

Second Bangladesh War Course celebrates its golden jubilee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Second Bangladesh War Course, who were inducted as officer cadets in November 1971 – to strengthen the Liberation War-time officers corps – and commissioned into Bangladesh Army on August 5, 1972, recently commemorated their 50th anniversary of commissioning.

At that time, the members underwent three months of training in India and six months of training in Dhaka.

The event was held on September 29 at Dhaka's Golf Garden.

The historic golden jubilee event, which was attended by a large number of senior freedom fighters, including the recipients of gallantry awards, was presided over by lawmaker Capt (retd) AB Tajul Islam, SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



A large number of senior freedom fighters, including the recipients of gallantry awards, attended the golden jubilee event of Second Bangladesh War Course at Dhaka's Golf Garden on September 29. Lawmaker Capt (retd) AB Tajul Islam presided over the event, which was addressed by Chief of Army Staff General Shafiuddin Ahmed and former minister Major Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, among others. PHOTO: COURTESY

Errant cops tarnishing our image

New IGP tells police officers at first meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly-appointed police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun yesterday said the force's honour and image are being tarnished due to the misconduct of some officers.



He warned of exemplary action against any officer found guilty of corruption and iterated the force's "zero tolerance" towards any officer associated with drugs.

The chief made the remarks during his first ever views-exchange meeting with field-level police officers.

Mamun, who took over as inspector general of police (IGP) on September 30, directed the officers to provide service with professionalism and impartiality.

The virtual meeting was attended by all metropolitan police commissioners, deputy inspector generals of all ranges, district superintendents, and officers- SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

World's future at stake

Speakers tell seminar on climate change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The future of the world will worsen if the international community fails to address challenges related to climate change amid the Russia-Ukraine war and the aftermath of the pandemic, said climate expert Dr Saleemul Huq yesterday.

"Climate change is a global problem that has started to hit us all. However, we are not ready [to address it] yet," he said.

He was speaking at a seminar on climate diplomacy, organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) at its auditorium, ahead of

Bangladesh has much to offer to the world as it has been tackling climate change for a long time. It already has all the plans, policies and many adaptation technologies in place and is very active in global climate negotiations."

PROF SALEEMUL HUQ
Climate Expert

COP 27 in Egypt in November.

Acknowledging that the death toll has already crossed 100 in Florida's hurricane, coupled with the damage caused by the heatwave in Europe, Prof Saleem said climate change is causing losses of billions of dollars every day.

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Bangladesh needs to continue the momentum. Bangladeshi diplomats, wherever they are posted, need to talk to their counterparts, tell the stories of Bangladesh's SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

DISCLOSE INFO PROACTIVELY

Speakers urge NGOs at webinar on RTI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a webinar yesterday urged NGOs to disclose their information proactively, based on the Right to Information Act 2009 and suggested they organise orientation and skill development training for policy-level officials in this regard.

The webinar, titled "RTI Act 2009 and Access to Information to All", was organised by RTI Forum Bangladesh.

While sharing the findings of the study, titled "Assessment of Proactive Disclosure of 60 NGOs" – a part of Manusher Jonno Foundation's Excluded People's Rights (EPR) project – MRDI Executive Director Hasibur Rahman said only 12 senior NGO officials are aware of the key spirit of the RTI Act, while in most cases, executive directors and senior officials do not know which information to disclose proactively and in which format.

"There is also a lack of interest among policy level officials regarding the proactive disclosure of the information. In addition, a few said that there is a lack of budget and skills to operate the website, while a few mentioned the fear of external pressure," he said.

The assessment also found that among the 60 NGOs, 46 have independent websites, while seven have none. Four NGOs have websites that are not functional.



report and only one NGO disclosed its project evaluation report. Only four NGOs have followed the proper rules and regulations of the RTI Act in their information disclosure policies.

A total of 12 NGOs needed correction in their information disclosure policies.

The assessment also suggested arranging training for the IT staff regarding the creation of a website and data disclosure policy in the braille method for visually impaired people.

Mentioning the RTI Act as a civic law, MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam, also the convenor of the RTI forum, said the RTI Act has not been popularised yet, especially in the urban community, even though there are so many scopes to use it to raise voice against misgovernance.

She also said Bangladesh is lagging behind India in terms of using the RTI Act.

She urged NGOs to disclose their information proactively, as they are falling behind the government organisations regarding this.

Ruhi Naz, project coordinator, Research Initiative of Bangladesh (RIB), presented the lessons in RTI implementation and concerted efforts of the civil society while highlighting the important role of the media and lawyers in being part of the platform and promoting the Act.

However, only nine NGOs have information displayed regarding the designated information officers, while only two had information on additional information officers.

