



A devotee seeks the blessings of a Kumari or virgin goddess at Dhaka Ramkrishna Mission in the capital yesterday on the occasion of Maha Ashtami of Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindu community.

PHOTO: STAR

## Bela for restricting import of formalin

Stop to Ashiyan City project sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (Bela) yesterday served a legal notice on the authorities to amend laws to stop blanket imports of formalin and beef up monitoring to rein in use of the deadly chemical in food items.

The move aims to limit the import rights to Trading Corporation of Bangladesh, take steps to stop illegal imports of the chemical through ports and set up equipments there to detect formalin in imported food items, said Bela in a statement.

Several ministry secretaries, city corporation mayors and customs house commissioners, among others, have been made

respondents to the public interest litigation.

In another legal notice, Bela, Ain O Salish Kendra, Association for Land Reform and Development, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust and Nijera Kori urged the authorities to withdraw the approval given to Ashiyan Homes Ltd for the first phase of its Ashiyan City project in the capital's outskirts.

They demanded that the government take legal action against the company for implementing the project without any legal approval. Chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha, managing director of Ashiyan Homes and some ministry secretaries, among others, have been made respondents to the notice.

## Youth found killed, killer held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday morning recovered the beheaded body of a youth, murdered on Sunday evening, and arrested a man, who confessed to the killing, in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong.

The deceased was Ritu Aich, 30, son of Poritosh Aich while the arrestee was Suplob Chowdhury alias Babu, 28, son of Sunil Chowdhury. They are the residents of North Mosjidda village.

Sitakunda Police SI Mohammed Saifullah said, on information from the locals, they recovered the body from a pond near the Kali temple.

They found a blood-stained shirt on the temple's roof. Following the clue, Babu was arrested from his residence around 12:30pm.

Babu admitted that he killed Ritu in the name of Kali (a Hindu goddess), said Saifullah.

Police also recovered a cleaver, which was allegedly used in the murder, from the pond.

## VILLAGE COURT ACT Cabinet okays changes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved the draft of "The Village Court (Amendment) Act, 2012" increasing the number of members of a village court to five from existing three and fine from Tk 25,000 to Tk 75,000.

Some changes have been made in the provision of formation of a village court, which will be constituted with five persons--four members and one of its chief. Of the four members, two members will represent the complainant while two others the defence. As per the draft law, one of the four members of the village court must be the member of a union parishad and there must be a woman representative if the court wants to settle any women or children affairs related disputes.

It also kept provisions of casting votes for quick disposal of petitions and a fine of Tk 2,000 for lodging false cases.

The cabinet also endorsed the "National Cooperatives Policy 2012" to promote cooperatives by strengthening organisational structure and enhancing capacity of the Department of Cooperatives.

The cabinet expressed satisfaction over the progress in implementing its decisions. Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said the cabinet took 1,121 decisions of which 1,029 (92 percent) were implemented from January 6, 2009 to September 30, 2012.

A proposal of inclusion of the International Cooperatives Day under "C category" was also approved at the cabinet meeting.

## 28 INFANTS' DEATH DG Health asks CMCH for details

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Office of the Directorate General (DG) of Health Services yesterday asked Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) authorities to give details regarding the deaths of 28 infants at the hospital's Child Health Ward last week.

The call came after news of the deaths was carried by different print and electronic media.

Dr Kazi Shafiqul Alam, deputy director of CMCH, said to have received a call yesterday from the DG's office also asking about the ward's current condition.

According to Child Health Ward, a total of 37 patients died within October 11 to 21 this year. Of them, 12 died of pneumonia and others died of 12 other complications.

## Law protecting domestic workers urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a human chain yesterday urged the government to enact separate laws to promote rights of domestic workers and curb violence against them.

They also demanded that the government takes immediate measures so that domestic workers would no longer be considered informal labourers and not be easily exploited.

Domestic Workers' Rights Network (DWRN) organised the human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Speakers suggested that the government fixes a minimum wage, working hours, and other benefits for domestic workers.

Employers should be held accountable

for torturing domestic workers physically and mentally and for sexually harassing them, they said.

Karmojibi Nari's Hasina Akhter said a majority of domestic workers were young females and so were more prone to exploitation.

"So the situation is directly linked to gender-based violence," she added.

Speakers said most incidents of violence against domestic workers were settled with meagre amounts of money and the perpetrators went unpunished, thus the need for tough punishment of guilty employers was necessary.

The network will arrange a rally for domestic workers on November 21 to press home their demands.

## Indian envoy to meet Khaleda today

UNB, Dhaka

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pankaj Saran will meet BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia today.

"They will meet at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office," said Maruf Kamal Khan Sohel, Khaleda Zia's press secretary.

He said it will be a courtesy call ahead of Khaleda's weeklong official visit to India at the Indian government's invitation. She will fly to New Delhi on October 28.

During her tour, Khaleda will have meetings with Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and key leaders of the Indian ruling and opposition parties.

## Indo-Bangla ties need fresh momentum

Says The Times of India

STAR REPORT

Despite the general optimism surrounding current India-Bangladesh relations, the momentum in bilateral ties between the two neighbours appears to be slowing down, said The Times of India yesterday.

"Last week's two-day home secretary-level talks in Dhaka once again saw both sides kick the can down the road on vital issues. With general elections in Bangladesh only a year away, the Awami League-led government in Dhaka is getting jittery," it said.

Notwithstanding New Delhi's political compulsions, there is an urgent need to infuse the India-Bangladesh relationship with fresh energy and work towards concrete results.

There is no denying that New Delhi's task of furthering ties with Dhaka has been made more difficult following West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's pullout from the UPA dispensation.

"Take, for example, the Teesta water-

sharing issue. Mamata has scuttled the Teesta deal once. Given the political games she likes to play, she may now try to spike the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA)," it said.

Two areas where gains can be made are border killings and human rights.

While India has pledged punitive action against BSF personnel found guilty of killing innocent Bangladeshis trespassing into Indian territory, much more needs to be done to stop this menace.

Meanwhile, in gross violation of human rights, several Indian and Bangladeshi citizens continue to languish under trial in each other's jails for years without any proper legal representation.

Instituting a proper legal mechanism to assist those under trial in each other's country would earn both New Delhi and Dhaka a significant amount of goodwill.

"With Bangladeshi leader of opposition Khaleda Zia expected to visit India later this month, this is a good opportunity to reinvigorate ties with our eastern neighbour," it said.

Domestic Workers' Rights Network forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding enactment of an act to protect domestic workers' rights and exemplary punishment to those who abuse them.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: STAR

Rubbish occupies nearly half of a road in Poribagh, near the capital's Shahbagh, which got a new tarmac just the week before. The photo was taken on Sunday.

জনস্বার্থে

CLEMON

ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন

ইন্দ্রে মোবারক

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

ফ্রেশ থাকবো প্রতিদিন

শহর রাখবো neat & clean

live fresh

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কোরবানী শেষে জবাইকৃত স্থান জীবাণুনাশক মিশ্রিত পানি দিয়ে ভালোভাবে ধুয়ে ফেলুন

কোরবানীর রক্ত ধোয়ার পর উজ স্থানে ব্রিচিং পাউডার ছিটিয়ে দিন

কোরবানীর বর্জ্য ছেদে না ফেলে নির্দিষ্ট স্থানে অথবা মাটিতে পুতে ফেলুন

কোরবানীর বর্জ্য নির্দিষ্ট স্থানে ফেলেতে আপনার এলাকার ভ্যান সার্ভিসের সহায়তা নিন

কোরবানীর পত্তর বর্জ্য পলিথিনে ভরে নিকট ডাষ্টবিনে ফেলুন