

Chattogram all set to celebrate Durga Puja

ARUN BIKASH DEV, Ctg

Chattogram is all set to celebrate Durga Puja starting from today, following the Covid-19 health guidelines.

This year, Durga Puja will be celebrated in total 1,808 mandaps in port city and 15 upazilas of the district, said Shyamal Kumar Palit, president of Bangladesh Puja Uddhayan Parishad, Chattogram district unit and central joint secretary of the parishad.

"We have strictly instructed all mandap committees to ensure proper health guidelines during the festival. No devotee would be allowed to enter into the mandap without facemask," said Shymal. "Besides, the volunteers would ensure disinfected spray at the entrance while hand sanitiser and soaps would be kept there so that all the devotees can disinfect their hands before entering into the mandap." Shymal said a total of 500kg rice has been given to each mandap from the government. "We urge the administration to take prompt steps in case of any untoward situation in any mandap during the Puja festivities," said Shymal.

Chattogram Metropolitan Police instructed all the puja committees not to arrange any fireworks or DJ parties at mandaps. "We have decided not to deploy police permanently in any mandap due to the pandemic situation. Sufficient number of mobile teams would be deployed to thwart unwanted situation," said CMP commissioner Saleh Mohammad.

The never-ending road

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However, justice is a far cry for these victims, especially those who have intellectual, speech, hearing and psychosocial disabilities, even though they endure abuse and sexual violence, at rates much higher than other girls and women, said rights activists.

Although there is no data available on conviction rates in rape cases concerning girls with disabilities, activists said such convictions are rare, if not completely unheard of.

BARRIERS IN ACCESSING JUSTICE

In the country's legal system, since the burden of proof entirely falls on the victims, it becomes difficult for the girls and women with disabilities to prove the incident beyond any reasonable doubt due to their circumstances, argued experts.

There is a severe lack of sensitivity and understanding in dealing with survivors with disabilities, they added.

"For example, a survivor with speech and hearing impairment cannot give her testimony to the court directly because there are no lawyers or judges in Bangladesh who know sign language. Courts

require interpreters in such cases, but there are only around 10 of them in the country and most are based in Dhaka," said Supreme Court lawyer Rezaul Karim Siddiqui, also former research fellow at BLAST.

Besides, if an interpreter agrees to take on a case, s/he becomes witnesses and are required to travel whenever needed for hearings, which many consider a hassle.

Ariful Islam, a sign language news presenter of BTV, who has served as an interpreter in more than 20 rape cases, said many judges outside of Dhaka are not aware of interpreters and usually ask the disability focal person of Department of Social Welfare, or teachers of local deaf schools, who may lack the skills or the sensitivity to engage properly with survivors.

"In addition, although the court order mentioned providing transport allowance to interpreters, in reality they do not get any, which discourages many from assisting in cases outside Dhaka. But if the government creates a database of interpreters, assigns them a specific number of cases in a selected area, and provide a minimal transport allowance, the situation could

be improved," he opined.

Even when interpreters are available, testimonies of people with disabilities are often considered not credible, especially of those with intellectual disabilities.

Moreover, in case of survivors with psychosocial disability, the police are not even willing to document such cases because the survivors cannot prove the incident, while those who have multi-sensory impairment are completely unable to give testimony, he added.

Ashrafun Nahar Misti, executive director, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation, an organisation providing non-legal support to women with disabilities, highlighted that Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013 does not specify how a girl child or woman will get remedies if they're raped.

"Rather, they too are dealt under the Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Act 2020, but it would have been better if there was a separate chapter on how these particular cases could be tried and remedies provided."

"Now, we are totally

dependent on the discretion of judges and lawyers, but if they are not sensitive, there is no hope," she said.

"Another important factor is that since most survivors with disabilities mostly come poor families, they cannot afford the protracted legal battle without the assistance from NGOs. Although the public persecutors are appointed by the state, they do not give enough attention to these victims as such cases do not benefit them financially."

Advocate Siddiqui however suggested that if the burden of proof could be shifted to the perpetrator from the victim in such cases, justice could be easier to mete out.

Besides, law enforcement and implementing agencies must ensure that laws related to rape and disability rights must be disseminated to the victims in accessible formats (through braille, sign language).

Contacted, Law Minister Anisul Huq told this correspondent yesterday that he will surely look into the issue and try to address it.

**The real name of the rape survivors and identifying information has been withheld.*

Form separate ministry

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a commission and allocate fund so that socio-economic development of indigenous people can be ensured," he said.

He also criticised the declaration of indigenous people as ethnic minorities.

Afsana Binte Amin from NETZ Bangladesh presented the concept paper in the seminar which illustrated four key drivers because of which the community lagged behind in socio-economic condition of the country.

The concept paper found poor political base in the existing political structure of Bangladesh, poor idea about land and its law, lack of information and lack of knowledge for bargaining against the effort of marginalising them socially, economically and politically.

Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, said a state cannot change the name of any ethnic group. "Indigenous people lost their ethnic identity and got deprived of their land rights in the process of building a modern state. When the world is talking about the conservation of biodiversity, it is the indigenous people who conserve 80 percent of the world's biodiversity," he said.

He also urged the government to form separate commission and ministry for minority groups.

Rokeya Kabir, executive director of Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha; Shamim Ara Begum, executive director of Pallisri, and Jakir Hossen, chief executive of Nagorik Uddog, spoke at the seminar which was moderated by Shahidul Islam, director of NETZ Bangladesh.

DU dorms reopen

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The halls have been closed since the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic last year.

However, the university will resume in-person academic activities from October 17. Authorities plan to hold both physical and online classes, with at least 60 percent classes being held offline in all departments and institutes.

'Gono' rooms

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former students occupy the seats, as far as we know, so actual students are being deprived of accommodation."

Rakibul Rony, general secretary of JU Chhatra Union, echoed the same and underscored the need for proper medical facilities.

JU Provost Committee President Prof Muzibur Rahman acknowledged that abolishing gono rooms at once will not be possible, but authorities will take steps gradually.

Meanwhile, the university will launch a Covid-19 vaccination drive for students on campus from today at the institute's Wazed Miah Science Research Center. Prof AA Mamun, the centre's director and president of the JU Teachers Association, is working as the initiative's coordinator.

The vaccination work will run from 10am to 1:30pm every day.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)



International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka invites proposals from interested Firm/Organization for "Introducing 'Labour Migration Academy' for the Foreign Service Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs". The bidding documents can be downloaded from the ILO Dhaka website under **Procurement Notices** at https://www.ilo.org/dhaka/informationresources/WCMS_821029/lang-en/index.htm

The deadline for submission of proposal RFP/ILO/MIG/2021/005 is **Tuesday, October 19, 2021, by 04:30 PM (BST time)**.

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Pubali Bank Limited, the largest online commercial Bank in Bangladesh is hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers, who can participate in any of the following tender, but in separate envelope as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned work as per terms & conditions stated below:

1. Civil, Electrical & Networking works at present premises of our **Kachua Branch, Chandpur**.
2. Supply, installation & commissioning of Air cooler at **"Dhaka Bar Association" under CSR Program of our Bank through Bar Library Branch, Dhaka**.

Please visit our web site, <https://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp> for details. Interested Parties may purchase the Tender document by **17 October, 2021** duly filled up all requirements and submit their offer by **18 October, 2021 (before 11.00 AM)**. Tender will be opened on same day at **11.30 A.M.**

Dilip Kumar Paul

General Manager & Division Head

পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড Establishment Division
PUBALI BANK LIMITED Head office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.



INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: 07/10/2021

Rental Vehicle Services (Trucks) including driver and fuel at Cox's Bazar on Long-Term Agreement Basis
IFB No.: IFB-BD21-023

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an UN affiliated migration related organization established in 1951 and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits both migrants and society.

In the framework of IOM Emergency and Refugee Humanitarian Assistance Program, the IOM Bids Evaluation and Awards Committee ("BEAC") now invites interested transport service companies to submit "Bid" for the long-term provision of the transport services (light and heavy trucks, lorry, open and covered Van, high and low trailers, crane etc.). Agreement duration: **1 year with possibility of extension** for 2 (two) more years on "1+1+1" basis - subject to satisfactory performance, unchanged prices and both Parties' confirmation.

A complete set of Bidding Document is available for download from IOM Bangladesh website <https://bangladesh.iom.int/opportunities/work-as-service-provider>

Bids shall be valid for a period of 12 Months after the submission of the bids. The proposals must be delivered by hand or through courier service to IOM with office address at **International Organization for Migration - IOM, Procurement Division, Muktiyoddha Building Complex, Baharchara, Motel Road, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh** on or before **3:30 p.m. on 17th Oct. 2021**. No late proposal shall be accepted.

IOM reserves the right to accept or reject any bids, and to cancel the procurement process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of Agreement, without obligation to inform the affected Bidder/s of the ground for IOM action.

Very truly yours, BEAC Chairman

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Prequalification of Retailers and Food Wholesalers for WFP Cox's Bazar
Ref. CXB21NF01EOI

In Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, WFP provides assistance to displaced Rohingya through national retail. The payment modality is via WFP Food Assistance Cards. With these cards, beneficiaries receive an entitlement that they can use to purchase a variety of perishable and non-perishable food and non-food items (bathing and laundry soap etc.) from the WFP-established Electronic-Voucher outlets.

