

Student among three drowned

METRO DESK

Three people including a two-year-old girl drowned in Kushtia, Sylhet, and Kurigram yesterday.

BSS from Islamic University reports: Shamsur Rahman, 20, a student of the university in Kushtia, drowned in a pond on the campus yesterday morning.

Shamsur was the son of Belal Hossai of Keshabpur village in Mithapur, Rangpur. He was taking bath in a pond in front of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman hall.

Shamsur took admission to Al-Fikah department of the university under the academic session 2010-11.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr M Alauddin and Pro-VC Prof Dr Kamal Uddin condoled the death of Shamsur and conveyed deep sympathy to the victim's bereaved family members.

Staff correspondent from Sylhet says: A 32-year-old man drowned in the Plain river in Jallong yesterday morning.

The deceased, Abu Bakar Shoeb, accounts officer of a private power plant's Dhaka office, was on a trip to Jallong.

He drowned after being driven by strong current in the river he was swimming along with some of his colleagues.

Stone workers recovered Shoeb after hour-long effort from sand stakes and sent him to Jaintapur Upazila Health Complex. The victim was declared dead at Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Shoeb was the youngest among the four children of late Md Habibur Rahman of Uttar Bashabo of the capital.

Our Kurigram correspondent adds: A two-year-old girl drowned in a pond near her house in Kurigram town yesterday.

The victim, Raichha Parvin, daughter of Rebeka Sultana Lipi, fell in the pond while she was playing near her mother. Lipi was washing clothes in the pond during the incident.

105 PSs to bring under network by December

Bss, Dhaka

The on going work to bring 105 police stations under intra-computer network will be complete by December this year.

With the completion of the work, all activities including filing of cases, recording general diaries, keeping records and sharing information among the police stations through computers would begin. A central server at the police headquarters will monitor the day-to-day activities of the police stations.

"A total of 105 police stations in 16 districts from Dhaka to Cox's Bazar will be brought under intra-computer network by December this year and the work on it is almost complete," Superintendent of Police Rofiqul Hassan Ghani of Telecom told the news agency.



Two children expose themselves to serious danger as they handle heavy machines even without putting on any safety gear during work in a lathe manufacturing factory at Kamrangirchar in the city. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

27,000 Durga Puja mandaps getting final touches

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 27,000 mandaps (pavilion) are being erected across the country to celebrate the Durga Puja, the largest festival for Hindu Bangalees, on October 2-6.

"Construction of the most of the Puja mandaps across the country is now at the final stage to hold the annual Hindu festival, the worship of the goddess, Durga", said Nirmal Chatterjee, organising secretary of Bangladesh Puja Udjapon Parishad.

Mohanagar Sarbojaneen Puja Committee yesterday held a meeting at Dhakeswari National Temple to discuss the preparation of the city's Puja mandaps. Representatives of different Puja committees told the meeting of their preparation and problems.

Milan Kanti Datta, vice-president of Puja Udjapon Parishad, and Tapash Pal, ex-general secretary of the Mohanagar committee, among others, spoke while Ramen Mandol, organising secretary of the Mohanagar committee, moderated the meeting.

"The number of Puja mandaps in the capital has been increased to 196 this year from 191 last year", said Babul Debnath, general secretary of the Mohanagar committee.

Babul said the committee leaders took part in an inter-ministerial meeting on September 18 and expressed concern over the security threat to four Puja mandaps. "The authority concerned assured us of full-proof security for the four Puja Mandaps -- two in Sutrapur and one each in Mirpur and Azimpur -- as well as the other Puja mandaps in the city".

He also said the Mohanagar committee would set up a monitoring cell at Dhakeswari National Temple to keep tabs on the Puja mandaps during the festival. "With cooperation of the admin-



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMAN

An artisan adds decorations to an idol of the Goddess Durga ahead of the Hindu community's biggest religious festival, Durga Puja, to be celebrated on October 2-6. The photo was taken from Dhakeswari Temple in the city yesterday.

istration, the cell will try to solve the instant problems", he added.

Bangladesh Puja Udjapon Parishad will also set similar cell there to monitor the Puja mandaps across the country.

The Mohanagar committee gave some directives to the city's Puja committees, including keeping sound system switched off during Azan and prayers and run the system not after 10:00pm. It also directed to form volunteer team to ensure security of the visitors.

Expressing satisfaction over the preparation, Bires Chandra Saha, president of Mohanagar Committee, said they have received no report of vandalism of any idol in the city as happened in the previous years.

Our Mymensingh Correspondent reports: A total of 641 Puja mandaps will be set up in 12 upazilas of the district this year.

Mymensingh Zila Puja Udjapon Parishad sources said the Durga Puja will be held at Shivbari Temple in the town by female devotees for the second time.

Marking the occasion, different Puja celebration committees have sketched programmes like blood donation drive, Arati competition, Prasad distribution, clothes distribution among the poor, and cultural events, said Shankar Saha, organising secretary of the parishad.

Meanwhile, the officials of the district and police administration, members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Mymensingh municipal authority, and representatives of the district Puja celebration committee have exchanged views with the people of Hindu community. The local administration has taken tight security measures to ensure the celebration passes off peacefully, said Puja committee sources.

Free Shibmandir from grabbers' clutches

Demands Hindu community

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mothmandir Mission Rakkha Parishad, an organisation of Hindu community, yesterday demanded return of an allegedly grabbed land of Sri Sri Shibmandir, a temple at Dayaganja in old Dhaka.

Members of the organisation also held a rally followed by a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city protesting assault of Bidhu Goshami, president of the temple, and damage to the temple's boundary wall.

The organisation's advisor Arun Sarkar Rana said while the Durga Puja preparation was going on at the temple on Thursday, some local grabbers damaged a portion of the boundary wall and barred the devotees from using the temple yard for the upcoming puja.

The grabbers attacked Bidhu when he among others tried to resist them, he added.

Speakers at the rally said the local Hindu devotees were feeling insecure and demanded immediate action in this regard.



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Barisal University launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Barisal University, a new public university in the country, has officially started its journey yesterday through initiating online admission process at the university for 2011-2012 academic sessions.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid inaugurated the university's official activities.

Till October 22, admission forms can be collected from the university's liaison office in Dhaka by sending a message (SMS).

A total of 400 students will get admission this session in six subjects under four faculties of the university. The subjects are Mathematics, English, Economics, Social Science, Marketing, and Business Studies.

The date, time and centre for the admission tests will be announced on the university website www.barisaluniv.edu.bd and through advertisements in the local newspapers.

The test results will be published within seven days and will also be uploaded on the website.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said the long-expected university has laid a new horizon for the people of Barisal in the field of higher education.

He urged cooperation from all to ensure an educational atmosphere and further development of the university.

Education Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Dhaka University Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Harun-ur-Rashid, Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education Director General Prof Noman-Ur-Rashid, Prof Akhteruzzaman and Prof Sirajul Islam, among others, were present.



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