

Ensure peaceful celebration of Durga Puja

Hindu leaders urge govt
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hindu leaders have expressed concern over the security measures during the Durga Puja.

The leaders of Bangladesh Puja Uddipan Parishad, Mohanagar Sarbojanee Puja Committee, Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad, and Bangladesh Hindu Youth Welfare Foundation alleged that local law enforcers did not take any action against the perpetrators who damaged the idols of Durga at different places especially in Khulna and Satkhira.

"We request the home ministry to arrange sufficient security so that devotees can celebrate the puja peacefully," said Jayanta Sen Dipu, president of Mohanagar Sarbojanee Puja Committee, while addressing a press conference at the Dhakeshwari National Temple in the city.

"We do not want to celebrate our biggest festival under tight security, but what can we do when vested quarters damage the idols of Durga?" said Biresh Chandra Shaha, general secretary of Bangladesh Puja Uddipan Parishad.

The five-day-long Durga Puja will begin on October 17.

The Hindu devotees yesterday celebrated the Mahalaya, ceremonial invocation of goddess Durga.

According to official sources a total of 14170 puja mandaps including 151 in capital have been set up to celebrate the Durga Puja.

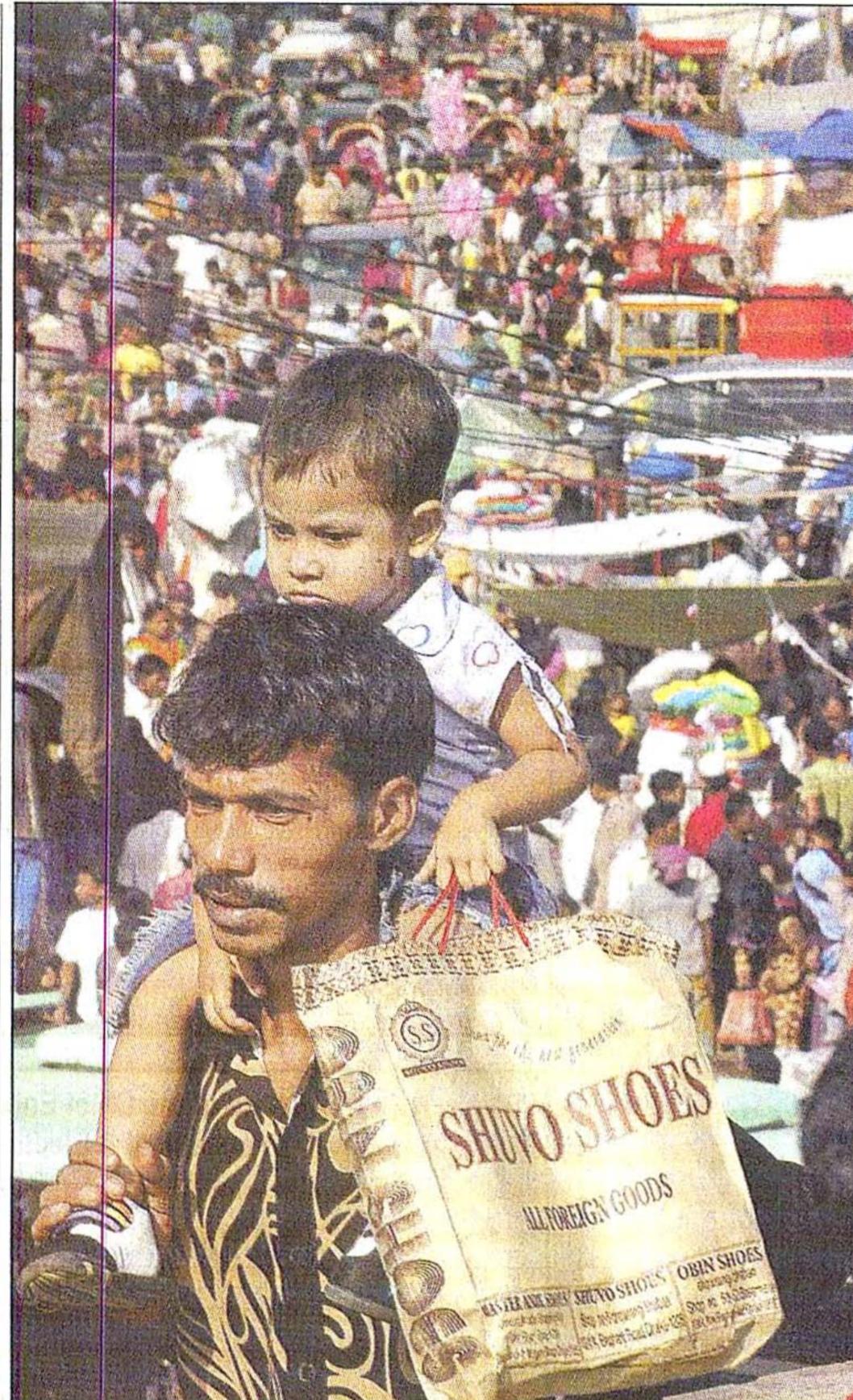
British HC closed Oct 14-15

The British High Commission in Dhaka and its office in Sylhet will remain closed to the public on October 14 and 15 on the occasion of the Eid-ul-Fitr, says a press release.

