

ত্রুটি এ রিপোর্ট রিপোর্ট পাঠান  
প্রিয়জনের প্রয়োজনে...

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Thousands thronged Suhrawardy Udyana yesterday for the 'March for Gaza' rally, voicing solidarity with the Palestinian people and protesting Israeli aggression. In front of the stage, participants held replicas of bodies -- symbolising the killing of Gazans, including children, by Israeli forces. The 95-acre venue was packed by noon as crowds poured in with calls for justice, marching through key streets of the capital, including Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue and the Sonargaon intersection, waving Palestinian and Bangladeshi flags. Many also gathered at the Raju Memorial Sculpture on the Dhaka University campus beforehand, carrying messages of hope, resistance, and unity.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN, PALASH KHAN, ANISUR RAHMAN

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## Festivity in air as Boisabi begins



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

With the first light of day casting a golden hue over the Sangu river, members of the Chakma and Tanchangya communities gathered near Bandarban town yesterday morning to mark the beginning of Boisabi -- one of the most significant cultural festivals in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Carrying vibrant floral offerings arranged on banana leaves, participants of all ages arrived in traditional attire well before sunrise. The occasion began at precisely 7:00am with the lighting of candles and a solemn flower-offering ritual known as Phool Biju and Phool Bisu by offering flowers in the Sangu river and praying for a peaceful life ahead.

Celebrated by 11 indigenous communities including the Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Tanchangya, Mro, Khumi, and Khiyang, among others, Boisabi is the heart of the hill tracts' social and cultural identity. As the festival unfolds, joy and festivity ripple through Bandarban, Rangamati, and Khagrachhari.

In Bandarban, a week-long series of traditional events has been planned.

Today's highlights include a Sangrai rally and a prayer session for senior citizens. On April 14, Buddha statues will be ceremonially bathed in local temples, followed by the preparation of traditional pitha at night. April 15 will feature a Boli Khela (wrestling match) at Rajar Maath, and from April 16 to 18, the Marma community's Rilongpoi -- or Friendship Water Splashing Festival -- will be held at the same venue.

"We observe Phool Biju by seeking forgiveness from Jolbuddho and Mother Ganga and praying for peace and happiness in the coming year," said Siddhartha Chakma, standing by the riverside.



## Increase lower court judges to 6,000

Recommends reform commission

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Judiciary Reform Commission has suggested increasing the number of lower court judges to at least 6,000 by appointing around 4,000 additional ones in order to bring the backlog of pending cases to a tolerable level.

The commission also proposed to appoint honest, efficient and healthy retired judges on contractual basis for a period of two to three years in the districts where at least 1,000 appeals or revision cases are pending.

The number of total judges for the lower courts is now 2,187, including 496 female judges. They are burdened with around 39 lakh pending cases. On average, a single judge is burdened with 1,783 cases, Supreme Court sources said.

"The number of judges should be increased step by step. With the increase in the number of judges, the necessary infrastructure, manpower and logistic support must be provided on an urgent basis," the commission said in its final report handed over to the chief adviser

on February 5.

The commission emphasised introduction of an effective local Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) system for resolving small disputes at village level and taking assistance of legal aid activities if necessary.

It also recommended establishing an independent Criminal Investigation Service for speedy and impartial investigations; taking necessary steps to improve the enrollment and quality of lawyers in due process; providing necessary infrastructure in all courts; allocating necessary budgets for the judiciary and keeping the executive as free as possible from control and proper decentralisation of the judiciary to reduce the case backlog.

The eight-member commission was formed on October 3 last year with former Appellate Division judge Justice Shah Abu Nayem Mominur Rahman as its chief.

Other members include retired HC judges Justice Emdadul Haque and Justice Farid Ahmed Shibli;

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## Don't equate July uprising with Liberation War JASAD tells consensus commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Any move to equate the July 2024 uprising with the 1971 Liberation War in the constitution undermines the significance of the latter and is therefore unacceptable, Bangladesh Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JASAD) said yesterday.

The party made the statement during a meeting with the National Consensus Commission (NCC) at the LD Hall of the National Parliament. A JASAD delegation, led by General Secretary Nazmul Haque Prodhan, attended the meeting.

Mushtaq Hossain, a member of JASAD's standing committee, presented the party's proposals. He said while the 2024 uprising was important, it should not be compared with the Liberation War.

He also referred to the 1990 mass movement and said both events should be recognised in the constitution.

The party opposed any move to remove the Declaration of Independence and the March 7 speech from the constitution.

JASAD also disagreed with several proposed constitutional changes, including keeping "Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim" and the state religion at the start of the constitution. The party also rejected the idea of lowering the minimum age to contest elections from 25 to 21.

However, the party supported proposals

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Fishing trawlers remain docked at the mouth of Chakta canal in Chattogram city amid the ongoing "National Jatka Conservation Week," observed from April 8 to 14 to protect hilsa. The photo was taken recently.

## Govt plans to resolve judge crisis soon Says Asif Nazrul

BSS, Dhaka

The interim government will address the longstanding crises of judge shortage and logistics, said Law Adviser Asif Nazrul yesterday.

"There is indeed a crisis stemming from the shortage of judges and inadequate logistics. As we have only recently assumed office, the appointment of judges will take some time. However, these issues will be resolved during our tenure," he told journalists after inspecting the land acquired for the Chief Judicial Court in Bandarban.

Talking about the possibility of referring family court cases to arbitration, the law

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