Retail partners will be responsible for:

- 1. Procurement of food (and some non-food items). WFP contracted retailers will be encouraged to procure fresh and perishable items from local producers in the Cox's Bazar district to support the local economy.
 - 2. Implementation of a full logistics plan to transport the commodities to the Cox's Bazar district (Ukhya & Teknaf)
 - 3. Running the distribution points (Electronic-Voucher shops) in line with the humanitarian principles/code of conduct. Strict food quality and safety standards must be implemented and maintained at all stages of the supply chain.
- Interested and reputable organizations working in the food retail/wholesale business sector, who have the supply chain capacity to provide the services as mentioned above, are kindly requested to submit their Expression of Interest to the email address coxsbazar.procurement@wfp.org by the mentioned deadline.
- Minimum Requirements:**
1. Meets all legal requirements for a retailer contract with WFP (Legal registration, Trade License, VAT etc.) or has the ability to acquire all required legal licenses needed for companies to trade in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.
 2. Company with a minimum of three years' experience as an established business; (retail business experience is preferred) with good understanding of supply chain of food commodity market in Bangladesh.
 3. Company accepts WFP's payment terms and conditions.
 4. Ability to provide staff training on retail operations and in-store services and / or store maintenance.
 5. Ability to provide store operations manuals (including back office, logistics, etc.) in the required language.
 6. Ability to meet food quality standards and WFP's monitoring and inspection requirements.
 7. Readiness to allocate staff to outlet locations as per the demand of operation.
 8. Willingness to improve service quality by learning and applying data analytics for running the retail business efficiently; maintain uninterrupted food supply, delivering high quality service whilst maintaining cleanliness and hygiene levels.
 9. Ability and willingness to procure locally produced fresh food (vegetables, eggs, chicken, live fish etc.) from the local farmers.
 10. Ability to adhere to WFP's humanitarian principles and standards, including no discrimination against beneficiaries, data protection requirements.
- Deadline for registration: 25 October 2021 at 16:00 hrs Dhaka time.**

Family still awaits

FROM PAGE 3

Ashek-e-Elahi, ASI Hasan Uddin, Constable Harunur Rashid, Constable Titu Chandra Das, and Abdullah Al Noman. All except Noman are in jail.

On September 30, Sylhet's Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate accepted the charge-sheet, framed charges and issued an arrest warrant against the fugitive.

Marking one year of the murder, family members and well-wishers of Rayhan organised a human chain in front of Sylhet Central Saheed Minar yesterday afternoon.

Rayhan's mother Salma Begum said, "It took a whole year to frame charges, so we

don't know how long it'll take to conclude the trial."

PRIME ACCUSED TRIES TO MEDIATE

After charge framing, prime accused Sub-inspector Akbar tried to mediate the matter by convincing Rayhan's family.

Salma Begum said, "While we went to the jail gate for witness deposition, Rayhan's uncle was taken to a room with Akbar, where Akbar and Ashek-e-Elahi begged for forgiveness. They said they tortured Rayhan to death on wrong information."

A few weeks earlier, Akbar's parents came to Sylhet and proposed for mediation, but we refused their proposal, she said.

Pandemic reversed work

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achievement in creating a child marriage free village has been reversed in the pandemic, as more and more parents were marrying off their underage daughters due to school closure and financial instability.

"Due to Covid-19, we could not work properly as there was restriction of movement, and now, the number of child marriages has increased again in our village, which is very disappointing for us," she said.

Nasima Akter Jolly, secretary, National Girl Child Advocacy Forum Bangladesh, highlighted that during the first eight months of 2021, a total of 813 girl children were subjected to rape, while 193 girl children were killed in this period, due to rape, sexual harassment and family feud, and 157 girl children died by suicide.

"We have to address the mental health issues of the girls, and families should take necessary steps in this regard," she said.

Besides, in order to stop sexual harassment and torture of girl children, a separate and comprehensive law regarding the sexual harassment prevention and remedy should be enacted, she added.

Rawnak Jahan, representative of Girls Not Brides Bangladesh, the Bangladesh alliance to end child marriage, said they were unable to visit the community during the pandemic, and could not continue their social mobilisation activities and advocacy for legal reforms.

However, the Girls Not Brides, a network of 29 organisations, will continue its work on the pressing issue, by sharing learnings and challenges with each other, she assured.

ActionAid Bangladesh country director Farah Kabir; Solika Akter of Activista Dhaka-YFF Network; Syeda Samara Mortada, regional movement, supporter, SheDecides; Priodarshine Auvi, programme analyst, climate change programme, UN Women; Halima Akter, manager, policy and advocacy, Educo Bangladesh, among others, spoke at the event.

It was moderated by Morium Nesa, manager- Women Rights and Gender Equity, ActionAid Bangladesh.

Noted journo Rafiqul

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returned to his workplace after surviving Covid-19 last year. However, he was completely bedridden for the past six months. He left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter and many well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was the initiator of a children's page called "Chander Hat", published in the daily Purbodosh, from where he got the title of "Dadubhai".

