

Celebrations called off in protest

Hindu community boycotts Durga Puja following RMG worker's death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

Durga Puja is being organised at 1,263 mandaps in Dinajpur this year. However, it will not be held in Tangua Kumarpara mandap, which has no decorations at place. Only a black flag is hoisted on the premises in protest.

The Hindu community in Dinajpur's Khansama upazila has unanimously decided not to celebrate Durga Puja this year, protesting the death of female RMG worker in the area.

Dhiman Chandra Das, president of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad in Khansama, confirmed the matter.

"Local administration sat with them to convince them, but failed," he said.

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Plastic and organic waste continues to infiltrate the Bhairab river banks. When the river swells, much of it gets carried into the waterbody. As a result, the river keeps getting polluted. This photo was taken in Kalibari Kheyaghat in Khulna's Borobazar area recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Four held over attack on journo in Rajshahi

Mobile court fines Ayurvedic factory Tk 2 lakh for irregularities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

Four employees of Bioherbs Ayurvedic Factory in Rajshahi were arrested and the factory authorities were fined Tk 2 lakh for irregularities after a journalist was assaulted by factory staffers.

Employees of the factory assaulted Tangim Haque, general secretary of Rajshahi Union of Journalists in Rajshahi city's Haragram Tultulipara yesterday.

Haque, also a staff reporter of The Daily Jugantor, was attacked when he protested the incident of factory staffers blocking the road to his office by parking a pickup van.

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44 to get agriculture award

BSS, *Dhaka*

A total of 44 individuals and organisations will get Bangabandhu Jatiya Krishi Puroshkar-1425 and 1426, the highest state recognition to the agriculture sector.

Of them, 15 individuals and organisations will get the award for the year of 1425 and 21 individuals and organisations for 1426.

Three gold medals, 25 bronze medals and 16 silver medals will be distributed among the selected persons and organisations for their outstanding contribution to the different fields of agriculture.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will formally hand over the awards through a ceremony at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) in Dhaka on October 12, according to official sources.

The Ministry of Agriculture will organise the event with Agriculture Minister and Chairman of Bangabandhu Krishi Puroshkar Trust M Abdur Razzaque in the chair.

These awards will be given for their special contribution to the agriculture research and expansion, cooperatives, motivation, technology innovation, commercial farming, afforestation, rearing livestock and poultry and fish farming.

25 Barguna roads in sorry state



OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

At least 25 rural roads built in different villages of seven unions in Barguna's Amtali upazila are full of potholes.

As a result, commuting on these roads has become nearly impossible due to its dilapidated condition. The situation has deteriorated further following the monsoon.

According to Amtali Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) officials and locals said among the 25 roads, the situation of the seven-km road from Khekuani Bazar to Gulishakhali Bazar is the worst, especially near the Kekhuzani market.

Besides, the six-km road from Gulishakhali Bazar to Gochkhali Union Parishad and the Charkhali road are also in a very sorry state.

Due to sub-standard materials, the carpeting of most parts of these roads have been removed and

they are now filled with numerous potholes, said locals.

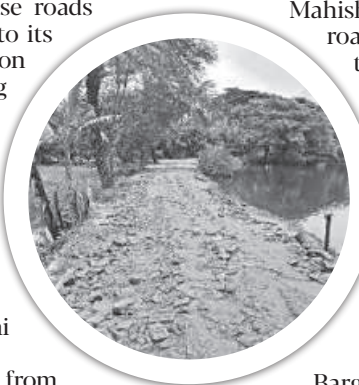
Similar conditions were seen in the four-km road from Haldia Hat Government Primary School to Gurudal village, the five-km road from Khintakatta to Mahishdanga in Amtali Union, the three-km road from Loda Bridge to Haldia Bridge, the three-km road from Kaunia Dam to Kalam Mistry Bari in Chawra Union and other roads of the union.

Upazila Jubo League Organising Secretary Abdus Sobahan Liton, a resident of Khekuani village, said residents of Amtali are suffering every day because of the dilapidated condition of the roads and demanded their immediate repair.

