

“Justice for Zubeen Garg” Echoes Across Rongali Bihu Celebrations in Nazira



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An emotional and charged atmosphere prevailed at the historic Kareng courtyard as people across Assam marked the first day of Rongali Bihu—the Bohag festival—amid grief over the absence of iconic singer Zubeen Garg. From Upper Assam to Lower Assam, voices united in a powerful call: “Justice for Zubeen Garg.”

Rongali Bihu, the most cherished festival of the Assamese community, began with its first day known as Manuh Bihu, traditionally dedicated to human bonding and respect. This year, however, celebrations carried a deep sense of sorrow as people paid tribute to the beloved artist, widely regarded as the heartbeat of Assamese culture and a youth icon.

At the Kareng premises in Gargaon, the air resonated with emotion as attendees remembered Zubeen Garg through his timeless creations. His iconic song “Mayabini” lent a solemn yet spirited tone to the gathering, symbolizing both mourning and admiration.

The 31st Open Bihu celebration was organized by the Simaluguri Regional Committee of the All Assam Jatiyatabadi Youva Chatra Parishad (AJYCP) with public support. The programme featured traditional rituals such as flag hoisting, ceremonial offerings, and tributes to martyrs. Floral tributes and lamp lighting were also offered in memory of Zubeen Garg and the legendary Bhupen Hazarika.

The event included plantation drives, traditional egg-fight demonstrations, and felicitation of individuals for their contributions to society. Cultural performances—Bihu dances and Husori troupes—added vibrancy, bringing the Kareng courtyard alive with festive energy despite the underlying grief.

Prominent speakers, including central committee leaders, described Zubeen Garg’s death as a “pre-planned murder” and demanded a thorough investigation and justice. They also called for legal action against those allegedly responsible, including organisers linked to the Northeast Festival.

The programme also saw the release of a commemorative book titled “*Kareng*,” edited by Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta and Bikash Hazarika, and unveiled by noted poet and retired headmistress Snigdharani Gogoi.

While Rongali Bihu is traditionally a time of joy and celebration, this year’s observance in Nazira reflected a poignant blend of cultural pride and collective mourning, as Assam continues to seek answers and justice for one of its most cherished voices.

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