He served as the executive editor of Dainik Rupali, Dainik Janata, and worked in several important positions in Dainik Azad, Dainik Lal Sabuj, The Bangladesh Observer and his last workplace, the daily Jugantor during his distinguished career.

From 1976 until 1983, he was the acting editor of Kishore Bangla, the Indian subcontinent's only weekly newspaper dedicated to children.

He received the Bangla Academy Award and the Bangladesh Children's Academy Award in 2019 for his contributions to Bangla children's literature.

He received numerous prizes throughout his lifetime.

In a condolence message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of Dadubhai. She prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed deep sympathy to the bereaved family members.

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FAVP & Head of Department



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বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৭০/২০২১

তারিখঃ ২২ আশ্বিন, ১৪২৮

০৭ অক্টোবর, ২০২১

দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং করপোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ এ 'সহকারী ব্যবস্থাপক (এক্সামিনেশন)' পদে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে অনুষ্ঠেয় লিখিত পরীক্ষার আসন বিন্যাস ও সময়সূচি সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং করপোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ এ ৯ম ফ্লোরে ১১ ক্যাটাগরির পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৬১/২০১৯, তারিখঃ ২২/১২/২০১৯ এর সূত্রে 'সহকারী ব্যবস্থাপক (এক্সামিনেশন)' পদে অনলাইনে আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীদের মধ্য হতে ইতোপূর্বে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইট হতে প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোডকারী এবং বিভাগীয় ম্যানেজার আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীদের লিখিত পরীক্ষা আগামী ২৩/১০/২০২১ তারিখ শনিবার বিকাল ০৩ঃ০০টা হতে ০৫ঃ০০টা পর্যন্ত নিম্নোক্ত কেন্দ্রসমূহে অনুষ্ঠিত হবেঃ

ক্রমিক নং	পরীক্ষার কেন্দ্র	রোল নম্বর	প্রার্থী সংখ্যা
১.	লালমাটিয়া উচ্চ বালিকা বিদ্যালয়, ৯/১৫, ব্রহ্ম-ডি, লালমাটিয়া, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।	২৩০০০১ থেকে ২৩২৯১৫	১৮০০
২.	সেন্ট্রাল উইমেন্স কলেজ, ১৩/২, অভয় দাস সেন, টিকাটুলি, ঢাকা-১২০৩।	২৩২৯১৬ থেকে ২৩৭৮৪১	৩০০০
৩.	খিলগাঁও মডেল কলেজ, ব্রহ্ম-সি, ৭২১/১, খিলগাঁও চৌরাস্তা, ঢাকা-১২১৯।	২৩৭৮৪২ থেকে ২৪৮২৯৬	৩৫৯৫
৪.	যাত্রাবাড়ী আইডিয়াল স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ, যাত্রাবাড়ী, ঢাকা-১২০৪।	২৪৮২৯৭ থেকে ২৪৯৩০৮	২৮০০
৫.	আহমেদ বাওয়ালী একাডেমী স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ, ৩-৫, কে.পি. বোথ স্ট্রিট, আরমানিটোলা, বাবুবাজার, ঢাকা-১১০০।	২৪৯৩০৯ থেকে ২৫২৮২২	২৮০০
সর্বমোট			১৩,৯৯৫

২। উক্ত পদের বিভাগীয় ম্যানেজার আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীদের প্রবেশপত্র এসপিসিবিএলের প্রশাসন বিভাগ হতে ১৩/১০/২০২১ তারিখ থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

৩। পরীক্ষার হলে প্রবেশের পূর্বে প্রয়োজনীয় চেকিং কার্যক্রম সম্পন্ন করার জন্য পরীক্ষা শুরু করণকক্ষে ৩০ মিনিট পূর্বে পরীক্ষার্থীদেরকে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে উপস্থিত হতে হবে। প্রবেশপত্র ব্যতিরেকে কোন প্রার্থীকে পরীক্ষা অংশগ্রহণ করতে দেয়া হবে না।

৪। পরীক্ষার হলে প্রবেশপত্রের একটি কপি ব্যতীত কোন ধরণের কাগজ, বই, মোবাইল ফোন, ক্যালকুলেটর, স্মার্টওয়াচ ও অন্যান্য ইলেক্ট্রনিক ডিভাইস নিয়ে প্রবেশ করা যাবে না।

৫। পরীক্ষার জন্য আগত প্রার্থীদেরকে স্বাস্থ্য মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক নির্দেশিত কোভিড-১৯ সংক্রান্ত স্বাস্থ্য বিধি মেনে চলতে হবে।

৬। পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীদেরকে কোনরূপ টিএ/ডিএ দেয়া হবেনা।

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২১-০১৮৬

তারিখঃ ১০-১০-২০২১

স্বাক্ষরিত/-

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