



PHOTO: STAR
Sculptors busy preparing idols of deities at a mandap ahead of Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Bangalee Hindus. The photo was taken from Rugganj Bazar in Narail municipality a couple of days ago.

SHARODIYA DURGA PUJA

Festival gets costlier as idol making materials are pricy

PONUEL S BOSE, Narail

High price of raw materials used for making idols coupled with increase of other costs affects this year's preparations for five-day 'Sharodiya Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Bangalee Hindus, in the district. The festival will start on October 5 and conclude with immersion of *protimas* (idols) of the deities in rivers and canals amid greetings of 'Bijoya Dashami' on October 9. "Prices of the raw materials like wood, bamboo, straw, paints, cloths and

other things used for making the idols have increased by 40 to 50 percent compared to last year. High charges of *purohits* (priests) and *dhakis* (drummers) also add to the cost," said Ashok Kumer Kundu, president of Narail unit of Bangladesh Puja Celebration Committee. "We are getting very little amounts as donation from people and the government. Local people are burdened with skyrocketing prices of necessary commodities while farmers did not get fair price of their harvest this season," said Komol Akhi Biswas, gen-

eral secretary of the committee. During visits to different areas of the district on Monday, this correspondent saw the sculptors passing busy time to make sure that the idols are ready in time. "Now I have very little time to sleep as the idols are to be completed as per work orders. However, our business suffers this season due to increase of sculptors' charges and high prices of raw materials," said Ratan Kumar Biswas of Bhadhulidanga village under Narail municipality, who

received order for making several idols from locals. Shadhon Das, another idol maker of Kalia upazila under the district, said, "Five to eight people need 18-20 days for making a large *protima* while smaller ones need around two weeks each." Khokon Das, a devotee who conducts a *puja mandap* at Bhadhulidanga village under Narail municipality, said preparations for the upcoming Durga Puja have become costlier due to high price of the raw materials as well as increased charges of idol makers, *purohits* and *dhakis*.

Four kids drown in ponds

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Four children drowned in ponds in Rajshahi and Moulvibazar districts yesterday. In Rajshahi, three kids, including two siblings, drowned in a pond at Faridpur village in Charghat upazila at noon, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Sanjida Khatun, 9, her brother Shovon, children of Azizur Rahman, and their cousin Ritu, 9, daughter of Rabiul Islam of Faridpur area.

Abdur Razzak, officer-in-charge of Charghat Police Station, said Shovon slipped into the pond and drowned while he was playing on its bank. Her sister Sanjida and cousin Ritu also drowned in the pond as they were trying to rescue him at around 12:00 noon.

After a hectic search, Local people recovered the bodies from the pond. Being informed, Police went to the spot and sent the bodies to the hospital for post-mortem examinations.

Our Moulvibazar correspondent reported that a seven-year-old boy drowned in a pond at Uttar Bhabanipur village in Juri upazila at around 3:00 pm.

The deceased was identified as Saiful Islam, son of Ayub Ali of the village.

Office-in-Charge Kamrul Hasan of Juri Police Station said the kid drowned while he was taking a bath in the pond adjacent to their house.

COASTAL CLEANUP IN COX'S BAZAR

Pledge to keep the longest beach clean

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Hundreds of people from cross section of the society yesterday took oath to keep Cox's Bazar sea beach, the longest one in the world, clean throughout the year as they joined a programme marking the International Coastal Cleanup observed in over 90 countries across the globe.

Environment advocacy group Kewkradong Bangladesh organised the day's programme while mobile operator Banglalink

sponsored the event as part of its year-long Cox's Bazar Sea Beach Cleaning Project.

On the occasion, a rally marched through the main thoroughfares of the district town.

Kewkradong Bangladesh started observing the programme in Cox's Bazar in 2007.

The programme aims at motivating common people to remove trash and debris from beaches and waterways and create awareness about the necessity of keeping the environment clean across the globe.

Planning Division Secretary Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam, Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Gregory Anatole Wilcock, and Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Md Ruhul Amin were present at yesterday's programme, among others.

