confronted with the facts, they persist in refusing to correct their misleading publications, the statement added.

The council acting general secretary, Monindra Kumar Nath, told The Daily Star, "The information we provided on March 12 is based on incidents reported in various national newspapers. At the same time, we have verified these facts on the ground. Therefore, all the information we have provided is entirely true."

He said, "Unfortunately, the government has opposed our findings. We expect the government to investigate our information, arrest those involved, and ensure justice."

These examples illustrate that the deaths were largely the result of personal disputes, criminal acts, or accidents, not communal violence as claimed by the council, the press wing statement read.

The statement claimed that unfortunately, this is not the

following a dispute over a goat, and Sree Palash, an auto-rickshaw driver in Chapainawabganj, was murdered by criminals attempting to steal his rickshaw. Sree Dipen Munda in Moulvibazar was killed as part of a long-standing dispute, while Kanai Shabdakar died after a family quarrel. Kanai Pashi was found dead under mysterious circumstances in a tea garden, and Arnab Kumar Sarker, a Khulna University student, was shot by unknown assailants over a previous conflict. Lastly, Utpal Roy in Narayanganj was killed during a robbery at his home.

On the afternoon of March 19, Hridoy's brother Jasim called the victim's brother on his phone and asked him to pick up his sister. Then, the girl was rescued from Hridoy's house in a critical condition by her relatives and admitted to the upazila health complex, according to the case statement.

Later, she was admitted to the Manikganj 250 bed District Hospital.

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