Ariful Hasan, a former member of Barguna Zilla Parishad, echoed the same.

Contacted, Amtali LGED engineer Abdullah Al Mamun said funds have been requested from the higher authorities to repair the roads.

"We are hopeful about starting the renovation work during the dry season," he added.



SSC QUESTION LEAK

Two more teachers remanded in Kurigram

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Lalmoharhat*

A Kurigram court yesterday placed two more teachers on a two-day remand each in connection with the SSC exam question leak in Bhurungamari of the district.

Judicial Magistrate Suman Ali passed the order against Jobayer Hossain and Aminur Islam Rasel.

Earlier on September 29, the court granted a three-day remand for Lutfar Rahman, a head teacher of Bhurungamari Nehal Uddin Pilot Girls' High School and SSC examination centre secretary.

Bhurungamari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Alamgir Hossain confirmed that Lutfar was sent to jail yesterday following the expiry of his three-day remand.

According to police, Lutfar, English teacher Aminur Islam Rasel, Islamic teacher Jobayer Hossain, Agriculture teacher Hamidul Islam, Bengali teacher Sohel Chowdhury and peon Sujun Mia were arrested over the question leak.

Abu Hanif, office assistant of the school, is absconding. The school management committee has suspended the arrested teachers.

Initiative to demolish wall of century-old school on hold



OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

The move to demolish the boundary walls of the centenary-old Bindubasini Government Boys' High School in Tangail to widen municipal roads, has been put on hold amid protests by current and former students.

The decision was taken yesterday in a views-exchange meeting with civil society, journalists and municipal authorities at the municipal auditorium.

The meeting came to a conclusion that the issue will be resolved mutually taking recommendations from all stakeholders involved.

With an aim to reduce increasing traffic congestion and improving the town's drainage system, Tangail municipality started the process of converting the two-lane Zila Sadar Road, one of the main roads of the district town, into a four-lane one.

As part of this process, the municipality started taking back the occupied structures built in its territory, officials said.

Local assistant commissioner (land) on September 8 identified that a part of Bindubasini school's boundary wall belonged to the municipality.

Later, the municipal authorities asked the school authorities through letters to hand over five feet of the "encroached" area for the road.

However, the school wrote back to the

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Dorms closed, exams postponed

Comilla University sees tension following dissolution of BCL committee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Cumilla*

The Comilla University authorities yesterday announced closure of all dorms of the university following the dissolution of the Chhatra League committee (university unit).

The university also postponed all exams from October 10 to 17, said a press release signed by Amirul Haque Chowdhury, registrar (acting) of the university.



Registrar (Acting) Amirul Haque said classes will continue even though the examinations will be postponed from October 10 to 17. The date of opening residential halls will be announced later.

The dorms of the university will remain closed until further notice and students were asked to leave by 6:00pm yesterday, the release added.

Female students have been instructed to leave their halls by 9:00am today.

All types of transport – except the university's own transport and the vehicles for carrying the university's teachers, officers and employees – will not be allowed to enter the university campus, according to the release.

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Looking out to the distance, residents in Faridpur Sadar have only one thing in their mind -- "Where will we go now?". Many have lost their homes twice now due to the erosion caused by the Padma. With no sustainable solutions in sight, they silently mourn their lost homes.

PHOTO: STAR

Left at the mercy of Padma

Homes, cropland lost to river erosion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Faridpur*

At least 41 homes, 11 acres of cropland and one kilometre of a brick road under Faridpur Sadar have been lost to erosion caused by the Padma river.

The residents of Yusuf Matbarer Dangi area said the erosion started on September 14.

Char Tepurakandi Government Primary School, Union Community Clinic and Yusuf Matubbar's Dangi Jame Masjid are now on the brink of disappearing into the mighty Padma. These establishments are now around 400 metres away from the erosion area, they added.

Dulal Sheikh (65), a farmer of Yusuf Matubbar Dangi village, said, "My home and three other houses of my family members have been

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