All concerned should take proper care of Cox's Bazar sea beach as the natural heritage is an asset not only for Bangladesh, but for the whole world, the Australian high commissioner said.



PHOTO: STAR
One hundred and sixty health care providers from as many community clinics in five upazilas under Lalmonirhat district start a three-day sit-in programme in front of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila health complex yesterday demanding nationalisation of their jobs.

BSF picks up 2 from Kushtia border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) picked up two Bangladeshi nationals from Challishpara border in Daulatpur upazila of the district on Friday night.

They are Anjur Rahman Hira, 32, son of Aftab Mondol of Bhagiote village, and Altu, 42, son of Khodabox of Mahiskundi village in the upazila.

Lt Col Kazi Arman Hossain, commander of BGB-32 Battalion, said seven Bangladeshis went to India two months ago.

While they were returning home through the border at around 7:30 pm, a BSF team

from Sarkarpara camp in Murshidabad district of Pashchimbanga chased them and caught the two near border pillar No 157-1 (S). The rest five, however, manage to escape arrest.

A flag meeting was held at Challishpara frontier at around 12:30pm yesterday. In the meeting BSF told its Bangladesh counterpart that they arrested the two as they failed to produce passports, the BGB commander said.

The Indian border guards handed over the two Bangladeshis to Jalangi Police Station in Murshidabad district. Police yesterday produced them in a court which sent them to jail, BSF source told BGB.

55 Shibir men sued for attack on cops in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

Fifty-five activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir have been sued on charge of attacking police in the city on Thursday, second day of the 48-hour Jamaat-enforced countrywide hartal.

Police filed two separate cases Kotwali Police Station, accusing 20 identified and 35 unidentified activists of the Jamaat's student body on Friday.

Mohammad Ayub, additional deputy commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said police filed the two cases against the Shibir men on charges of attack on law enforcers in the city's West Subidbazar and Baluchar areas during hartal hours.

Two policemen were injured in an attack by the Shibir men at West Subidbazar. Shibir activists also took away a bullet-proof jacket and a helmet form police during the attack.

In another incident, Shibir activists launched an attack on police at Baluchar in the city during the shutdown.

Our Moulvibazar correspondent ads: Police arrested four Shibir men in Moulvibazar town while they were holding a 'secret' meeting on Friday night, police said.

The arrestees are Habib Ahmed, 23, Muntasir Ahmed, 24, Kayes Ahmed, 23 and Sibli Ahmed, 22.

C'NAWABGANJ, LAXMIPUR DISTRICTS 13 robbers held with arms, ammo

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Police arrested 13 suspected robbers and recovered firearms and ammunition from their possession in Chapainawabganj and Laxmipur districts on Friday night.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent reported that law enforcers arrested six robbers at Muslimpur village in Shibganj upazila with a pistol, six bullets and one magazine. The arrestees are Fahim, 22, and Kanon, 23, of

kathgarh village village, Shah Humayun kabir, 23, and Shah Ahsan Habib, 22, of Kansat Bazar, Sohag, 23, of Gopalnagar and Sajal, 22, of Milik village in the upazila.

In Laxmipur, seven alleged robbers were arrested along with several country-made weapons in Raipur upazila. The arrestees are Jakir Hossain, Mahsin Kabir, Kamal Uddin, Shaikat Hossain, Anwar Hossain and Murad Hossain. They are from Raipur and Ramgati upazila, reports UNB.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

10 hurt in JCD infighting

BAU CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 people were injured in a clash between two factions of Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal at Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU), in the district on Friday over establishing supremacy on the campus. Sources said an altercation ensued between the supporters of Russel, joint secretary of BAU unit JCD and Sujon, secretary of the unit, over arranging a showdown at the no 1 gate of the university at about 7:00pm. At one stage, both rivals attacked each other with lethal weapons, leaving 10 from both sides injured. Of the injured, Sujon, Jewel and Ismail were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital while the rest given first aid. Additional police have been deployed on the campus to avert further trouble.

