

Mahasaptami today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the second day of the five-day Durga Puja, the Hindus will celebrate the Mahasaptami puja today marking the goddess's victory over demon Mahishashur.

The worshippers will sing hymns and offer flowers seeking the blessings of Durga, the saviour of humanity from all evils. The victory of Durga symbolises the triumph of good over evil.

The Mahasathi puja was celebrated yesterday, the first day of the largest religious festival of Bangalee Hindus, with the mandaps (altars) wearing festive looks and getting reverberated with the sounds of dhaak (drums), brass instruments, and conches amidst hymns by Brahmins.

Thousands of people of the religious community gathered around the puja mandaps to receive Durga and her children Lakshmi, Saraswati, Kartik and Ganesh.

The Hindus believe the goddess descends on earth at the invocation and supplication of the worshippers through Bodhon rituals during the Mahashashthi, the formal start of the puja.

On the occasion, the government has taken

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Hindus worship at Dhakeshwari National Temple in the capital as Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the community, started yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Gabtoli cattle market sees supply fall

HELEMUL ALAM

With only five days to go before Eid-ul-Azha, sacrificial animals are yet to arrive in significant numbers at Gabtoli, the largest and permanent cattle market of the capital.

Cattle traders said huge losses last year and a very poor number of customers this year so far had prompted them not to bring in animals in large numbers.

In addition, the prices are higher comparing with last year's.

"We have to buy a medium-sized bull with Tk 10,000 to Tk 20,000 more than last year's price, while the big ones cost Tk 20,000 to Tk 30,000 higher," said Anowar Hossain, a trader who suffered a Tk 11 lakh loss last year.

He added that the losses had forced many traders to rear a less number of cattle this year. "While 200 bulls were reared in our village, in Mirpur of Kushtia, last year, the number is around 100 this year," he said.

Rubel Miyan, who brought two bulls from Sylhet and is planning to bring 15 more to Dhaka, said the supply of Indian and Nepali livestock was smaller this year, a contributor to the price hike. "I had to pay an additional Tk 20,000

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FEMALE MIGRANT WORKERS

31pc physically abused

Says study of Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 31 percent of Bangladeshi female migrants have been physically abused in destination countries due to a lack of proper security measures, according to a study of Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program (OKUP) yesterday.

"Bangladeshi female migrants face

many challenges in their destination countries. They face different forms of abuse—physical, sexual, and verbal -- and this poses a barrier for female migration," said Shakirul Islam, chairman of OKUP, a grass roots migrant organisation.

OKUP revealed their findings at a consultation programme on "A

Decade of Women Migration from Bangladesh: Achievements, Challenges, Prospects" in Biam auditorium in the capital.

According to the study, at least 13 percent of female migrants faced sexual abuse, eight percent faced verbal abuse, 15 percent worked without pay,

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MARITIME SECURITY

Not a one-nation matter anymore

Concluding ceremony of Bangladesh-US joint naval exercise told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Securing the sea requires cooperation and partnership among navies because no country can tackle the maritime threats single-handedly, speakers told the concluding ceremony of a Bangladesh-US joint naval drill in Chittagong yesterday.

Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operation) Rear Admiral Aurangzeb Chowdhury said no single nation or organisation had the full capacity to fight the challenges like maintenance of law at sea, scaling up counter-terrorism efforts, and ensuring effective law enforcement, and seeking assistances during natural disasters.

The six-day joint exercise between Bangladesh and United States navies was titled "Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Bangladesh 2014".

Aurangzeb said, "The engagement with a professional navy like the US Navy has certainly helped us develop our own professional skills and experiences."

On the occasion, US Ambassador Dan W Mozena said, "Partnership between America and Bangladesh has helped the latter build ever greater capacity to secure its maritime border against those who seek to use the seas to advance terrorism, violent extremism, and drug, people and arms trafficking."

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Role Summary/ Purpose

The Group is looking for Head of PR and Media to support the core board in developing and implementing an integrated strategic communications plan, establish brand identity, broaden awareness of its programs and increase the visibility of its programs across key stakeholders. The scope of work will include developing and harnessing adequate relationship with media and other relevant stakeholders.

Key Responsibilities

1. The candidate shall lead the development of print and digital communications including newsletters, annual review, marketing collateral, website, news media contents, and video and story development. Assess the effectiveness of communications through quantitative and qualitative measurement and evaluation processes.
2. Lead proactive reputation management strategies as well as brand building program internally and externally. Communicate with key stakeholder groups in a crisis situation and diligently handle crisis management.
3. Build up long term relationship with print and electronic media and relevant editors, columnists, reporters and think tank organizations. Arrange events, seminars, speaker placement, press conferences, interviews, etc.
4. Execute delivery of Public Relations Plan for the group and business units through routine and ad-hoc PR campaigns with focused goals and setting standards.

Required Qualifications

We are seeking a mature professional with excellent track record of working in relevant field, either as head of media and public relations in multinational/ large corporate/ electronic media, or, as Assistant/ Deputy Editor in print media.

The position carries excellent compensation package. Interested candidates may apply with the complete CV by post or by email to the following address. The application deadline is October 20th, 2014.

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