

Celebrating Durga Puja with the rhythm of 'dhak'

Percussion instrument makers enjoying busy days

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, *Sylhet*

While walking around many a road in Chowhatta and Kadamtali areas of Sylhet city these days, passers-by are greeted with a rhythmic sound. This melodic and cacophonous sound -- coexisting harmoniously -- is due to the workers making and repairing musical instruments, which are in great demand as part of the celebration of Durga Puja.

With the puja only a few weeks away, the makers of these instruments -- dhol, dhak (big drum), mridanga (a two-faced drum played with hands), khol, dholok, dugi, khamok, naal, tabla and khonjori -- are busy trying to meet their orders.

The biggest religious festival of the Bangalee Hindu community will be celebrated across the country from October 4 to October 8.

Percussion instruments including dhak and dhol are an integral part of Durga Puja, Sree Prakash Babu, a maker at Humayun Rashid Chatter in Kadamtali, told this correspondent yesterday. He said they are working 15 to 16 hours a day to meet the demand.

The instrument makers are selling various types of dhak and dhol for around Tk 4,000 to Tk 20,000 each; mridanga for Tk 2,100 to Tk 5,000;



A percussion instrument maker busy at work in Chowhatta area of Sylhet.

and tabla for Tk 6000 to Tk 12,000. Besides, kirtan (devotional songs) performers or kirtaniyas, who perform at different temples during the puja, are thronging the workshops to repair their old and damaged instruments. The repair work starts from Tk 1,000.

Artisan Suchandan Hrisi of Chowhatta area said he had to hire

extra help to meet the demand. "At present, we're working till midnight. We'll get extremely busy a week before the celebration."

Many were also seen swarming the area, looking for a percussion instrument. They said the atmosphere is vibrant with people walking around the market and the rhythmic sound coming from the shops.

Road crashes kill 4

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed and one was injured across three districts in the last two days, our correspondents report.

Two people including a woman were killed and one other was injured when a passenger bus hit a battery-run auto-rickshaw in Bhuapur upazila of Tangail yesterday.

One of the deceased was identified as Liakat Ali Khan, 55, of Gagatpura village under Arjuna union in the upazila. Identity of the deceased woman could not be known.

Quoting witnesses, Mohammad Liton, a sub-inspector of Bhuapur Police Station, said a Gopalpur upazila-bound bus collided head on with the auto-rickshaw on Bhuapur-Tarakandi road at Garabari area at around 1:30pm, killing the two auto-rickshaw passengers on the spot.

The seriously injured auto-rickshaw driver Shahin Shah, 30, was rushed to Tangail General Hospital, added the SI. Police seized the bus but its driver managed to escape.

In Dinajpur, a seventh grader was killed as a speeding microbus hit him in Birganj upazila yesterday.

The deceased is Mosaddeq Hossain Mukul, 14, son of Md Aminul Islam of Bhabki village of the upazila and a student of Rahim Baksh High School in the area.

Police, quoting witnesses, said Mukul was returning home on his bicycle from a nearby bazar. He was critically injured after a speeding microbus hit him around 8am yesterday.

Villagers took him to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries at around 11am. The driver fled the spot with the vehicle.

In Kishoreganj, a five-year-old girl was killed in a road accident at Kushakanda area in Pakundia upazila on Saturday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Fatema Begum, daughter of Kamal Mia of Chandipasha Charpara area in Pakundia.

Quoting locals, Officer-in-Charge of Pakundia Police Station Md Mofizur Rahman said Fatema was going to visit her maternal uncle's house with her mother. When they were crossing the road, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw ran over Fatema, injuring her critically, said the OC.

Locals rushed to the spot and took her to Pakundia Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared her dead, OC Mofizur added. Police seized the auto-rickshaw but its driver managed to flee. A case was lodged in this connection.

TAKING BRIBE 2 govt officials

caught red-handed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday arrested two government officers while taking Tk 30,000 bribe from a pensioner.

An ACC team, led by its Assistant Director Ahsanul Kabir, arrested auditor of Dinajpur District Accounts Office Anwar Pasha and cashier of Cotton Development Board (CDB) Ferdous Hossain.

Later, ACC filed a case with its Integrated District Office in Dinajpur.

One Farhad Hossain made complaint to ACC that his father Khalilur Rahman worked in CDB as a cattle farmer. He retired in 2012.

According to the case statement, the accounts office gave him Tk 1.2 lakh less than his pension. Khalilur died in 2016.

Farhad brought the matter to Anwar but failed to get the money.

Anwar asked him to contact cashier Ferdous who demanded Tk 40,000 bribe in this regard.

Finding no alternative, Farhad initially gave Tk 10,000 to Anwar and Ferdous and promised to give the rest of the amount later.

In the meantime, he informed ACC officials of the matter.

Yesterday, when the duo were taking bribe at the District Account Office at about 3:30pm, the ACC team -- who had been positioned around the office -- caught them red-handed.

ARREST OF COLLEAGUE 56 electronic media

journos file GD in Sylhet seeking safety

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Fifty-six journalists of electronic media outlets yesterday afternoon filed a general diary (GD) with Sylhet Kotwali Police Station, seeking security for their lives.

They filed the GD following the arrest of journalist Maynul Haq Bulbul, who was arrested by plainclothes policemen from a hospital in Mirbختলা area on Thursday night.

In the general diary, the journalists said police arrested the journalist in plainclothes and for around two hours, no one from the law enforcement agency confirmed the arrest, which created confusion.

They also said Sylhet district police misused their power, by arresting him in such a manner, amid the High Court's clear instructions to follow due procedure in arresting journalists.

Bappa Ghosh Chowdhury, president of Electronic Media Journalist Association (EMJA), said, "We protest the way they arrested a senior journalist and that's the reason we are worried for our own safety".

Selim Miah, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said, "The journalists filed the GD with the station following the arrest of a fellow, but we have nothing to do about it, as the arrest was made by Kanaighat Police Station over a case."

Maynul Haq Bulbul, senior correspondent of NTV and also former president of EMJA in Sylhet, was arrested by Kanaighat police in connection with a case filed against him over embezzling money.

Witnesses said Bulbul was detained by a group of armed police officials in plainclothes from Sylhet Women's Medical College Hospital area, where he went to see a patient.

Two hours after the detention, Sylhet police admitted that he was arrested in connection with a case.

On Friday, he secured bail after appearing before a Sylhet court.

Mobile court

fines two businesses Tk 8 lakh in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday fined two businesses Tk 8,00,000 on charges of various irregularities, in Bakalia area of the port city.

During a mobile court drive in Rajkhalia area of New Bakalia, executive magistrate Nazim uddin Ahmed, who led the drive, fined Malek Foods and Beverage Company Ltd Tk 5,00,000 for an outdated license from Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI).

Assistant Superintendent of Police Kazi Mohammad Tarek Aziz said before marketing bottled water, a company must test the product every day after manufacturing.

"We found evidence that they last tested their product three months ago. They sell bottled water with the brand name Lynn," he said.

The officials also fined Malek Foods and Beverage Tk 3,00,000 for manufacturing edible salt in an unhygienic environment, said Aziz, adding, both factories are owned by one Abdul Malek.

The drive continued till 3pm from noon.

'Innovation Lab' inaugurated at Daffodil Int'l University



Daffodil International University Chairman Dr Md Sabur Khan along with others visits the lab on campus.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

CITY DESK

A large "Innovation Lab" with a focus on research was inaugurated on September 19 on the permanent campus of Daffodil International University (DIU), says a press release.

Dr Md Sabur Khan, founder and chairman of DIU, inaugurated the lab as the chief guest.

Presided over by DIU pro-Vice Chancellor Prof SM Mahabub Ul Haque Majumder, the inaugural ceremony was addressed by Mominul Haque Majumder, treasurer; Mohammad Nuruzzaman, chief executive officer; Dr Shaikh Md Allayear, head, Department of MCT; Shibli Shahriar, head, Department of Innovation and Entrepreneurship; and Reyed Mia, coordinator, Innovation Lab.

Besides, deans from various faculties, department heads, teachers, officials and students were present at the programme.

The lab has been included with market space, robotics zone, 3D printer, IOT-based electric bulb, fan, air conditioning, architectural design, book reading zone, business incubator, meeting room, all in one TV with android and windowed facilities.

Students can research, develop and implement their ideas through this Innovation Lab.

While inaugurating it, Dr Md Sabur Khan said that there are a lot of brilliant students in our country and they have a lot of innovative ideas. But there is no place where they can practically conduct research, develop their thoughts and implement those, he added.

RANGPUR-3 BY-POLLS Hindu community

d demands deferment during Durga Puja

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Hindu community of Rangpur Sadar upazila observed a daylong token hunger strike yesterday, demanding that the Election Commission defer the date of Rangpur-3 by-election, as the announced date of polls falls on the day of Maha Saptami.

The election is scheduled for October 5, while the five-daylong Durga Puja festivities should begin on October 4. Rangpur unit of Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad organised the event at Rangpur Press Club.

Sushanta Bhowmik, vice president of Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad's Rangpur unit and joint general secretary of the city's Puja Uddjapan Parishad, said they organised the token hunger strike as the Election Commission remained rigid in its decision. Under the banner of the Parishad, a human chain was formed and a letter was handed over to local election office urging the commission to defer the election, but to no effect, he said.

There are 70,000 Hindus in Rangpur Sadar upazila. Several hundred of them joined the rally.

Speakers there said if the by-election coincides with Saptami, Hindu people will face difficulty in casting votes, and there will be a risk of chaos in the polls.

DEATH THREAT TO PM Shamsuzzaman Dudu sued in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A lawyer of Rangpur sued BNP Vice Chairman Shamsuzzaman Dudu yesterday for giving death threat to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during a live talk show on a private television channel on September 17.

Abdus Sattar, an additional public prosecutor, filed the case with the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court of Md. Delwar Hossain yesterday afternoon.

According to the case, Dudu made the threat during a live talk show aired at around 10pm on September 17.

Through his remarks, it was revealed that conspiracy was on to oust Sheikh Hasina-led AL government, the case mentioned.

On the other hand, Advocate Rezaul Karim Razu, general secretary of Rangpur district AL, said that BNP is plotting to kill Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court will decide on October 7 whether to take cognizance of the charges against Shamsuzzaman Dudu in a case filed for "issuing a death threat to Prime Minister

Man hurt by stray bullets

Family says he got shot during DB drive; police claim otherwise

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A garment worker sustained bullet injuries allegedly during a drive of law enforcers in Bandar upazila of Narayanganj on Saturday night.

Police, however, said they arrested a listed drug trader in the area during their raid but are unaware of a bystander getting shot.

The injured worker, Mohammed Nadim, 28, of Baghbari Bus Stand area in the upazila, is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), said his cousin Md Ridoy. He said Nadim

worked at a hosiery factory in Nayamati area of the district town.

Around 10pm on the day, a team of Detective Branch (DB) of police raided the bus stand area and arrested one Salauddin Salu, 25, said Inspector Enamul Haque of DB police in Narayanganj.

To free him, Salu's accomplices attacked law enforcers and they had to open fire in defense, the inspector said, adding that miscreants also vandalised a police vehicle.

Ridoy said his cousin got hit by two stray
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Transcom holds free health camp in Barishal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A free health camp, organised by Transcom Distribution Company Ltd, was held on the premises of Hemayet Uddin Diabetic Hospital in Barishal yesterday.

Some 206 employees of the company received free health services at the camp.

It was arranged to raise awareness about health among them, said Transcom Distribution Manager SM Monzurul Haque.

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ASSET DEVELOPMENTS



Holding black flags, a group of teachers and students of Jahangirnagar University formed a human chain on the campus yesterday, demanding resignation of the JU vice chancellor for her role in corruption. They also declared her persona non grata during the ongoing admission test.
PHOTO: COLLECTED

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Planning Commission
General Economics Division
Strengthening the Capacity of the Development Planning Superstructure Project
ADDENDUM
to the EOJ published on 12 September 2019 in this news paper
Title of the Services : (1) Sectoral Planning Expert
(2) Capacity Building and Knowledge management Expert
Other Details : (5) Standard Request for Application (SRFA) shall be collected from the project office Block 14, Room 22, General Economics Division, Bangladesh Planning Commission, Sher-e-bangla nagar, Dhaka in order to submit the EOJ.
EOJ Closing Date and Time: 14/10/2019; time 12.00 noon (instead of 30/09/2019)
NB- all other details of the EOJ published on 12/09/2019 will remain unchanged.
Md. Forhad Siddique
Deputy Chief and Project Director
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GD- 1561