Only four shared their principles and manuals on their websites.

Furthermore, only 17 NGOs have shared their organogram, while only 10 shared the names of the officials. Of them, only five disclosed their contact numbers against the names of the officials.

The assessment also found that 22 NGOs have disclosed their annual

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Dengue situation keeps getting worse

Experts call for immediate measures to curb mosquito population

HELEMUL ALAM



Just the first three days of October, till Monday, saw six people die from dengue and 1,728 being hospitalised across the country. In September alone, 34 died and 9,911 were admitted to hospitals.

This situation indicates an even worse time ahead, that is if proper measures are not taken to control Aedes mosquitoes. Experts

pointed to inadequate initiatives to destroy Aedes hotspots and favourable weather for mosquitoes to breed for October's situation.

They strongly urged authorities to take proper steps to control Aedes mosquitoes.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), one dengue patient died, while 525 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8:00am Monday. With the new cases, total patients have risen to 17,820, while the death toll is 61 this year.

Entomologist Prof Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University said every year in October, dengue cases start going down. But this time, the rising trend will continue.

It is not possible to control dengue without managing the hotspots. This year, authorities took inadequate measures to find and manage these sites, said Kabirul.

"Hotspot management means identifying risky houses and areas by collecting addresses of dengue patients," he explained.

Authorities will have to kill adult Aedes mosquitoes and their larvae at these sites, and build awareness among residents, he added.

Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman of Bangladesh National University said as short-term activities, authorities will have to conduct surveys in risky areas to find symptomatic or mild dengue patients and bring them under care.

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BB CYBER HEIST CID gets 30 more days to complete probe

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday gave 30 more working days to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to complete the probe in the Bangladesh Bank (BB) cyber heist case.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Arfatul Rakib passed the order, following a petition filed by the CID.

On September 27, investigation officer Rayhan Uddin Khan, additional superintendent of Police at CID, filed an application, seeking 180 more working days to investigate the case. SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

PRAYER TIMING	
OCTOBER 5	
Fazr	Zohr
4:45	12:45
Asr	Maghrib
5:53	7:30
JAMAAT	5:20
1:15	4:30
5:56	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Of strength and togetherness

Durga Puja being celebrated with much fervour in capital

NAZIFA RAIDAH and DIPAN NANDY

Festivals have always been a cornerstone of the country's culture. It's not only about the rituals and traditions that promote a sense of community but also about the various customs and the spirit of Durga Puja that buzzes in the air.

With the beginning of Durga's departure, her devotees are now experiencing mixed emotions, as she leaves them behind, blessed in strength and protection.

Devotees of Durga started thronging puja mandaps from the evening of Mahashashthi on Saturday. On Monday (Mahashatami), they conducted "Matri-darshan" (visiting the Goddess' idol) in the early morning.

Many of the city's people – accompanied by their families and friends – hopped the mandaps, mesmerised by the bright colours on the idols. Centres, where puja was being celebrated, were completely crowded from the afternoon till the eve of Mahashatami.

Old Dhaka's Northbrook Hall Road, Shankharibazar, Tantibazar and Laxmibazar areas were the most popularly visited areas. After Mahashatami evening, devotees slipped into an uproar of excitement and fun through



the Aarti dance, performed to thank Goddess Durga.

Tantibazar priest Kalipad Chowdhury said, "Durga killed Mahishasur. That's why it is believed that this festival destroys evil forces, a time when the good triumphs."

Walking towards the mandaps in the areas of worship, one is greeted with the fading beats of "dhak". The smell of incense wafted through the air, mixed with the smell of freshly

fried "luchi" and batches of "labra", a mixed vegetable dish.

Mirpur residents Sudhanshu Debnath and his wife Radhika Debnath were seen enjoying the festivities at Shakhari Bazar on Monday night.

"The festival picks up on Ashtami, so I came out to be a part of the festivity and worship with my wife," said Sudhanshu.

On Nabami yesterday, the atmosphere is still

charged with tears of joy and anticipation for Durga's return the following year. Devotees were seen overwhelmed with emotion while they were bowing at the feet of the goddess at Ram Krishna Mission Mandir in Gopibag.

Ankita Ray, a homemaker who visited the Ram Krishna Mission mandap with her mother and in-laws, said, "Durga Puja is a much-needed breather for us believers. As the year is slowly progressing towards the end, Maa Durga is leaving us with the strength to deal with any adversity."

In the evening yesterday, Ram Krishna Mission Road was seen clogged with vehicles and pedestrians enjoying the small fair outside the premises of the Mandir. Some devotees were seen enjoying cotton candy, while others

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON