



## CELEBRATING DURGA PUJA

**D**URGA Puja, the greatest religious festival of the Hindu, ended with the immersion of the idols of the Goddess and her children on Thursday. This year, the puja, also known as Sharadiya (autumnal) Durgotsav, was held in around 28,000 mandaps across the country. On Bijoya Dashami, the last and fifth day of the carnival, devotees bring out processions. They bid a tearful farewell to Durga and her children Lakshmi, Saraswati, Kartik and Ganesh wishing their return the next year. A much awaited event for Bangalees regardless of class and religion and part of Bangalee heritage, Durga Puja, is the worship of "Shakti" (divine force) embodied in the Goddess and celebration of the triumph of good over evil. Hindus believe Mother Durga brings peace and welfare on earth and shower the mankind with blessing.

Photo: SHAWKAT JAMIL, ZAHIDUL I KHAN, ANURUP KANTI DAS