Udichi founding anniversary on October 29

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigosthi, one of the leading cultural organisations in Bangladesh, will celebrate its 39th founding anniversary on October 29 amid festivity throughout the country, says a press release.

On the occasion it will organise discussion and cultural programme at Shilpkala Academy.



A father carries his child on his shoulders while returning home after shopping for Eid gifts in New Market area in the city yesterday.

3 firms fined Tk 3.90 lakh for pilfering Wasa water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court here yesterday fined three commercial firms Tk 3.90 lakh for pilfering Wasa water.

Sources said a team of engineering department of Chittagong Wasa in a raid at a railway building at BRTC area on Tuesday unearthed the huge pilferage of water.

During the drive the team found that Hotel Sylhet Super Limited and The City Super Complex run by Railway Men's Store, have been pilfering Wasa water since long by sinking a deep tubewell without taking permission from Wasa.

The two firms were also involved in selling huge quantity of water collected through the deep tubewell, sources said.

The team also found that Chittagong Fruit Traders Association misused a great deal of water in a storehouse located at the same building.

Chittagong Port Authority Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, also acting as Chittagong Wasa Magistrate, summoned the authorities of the three firms yesterday and realised Tk 3.90 lakh fine.

Meanwhile, the same court in a two-day drive on Monday and Tuesday fined five cargo vessels and two oil tankers for risky movement at Patenga estuary in rough weather violating the cautionary signal no 3.

The fined cargo vessels were MV Mou Moni, MV Romaishah, MV Jewel-2, MV Sharp-3 and MV Three Star while the oil tankers were MT Shabnam-2 and MT Jamir Uddin.

2 arrested with bullets, foreign liquor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday recovered 206 rounds of bullets, 78 bottles of foreign liquor and held two people in the city.

They are Mainul Islam Baburchi, 36, and Muhammad Sheikh Farid, 24.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab team raided the house of Mainul at Hazaribagh at around 1:30am and seized the liquor.

Mainul also took them to one of his in-laws' house at Madhubazar from where they seized 178 rounds of bullet for pistol, 24 rounds of bullet for shotgun and two mobile sets.

'Take step to protect monga-hit people'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Workers' Party of Bangladesh (WPB) yesterday urged the government to take immediate steps to protect the people of monga-hit areas in northern region.

They demanded of the government to start Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF), Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) activities,

Food for Work and Money for Work programme in the affected areas.

In a joint statement WPB President Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimol Biswas said the day and farm labourers will face tremendous food crisis as flood hit the region two times this year.

They said the flood not only damaged crops but also created job crisis for the toiling masses.

If the government does not take immediate steps to help them, the people would experience worst monga this time, they warned.

WPB leaders also condemned the excess fare in launch and bus services despite government's warning.

They urged the authorities concerned to provide adequate service and security to the passengers.

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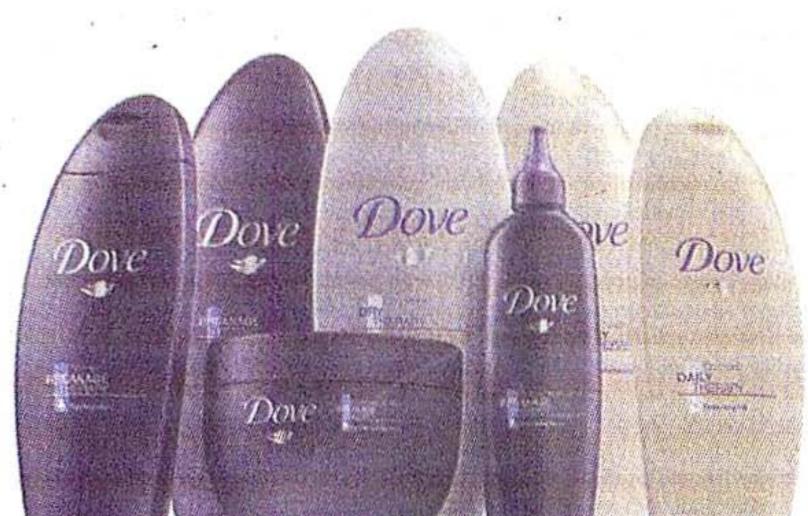


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