



জেতুকা





Bohag Bihu or Rongali Bihu is the biggest festival of the Assamese people. It marks the beginning of the first month of Asomiya calendar, *Bohag* (14th April – 14th May). It is a spring, New Year and agricultural festival all rolled into one. In this time, nature is at its resplendent best with new leaves appearing in trees, orchids blooming and cuckoos singing in their midst. It is the best time for merriment and feasting.

The first day of *Bohag Bihu* is known as '*Goru Bihu*'. In the morning the cattle are given a good wash in a nearby pond or river, and then adorned with vegetable garlands. They are allowed to graze without restraint for the day. In the evening when they return home, they are tied with new ropes and fed with special cakes. Oil lamps and incense are lighted in the cowsheds to ward off illness.

The next day is '*Manuh Bihu*'. On this day greetings and homage is paid to friends and families. Every one seeks blessings of their elders by touching their feet. *Gamocha*, is exchanged as a token of love and respect. Special dishes made of rice, curds, jaggery and sweets are prepared and eaten. '*Larus*' and '*pithas*' provide the real flavour of the season.

Games, sports, Bihu songs and dances are a part of the celebrations. *Mukoli Bihu* is performed where troupes of dancers and musicians dances and sings in the open. People enjoy themselves at the change of season and prepare themselves for the coming year.

The ***Rongali Bihu 2008 in Kuwait*** was celebrated over two days on 11th and 18th April 2008. The first day's celebration was held in the Fintas Park. Various Fun and Games events were organized for the ladies and children of all age groups. The gents enjoyed a game of cricket. The ladies served an incredible range of snacks including Pithas, Larus, Jalpan to cater to everyone's taste. The children returned a winner with token of gifts and sweet memories of bonhomie. The second day's celebrations are organized at the Kohinoor Restaurant in Fahaheel. It showcases the rich cultural traditions of Bihu and Assamese society through an in-house cultural programme, followed by dinner, symbolic of the tradition of Bihu feasting.

Know your Kuwait

- ❖ Despite being a desert, Kuwait has to import sand in order to make concrete. All the Kuwaiti sand is the wrong kind.
- ❖ No dish is more symbolic of the lavishness of Kuwaiti hospitality than Al Khouzi. In the desert a sheep was traditionally slaughtered to feast a visitor. Today, on special occasions and feast days Khouzi is served. This is a whole lamb, stuffed with eggs, rice, almonds, spices and pine nuts then baked for several hours in a large sealed pot over a hot fire.
- ❖ Date connoisseurs from throughout the Middle East, Africa and Asia consider the 'Khalasah' (and whose name in Arabic translates loosely as the 'quintessence') as the jewel in the crown. Date harvest season lasts from May straight through October.
- ❖ The number of U.S. troops in Kuwait at any given time is in the range of about 70,000-100,000. All these U.S. soldiers hardly ever see any ordinary Kuwaitis and vice versa. The simple reason: the bases are set to be as far away and insulated as can be from the rest of Kuwait. These arrangements have proved very effective at keeping substantial U.S. military presence as unobtrusive as humanly possible.
- ❖ Camp Doha, the main U.S. military base during the Gulf War was closed down in 2005. Camp Afrikan is the largest new operating base for U.S. ground forces. This is about an hour's drive farther into the desert away from Camp Doha which is near the Kuwait International Airport.
- ❖ Kuwait's 222 kilometer long border with Iraq is effectively policed. It has a combination of fencing and electronic sensors and moreover is subject to working agreements and active inspections by security forces from both sides.
- ❖ The 350-mile highway from Kuwait to Baghdad carries 2000 or so heavily guarded trucks every day, whose loads account for 90 percent of all material and other supplies for coalition forces in Iraq.
- ❖ Kuwait's Burgan oil field is ranked world's second largest oil field after Saudi Arabia's Ghawar structure. It was discovered in 1938 and brought on stream in 1948.
- ❖ The days are long past when camels were used for transportation. Today, they are raised more for their milk and meat, for racing and, yes, for their beauty. Camel beauty pageants, in which camels are judged on their looks and dressage, are held all over Saudi Arabia. They have become very popular in recent years.
- ❖ Fehaid Al Deehani (b. October 11, 1966) was the Kuwaiti winner of the bronze medal for the men's Double Trap shooting event at the 2000 Summer Olympics. The medal was the first Olympic medal ever to be won by Kuwait.
- ❖ Arabic Dhow is the symbol of Kuwait. Kuwait was a pearl diving and fishing centre. Fishermen used traditional Arabic Dhows to sail the Gulf.
- ❖ Kuwait's pearling industry, which once boasted 800 pearling ships, almost disappeared with the introduction of Japanese cultured pearls and the worldwide fall in demand for luxury goods following the Wall Street Crash of 1929.
- ❖ On the sea side of the Gulf Road beginning at the Scientific Center and continuing as far as the fish market at Souk Sharq (a 16 km stretch) there are a total of 86 eateries, plus an additional 4 under construction near the Kuwait Towers. This works out at 1 eatery every 186 meters. And this excludes the restaurants on the other side of the road.



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