Trader electrocuted

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

A local trader was electrocuted in Noyabazar area under Choudagram upazila yesterday morning. The deceased is Enamul Haque, 32, son of Ali Miah of Jambura village. Ismail Miah, officer in-charge of Choudagram Police Station, said Enamul came in contact with a live electric wire while he was switching off a machine at his business center around 7:00am. He was rushed to the upazila health complex in critical condition where attending doctors declared him dead, said the OC.

Youth jailed for stalking

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

A mobile court here on Friday sentenced a youth to 15 days imprisonment for sexually harassing a schoolgirl. The convict is Bashirul Molla, 18, son of Lutfar Rahman Molla of Targram village in Sadar upazila. Rabintra Nath Tarapder, sub-inspector of Gopalganj DB police, said Bashirul used to tease the girl on her way to school. On information, a team of DB police arrested Bashirul from the village on Friday evening and produced him before the court, led by Executive magistrate Badrul Alam, which pronounced the verdict.

Drama festival

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A week-long drama festival began at Studio Theatre Stage of Shabdaboli Gourp Theatre in the city on Friday. Shabdaboli Group Theatre organised the programme titled 'Shabdaboli Natya Milon-2013' on the occasion of 35th anniversary of the group. It was dedicated to founding member, theatre organizer, fine-arts artist late Enayet Hossain Milon. Amaresh Chakraborty, chief of Kolkata Onik Theatre inaugurated the festival chaired by Syed Dulal, president of Shabdaboli Gourp Theatre. Eight dramas would be staged by the activists of five group theatre teams, said organisers.



PHOTO: STAR
A scene from the drama Bisarjan staged by Shabdaboli Group Theatre at Studio Theatre Stage in Barisal city on Friday, the first day of the weeklong drama festival marking the 35th anniversary of the cultural organisation.



ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED

395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208

INTERNATIONAL RE-TENDER NOTICE

EDCL invites International Tender for Supply of Pharmaceutical Raw Material on C&F© Chittagong By Sea, Dhaka By Air and Benapole By Road basis:-

S/L No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
01.	IMP / RM / SEM / 24 / 2013-2014 dated 19/09/2013	Pharmaceutical Raw Materials: 1. Ciprofloxacin HCL USP 32 2. Dibasic Calcium Phosphate BP 3. Magnesium Stearate BP 4. Gentamycin Sulphate BP 5. Nicotinamide BP 6. Frusemide BP 7. Thiamine Nitrate BP 8. Sorbitol Solution (70%) BP 9. Sulphamethoxazole BP 10. Trimethoprim BP 11. Calcium Lactate Phentahydrate BP 12. Bacitracin Zinc BP 13. Benzyl Benzoate BP 14. Metronidazole BP 15. Povidone K-30 BP 16. Penoxymethyl Penicillin Potassium BP	Tk. 3,250.00set Equivalent to US\$ 42.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 29/09/2013 at 3.00 PM Opening : 29/09/2013 at 3.15 PM
02.	IMP / RM / SEM / 25 / 2013-2014 dated 19/09/2013	Pharmaceutical Raw Materials: 1. Citric Acid Monohydrate BP 2. Talcum Powder BP 3. Microcrystalline Cellulose BP (Avice PH 101) 4. Microcrystalline Cellulose BP (Avice PH 102) 5. Microcrystalline Cellulose & Carboxymethyl Cellulose Sodium USNF (Avice RC 591) BP 6. White Bees Wax BP 7. Benzoic Acid BP 8. Salicylic Acid BP 9. Tetracycline HCl BP 10. Zinc Sulphate Monohydrate BP 11. Dextrose Anhydrous BP 12. Tri-Sodium Citrate BP 13. Sodium Lauryl Sulphate BP 14. Sodium Saccharin BP 15. Riboflavin BP 16. Thiamine HCL BP	Tk. 2,000.00set Equivalent to US\$ 26.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 30/09/2013 at 3.00 PM Opening : 30/09/2013 at 3.15 PM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft / Pay Order / Bank Guarantee from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Co. Ltd." without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

N.B: This Information is also available at our Website : www.edcl.gov.bd

Dy. General Manager
Planning & Procurement
For : Managing Director.