

Durga Puja begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Blowing conches, ringing bells and cymbals, and booming dhak (drums) amid high-pitched ululation, Hindu devotees today herald the five-day Durga Puja celebrations across the country.

Following the lunar schedule, Bodhon ritual and Mahashashthi puja will be held in the morning and the Adhibash of devi (goddess) Durga in the evening today.

The Hindus believe that the goddess, accompanied by her children Ganesh, Kartik, Lakshmi and Saraswati, descends on the earth today, the Mahashashthi, at the supplication of the devotees and stays for the next four days.

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Garment workers block city road for 8 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several thousand of agitating workers from two garment factories barricaded Rokeya Sarani yesterday for eight and a half hours resulting in a traffic gridlock in the capital.

Workers of Perfect Sweaters Ltd and TS Sweaters Ltd blockaded both sides of Rokeya Sarani stretching from Agargaon to Mirpur 10 and brought all vehicular movement to a standstill from 8:00am to 4:30pm.

A huge number of police were deployed on the scene to avoid any untoward incident.

The abrupt halt of traffic clogged

up the surrounding streets causing excruciating sufferings to commuters and city dwellers who had no other means but to walk to get to their destinations.

The workers claimed that they were compelled to barricade the roads as a means of drawing attention since their employers turned a deaf eye to their nine-point demand which included increase of salary, Eid bonus, over time work opportunity and shorter work hours during Ramadan.

A TS Sweaters employee said they had a discussion with the factory officials on September 16

regarding their demands followed up by another meeting on September 24 where the officials assured the workers of considering their demands as per BGMEA rules.

"We suddenly found both garment factories closed on September 25 for indefinite period. We tried to contact our employers, but as we failed to reach them. And that forced us to take this action," explained Mobarak Hussain, another employee at TS Sweater Limited.

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VOTER LIST

EC ready to invite bid for printing job

UNB, Dhaka

The Election Commission (EC) has taken steps to invite tender for printing voter list, a task considered by the commission as the biggest one at this moment.

"The prime minister gave the approval yesterday (Tuesday)... We also received the letter of approval (relaxing the public procurement rules) on the day. Tender notice will be published in the newspapers," Secretary to the EC Secretariat Abdur Rashid Sarker told reporters at his office yesterday.

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Thaksin & Co set to be banished from politics

Thai junta counts on graft probes; new PM by weekend

AGENCIES, Bangkok

Thai coup leaders hope probes into graft allegations against deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his cabinet will end with them banished from politics, their chief lawyer said yesterday.

Meechai Ruchupan, a seasoned lawmaker who has been churning

out orders and announcements since the September 19 coup, said he expected the military-appointed graft-busting panel to wrap up its probes soon.

"If it turns out that way, it will be great," Meechai told reporters when asked if Thaksin and his cabinet would be found guilty,

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Sehri, Iftar timing

Ramadan	Sept	Sehri	Iftar
4	28		5-53
5	29	4-30	5-51
6	30	4-30	5-50

Prayer Timing

September 28

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-42
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-53	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation