



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

তথ্য অধিদফতর



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

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#### Newsbrief

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus greeted the countrymen on the occasion of Bangla New Year 1432. In a video message on Bangla New Year, the Chief Adviser made the call upon yesterday. The Chief Adviser said that the 2024 mass uprising has given us an opportunity to build a discrimination-free country. In this New Year, building a discrimination-free Bangladesh should be our pledge, the Chief Adviser added.

Bangladesh and Singapore reiterated their commitment to finalize the Free Trade Agreement 2026 during the Fourth Foreign Office Consultations between the two countries, held in Singapore. The two countries also agreed to work towards concluding the agreement on customs cooperation, the revised protocol for the avoidance of double taxation, the treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and the MoU on cooperation in the field of tourism. Foreign Secretary Md. Jashim Uddin and Singapore Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Luke Goh led their respective side, according to a Foreign Ministry's press release yesterday.

Bangladesh and Turkiye expected that a collaborative endeavor would enhance the partnership between the two nations to new heights, demonstrating a shared dedication to cultivating stronger relationships. This was observed when Foreign Adviser Md. Touhid Hossain along with Information and Broadcasting Adviser Mahfuj Alam met the Turkiye Foreign Affairs Minister Hakan Fidan, at the latter's office in Ankara yesterday.

Under a joint initiative of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation and Bangla Academy, a Baisakhi Fair began on Bangla Academy premises in the capital yesterday. Industries Adviser Adilur Rahman Khan and Cultural Affairs Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki inaugurated the fair which will continue till April 20. Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Industries Adviser said, from the hills to the plains, the whole country is in festive mood to celebrate the Bengali New Year- 'Pahela Baishakh'.

Bangladesh officially signed the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Labour Centre Statute at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah which will contribute towards promoting labour rights and welfare in Bangladesh as a signatory country. On behalf of the government of Bangladesh, Labour and Employment Adviser Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hussain signed the statute at a ceremony, according to the Foreign Ministry yesterday.

Women and Children Affairs and Social Welfare Adviser Sharmeen S Murshid said, Pahela Baishakh is not only a date in the calendar rather it stands as a symbol of cultural heritage, love and celebration. The Adviser said this while speaking as the chief guest at the inauguration ceremony of 'Pahela Baishakh' celebration at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy yesterday. 'Pahela Baishakh' is a time to let go of past sorrows and challenges as well as embrace the New Year with renewed hope and determination, the Adviser added.

Dhaka City dwellers yesterday celebrated 'Pahela Baishakh', the first day of Bangla New Year-1432, in an inclusive manner and festivity. Members belonging to different religious communities including ethnic groups jointly celebrated 'Pahela Baishakh' for the first time with much enthusiastic and festivities. The central celebration of 'Borshoboron Anondo Shovajatra' began from Dhaka University campus. Cultural Affairs Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, who joined the rally, among others, said fascism is not part of politics as they are the evil forces of the country.

The government is keen to promote Pahela Baishakh, the Bengali New Year, into a major attraction for tourism, highlighting the unique festive spirit of Bangladesh to the world, said Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Nasreen Jahan. The Secretary made the remarks while inaugurating the 'Baishakhi Celebration 1432 and Food Festival' at the Bangladesh National Hotel and Tourism Training Institute in the capital's Mohakhali yesterday.

Chhayanaut, the country's esteemed cultural organization, welcomed the Bangla Nababarsha, the first day of the Bangla New Year, with its flagship traditional cultural festivity at the Ramna Park in the capital yesterday.

Bangladesh successfully completed humanitarian activities and rescue operations in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that struck Myanmar on March 28. After completing the operations, the Bangladeshi team, comprising of Army rescue personnel, doctors, nurses and fire-service personnel, left Myanmar for Dhaka yesterday.



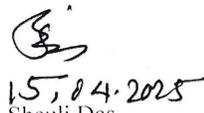
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