



PHOTO: STAR

These are a few of the 151 thematic idols, specially sculpted for the exceptional arrangement of Durga Puja, adorn a puja mandap in the yard of Boidyanath Saha at Baikunthapur village in Madhukhali upazila of Faridpur district.

A puja festival with a difference

Devotees make 151 images on religious themes in Faridpur village

REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur

Durga Puja, the biggest festival of the Bangali Hindu community, this time sees an exceptional arrangement at Baikunthapur village in Madhukhali upazila of Faridpur district as 151 pratimas (image), exhibiting 22 different themes on the legends of the goddess have been erected there.

The themes include Sristi Rahosya (mystery of creation), Brindaboney Radha Krishna (Radha and Krishna in Brindaban), Satya Baner Jibon Tyag (Satya Ban's sacrifice of life), Hanumaner Ayodhya Gomon (Hanuman goes to

Ayodhya), Ram Sitar Bonobash Jatra (Exile of Ram and Sita) and Sitar Ogni Parikkha (Sita's test by fire).

Sculptor Basudev Goswami of Sonapur village of Rajbari with the help of his wife Dipali Goswami and sons Krishna Goswami and Boloram Goswami made the 151 images over the last four months. Mahanondo Paul and Shidun Halder also helped Basudev.

Baikunthapur Saha Jubo Sangho (BSJS) has arranged the festival in the yard of Boidyanath Saha.

"This is the first time Durga Puja is being celebrated with 151 depictions anywhere in

the country. I presented different themes with the help of my co-artists. The themes will help the visitors and the Hindu devotees to understand the inner significance of religion," Basudev Goswami said.

The main entrepreneur of the festival, Biplob Saha, son of Boidyanath Saha of Baikunthapur village, said, "Around Tk 12 lakh has been spent for making the beautiful depictions during last four months. The young men of Baikunthapur Saha Jubo Sangha are working selflessly to organise the celebration."

Nishisth Saha, one of the organisers of the festival, said forty famous people including

poets and writers from across the country will join the celebrations.

Madhukhali upazila Chairman Mafizur Rahman Manju said, "The celebration of Durga Puja with 151 depictions is really extraordinary. It has never happened before. A large number of enthusiasts from across the country are expected to visit Baikunthapur Mandap."

"The unique celebration of Durga festival in Baikunthapur village has created a lot of enthusiasm among the people in the district," Faridpur Deputy Commissioner Helaluddin Ahmed said.

BORDER COORDINATION MEET AT TENTULIA BDR, BSF exchange lists of criminals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday exchanged the lists of criminals of the bordering areas of the two countries at a sector commander level border coordination meeting at Tentulia in Panchagarh district.

Dinajpur Sector Commander Col Saleh Ahmed and Rangpur Sector Commander Col Mohammad Khairuzzaman led the eight-member BDR delegation while a nine-member BSF team was led by Kishanganj DIG Mohammad Farid Khan at the meeting at Tentulia Gano Sahajya Sangstha Bhaban in Tentulia upazila.

The meeting began at 11:00am and continued till 5:00pm.

Col Saleh Ahmed and Col Khairuzzaman received the BSF officials when they entered Bangladesh through Kazipara border in Tentulia upazila at 10:30am.

After the meeting, Col Saleh and Col

Khairuzzaman told a press briefing that the listing of criminals of the bordering areas of the two countries were exchanged at the meeting. Both sides agreed on joint patrol to check border terrorism, smuggling, drug trade, intrusion and traffick-

ing of women and children, they said.

The two sides also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to maintain peace on the border, show highest restraint at special circumstances and solve border related problems

through discussion.

Both sides agreed not to fire on innocent people at any position.

They also agreed to take up programmes to develop awareness among the bordering people to obey border rules.



PHOTO: STAR

Officials of Bangladesh Rifles and Indian Border Security Force hold a sector commander level border coordination meeting at Tentulia in Panchagarh district yesterday. They exchanged the lists of criminals of the bordering areas of the two countries and signed a MoU to maintain peace on the border.

Four get life for four murders in Kishoreganj

Acid thrower jailed for 10 years in Bagerhat

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A Kishoreganj court yesterday sentenced four people to life imprisonment for killing four people in 2000 while a Bagerhat court awarded 10 years jail to an acid thrower the day before.

The lifers are Gias Uddin alias Geshu, Jashim alias Murshid, Sabuj miah and Kalam alias Kanai of Katiadi upazila of Kishoreganj district. Of them, Gias and Jashim are in jail while Sabuj and Kalam still at large, according to a correspondent.

Additional District and Sessions Judge SM Abdus Salam pronounced the verdict, acquitting ten others as charges brought against them could not be proved. He fined the convicts Tk 10,000 each, in default they are to suffer six months more.

According to prosecution, the four entered an oil and fertiliser shop Paschim Bazar in Katiadi upazila on the night of February 24, 2000 and killed shop employees Dharendra Nath Saha, 60, Shankar Chandra Saha, 35, and Shuklal Saha, 60, and

truck helper Bijoy Chakraborty as they were asleep. They also took away Tk 75,000 from the shop.

Shop owner Priya Lal Roy filed a murder and looting case with Katiadi Police Station the following day, accusing 14 people.

In Bagerhat, Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court on Wednesday sentenced an acid thrower to 10 years rigorous imprisonment, reports UNB.

The court also fined the convict, Masud Sheikh, of village Chapatola in Sadar upazila Tk 20,000, in default he is to suffer two years more in jail.

According to prosecution, Masud threw acid on Minara Begum, wife Ismail Sheikh, of the same village, on the night of January 22 this year when she came out of their house to respond to the call of nature, leaving her critically injured.

A case was filed against Masud with Sadar Police Station the following day. After investigation, police submitted charge sheet against him on April 6.

