

জুড় ও নিতাপদে রেমিটিয়ন্স পাঠান
প্রিয়জনের প্রয়োজনে...

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It's festival time in the hills

MD ABBAS, from Rangamati

Rangamati, one of Bangladesh's most picturesque hill districts, has come alive with vibrant colours, music, and festivities as indigenous communities celebrate their biggest traditional festival marking the advent of the new year.

The Boisabi festival -- an umbrella term encompassing Biju, Sangrai, and Boisu, celebrated by the Chakma, Marma, and Tripura communities -- is observed across the Chittagong Hill Tracts, alongside other indigenous celebrations such as Bishu, Bihu, Sangkrain, Changkrain, and Pata.



Together, they reflect the unity and cultural diversity of the hill communities.

The celebrations began in Rangamati town on Tuesday morning with a festive inauguration ceremony at the municipality, where Rangamati Hill District Council Chairman Kajal Talukder released colourful balloons, officially launching the four-day festivities. Indigenous artists from different ethnic groups -- including Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Tanchangya, and Pangkhua -- performed traditional dances and songs, showcasing the region's rich cultural heritage.

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People catch up with the daily headlines of various newspapers that are plastered across this wall before boarding a train in Narayanganj yesterday. Even in the digital age, print media matters as people depend on it for accurate news, facts and analysis. The photo was taken near the train station.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Declare AL a 'criminal org'

Say NCP, Hefazat at meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Citizen Party and Hefazat-e-Islam have reached a consensus on demanding the trial of the Awami League and the suspension of its political activities until the trial is concluded.

At a meeting held yesterday at the NCP's temporary central office in Banglamotor, both parties emphasised the need for transparency in the prosecution process ahead of the national election and proposed declaring the Awami League a "criminal organisation".

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CONSENSUS COMMISSION

2 more parties submit opinions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Odhikar Parishad and a faction of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh have submitted their written opinions regarding key reform proposals to the National Consensus Commission.

Representatives of both parties separately submitted their opinions to the commission's vice-chairman, Prof Ali Riaz, at the commission's office in the National Parliament building yesterday.

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ELECTION ROADMAP

BNP to meet Prof Yunus on April 16

Announces rallies in solidarity with Palestinians today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will meet Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on April 16 to press for a clear and specific roadmap for the upcoming national election and to resolve confusion surrounding the polls.

Party leaders said they will clearly state their demand for the national election to be held by December this year and seek clarity on the government's position and intentions regarding the matter.



Salahuddin Ahmed

We will certainly want a specific roadmap for the upcoming national parliamentary election before December from the chief adviser.

The party also plans to discuss various other issues, including the ongoing reform process.

The meeting is scheduled to take place at 12:00pm at the state guesthouse Jamuna, confirmed BNP Standing Committee Member Salahuddin Ahmed to The Daily Star.

Party leaders said BNP wants to understand the government's plan and end the growing uncertainty surrounding the election; hence, they want to meet the chief adviser and get clear answers.

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

As this launch navigates the waters of the Buriganga river, it leaves behind a trail of foam, a clear sign of pollution. For decades, the Buriganga has been a victim of mindless dumping of untreated waste and effluents that contain heavy metals and residues of toxic chemical. This photo was taken from the Postogola Bridge yesterday.

Poachers kill elephant for tusks in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Poachers killed a wild elephant and took its tusks and claws in Banshkhali upazila of Chattogram yesterday.

The male elephant, around 7-8 years old, was found dead inside a protected forest area in Chechuria, a part of Jaldee Range under Chattogram South Forest Division.

"On information, a team from the forest department reached the scene for inspection, and confirmed that the poachers had stolen the tusks and claws after killing the elephant," said Abdullah Al Mamun, divisional forest officer of Chattogram South Forest Division.

"The elephant was killed with a sharp weapon. There are multiple stab wounds on its back and chest," he added.

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'A gentleman in the truest sense'

Say speakers on Prof Arefin Siddique at memorial event

DU CORRESPONDENT

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique will be remembered for his charismatic personality and exceptional capacity for empathetic listening, said speakers at a memorial ceremony yesterday.

The ceremony was held in remembrance of the late Prof Arefin Siddique, former vice chancellor of Dhaka University, at DU. It was organised by the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism.

At the event, DU Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan said, "Arefin Siddique was a true gentleman. All his friends, and even his adversaries, if they reflect honestly, will admit this."

"In our society, it is difficult to maintain composure and proper conduct while holding a powerful position -- especially knowing that one will eventually have to leave the role. Arefin Siddique handled this remarkably well," he added.

"He could always see the bigger picture, even under stress and emotional pressure -- a vital quality for someone in his position," Prof Niaz said.

Prof Mamun Ahmed, pro-vice chancellor of



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Man dies near B'baria border

Family alleges BSF torture

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A farmer from Bijoynagar upazila in Brahmanbaria died after allegedly being detained and assaulted by India's Border Security Force (BSF) near Sejamura border on Tuesday evening.

The Bangladeshi border guards, however, have not confirmed detention or assault and said an investigation was under way.

The deceased was identified as Muradur Rahman Munna of Sejamura village.

The deceased's wife Ratna Akter said their family's farmland is located 150 to 300 yards inside the barbed-wire fence along the border.

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