BDR MUTINY IN B'BARIA Hearing on charge framing against 29 jawans Nov 28

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

The Special Court-14 yesterday fixed November 28 for hearing on charge-framing against 29 BDR mutineers of 1 Rifles Battalion at Kalikatcha in Sarail upazila of Brahmanbaria district.

Comilla Sector Commander Col SM Farhad chaired the four-member special court at the battalion headquarters.

The other members are Deputy Attorney General Farhad Ahmed, Lieutenant Colonel Akhteruzzaman and Major Md Maksudul Alam.

All the 29 accused were produced before the court. Trial proceedings against the accused began at 9:15am and continued until 10:10am.

On Wednesday, the special court took into its cognisance the charges against the BDR mutineers of 1 Rifles Battalion. Twenty-nine members of 1

Rifles Battalion revolted against their officer on February 25 and 26 in 2009, expressing solidarity with the mutineers of BDR headquarters in Pilkahna, Dhaka.

Meanwhile, the special court in Chittagong on Tuesday took deposition of 15 more witnesses against 35 mutineers of 10 Rifles Battalion's Bolipara camp, reports our staff correspondent.

With this, the special Court-16, set up at Rifles Training Centre and School at Baitul Izzat in Satkania, has so far recorded statements of 18 witnesses.

The accused also quizzed the witnesses after getting permission of the court led by Rangamati BDR Sector Commander Col Bashirul Islam, sources said.

On Sunday, the special court framed charges against 35 jawans of 10 Rifles Battalion's Bolipara camp for their involvement in 2009 BDR mutiny.

SNIPPETS

Outlaw held with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police arrested a regional leader of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Lal Pataka) in Ataikula upazila of Pabna district on Wednesday night and recovered two pipe guns from his possession. The arrestee is Abdus Salam, 34, of Kojjuri village under the upazila. Salam is an accused in several cases including one for murder, police said. Acting on a tip-off, police raided Salam's house at the village where he and his accomplices were holding a meeting at around 10:00pm. Police caught Salam with two firearms while his accomplices managed to flee, sensing the presence of the law enforcers.

Youth commits suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A youth committed suicide at Molankhori village under Sadar upazila of Thakurgaon district on Tuesday night. He was identified as Manik, 26, son of Saikat Ali of the village. Police quoted locals as saying that Manik took poison in his room after an altercation with family members in the evening. He was rushed to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital where the doctors declared him dead. An unnatural death case was filed with Thakurgaon Police Station.

Robbers loot house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Armed robbers looted cash and other valuables from the house of District Primary Education Officer Abdul Kader in the city's Seroil Mothpukur areas early yesterday. A gang of 10 robbers entered the house through window of the kitchen and tied up Kader and his family members at gun point. Police said the gang took away Tk 2.70 lakh, 12 tolas of gold ornaments, mobile sets and other valuables.

7 hurt as AL rivals clash

UNB, Munshiganj

At least seven people were injured in a clash between two factions of Awami League at Chardumuria in Sadar upazila on Wednesday night. Of the injured, three were admitted to Munshiganj General Hospital and private clinics in the town while the rest given first aid. Two factions--one led by district Awami League vice president Shah Alam Mallik and the other by sadar upazila Awami League vice president Mustafa Molla--clashed over selection of candidates for the next union parishad elections in the upazila. The feuding groups also traded gunshots during the clash that continued for two hours from 9:30pm. Police and Rab personnel dispersed the clashing groups and brought the situation under control.

One stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A man was stabbed to death at Natunbandar village under Sadar upazila in Panchagarh on Wednesday night. The dead was identified as Abdul Matin, 40, son of late Mohir Uddin. Officer-in-Charge of Panchagarh Police Station Jamiruddin told this correspondent over cellphone that Matin came under attack while he was returning home from a tea stall at the village at around 8:00pm. A gang of criminals stabbed in his head and neck and left the scene, leaving him critically injured. Locals took Matin to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital where the doctors declared him dead. Victim's wife Feroza Begum filed a murder case with Panchagarh Police Station yesterday. Police arrested Abdul Kader, 45, son of late Nasiruddin of the same village in connection with the murder.

Two children drown

A CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Two children drowned in a pond at Kundoil village under Tarash upazila of the district yesterday morning. They were identified as Sharmin, 8, daughter of Siraj Ali, and Riyal, 7, son of Abdus Salam of the same village.

Robbers beat up cop, loot firearm in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Armed robbers beat up a member of armed police battalion and looted firearm and ammunition from him in Dumuria upazila of Khulna early yesterday.

Injured Nayek Abul Bashar of Baniakhali police camp was admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Abdul Jalil, officer-in-charge of Dumuria police station, said a gang of armed bandits, numbering 20, stormed into a jewellery shop, 200 yards off the police camp, at about 1:30am and started looting valuables.

Hearing the screams of the shop owner, local people informed the incident to nearby police camp.

Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the gang

opened fire on them which prompted the police to retaliate that triggered a 'gunfight'.

At one stage, the robbers caught Nayek Abul Bashar and beat him up indiscriminately. They snatched a sub-machine gun and 30 rounds of bullet from him.

Later, the bandits left the spot exploding several bombs, creating panic among the locals.

The robbers looted one tola of gold and 35 tolas of silver from the shop, police said.

Police, however, arrested 10 people in this connection during a seven-hour drive that ended around 9:00am yesterday. The arrestees were brought to Dumuria Police Station.

Police are continuing their search for the looted firearm and bullets.



PHOTO: STAR

Aricha PC Pole factory under the Power Development Board faces extinction as the turbulent Jamuna has already devoured most of the road adjoining the boundary wall of the factory that was built at a cost of Tk 100 crore.