

195 pro-BNP lawyers file writ to be contemnors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One hundred and ninety-five Supreme Court lawyers yesterday filed a petition with the Appellate Division to voluntarily become contemnors (one who commits contempt) to protest a contempt of court petition against seven pro-BNP lawyers.

The 195 include Md Mohsen Rashid, Gias Uddin Ahmed, Shah Ahmed Badal, and Syed Mamun Mahbub.

Badal told The Daily Star last night that they want to be contemnors to ensure the independence of the judiciary and to protest the SC's entertaining of the August-29 contempt of court petition filed against the seven lawyers.

"We will try to move our petition before the Appellate Division chamber judge on Thursday [today]," he said.

On August 29, SC lawyer Md Nazmul Huda filed a contempt of court petition with the Appellate Division against the seven for making "slandorous, derogatory and contemptuous" comments about two apex court judges.

He submitted the petition through his lawyer Nahid Sultana Juthi to the apex court praying to it to draw contempt of court proceedings against the seven lawyers and to punish them for their comments made at a press conference on the Supreme Court Bar Association premises on August 27.

The seven pro-BNP lawyers are Md Kayser Kamal, Abdul Jamil Mohammad Ali, Fahima Nasrin, Md Abdul Jabbar Bhuiyan, Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal, Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman Khan and Gazi Kamrul Islam Sajal.

They at the press conference demanded that the two SC judges be kept away from discharging judicial functions. They said otherwise they would demand the judges' resignations, according to the contempt of court petition.

US wading deeper into Ukraine war

Says Putin

AGENCIES

Russian President Vladimir Putin said yesterday that the United States was wading deeper into the Ukraine conflict and making a mistake by providing Kyiv with long-range ATACMS missiles.

He told a news conference during a visit to China that he had briefed President Xi Jinping "in some detail" about Ukraine. He said "external factors" and "common threats" served only to strengthen Russia-Chinese cooperation.

The Kremlin chief said Washington's decision to supply the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS), whose use Kyiv confirmed on Tuesday, "just prolongs the agony" for Ukraine.

NZ bring down high-flying Afghans

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Young, replacing skipper Kane Williamson who fractured his thumb in the last game, added 79 for the second wicket with Ravindra who scored a 41 ball 32.

But Afghanistan hit back with three wickets off just nine balls for one run as pacer Azmatullah Omarzai dismissed Ravindra and Young in the same over.

Young had three sixes and four boundaries in his knock.

In the next over spinner Rashid Khan had Daryl Mitchell for one as New Zealand lost their way.

It was left to Phillips, who cracked four sixes and as many boundaries, to join stand-in skipper Latham in a solid fifth wicket stand of 144 to revive the innings.

Latham hit three boundaries and two sixes but he and Phillips fell for the addition of just one run, leaving Chapman to give late impetus.

Fast bowlers Naveen-ul-Haq and Omarzai took two wickets apiece.

EC hopes parties will arrive at a consensus

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The commission does not see any hurdles to an election," Anisur said.

Asked whether there were concerns that the election may not be held on time, he said, "I am not worried about it."

As per the constitution, there is no alternative to holding the election on time.

The current parliament expires on January 29. According to the constitution, the national election must be held anytime during the final 90 days of the parliament's tenure.

Polling materials are already being taken to the election offices across the country, he said.

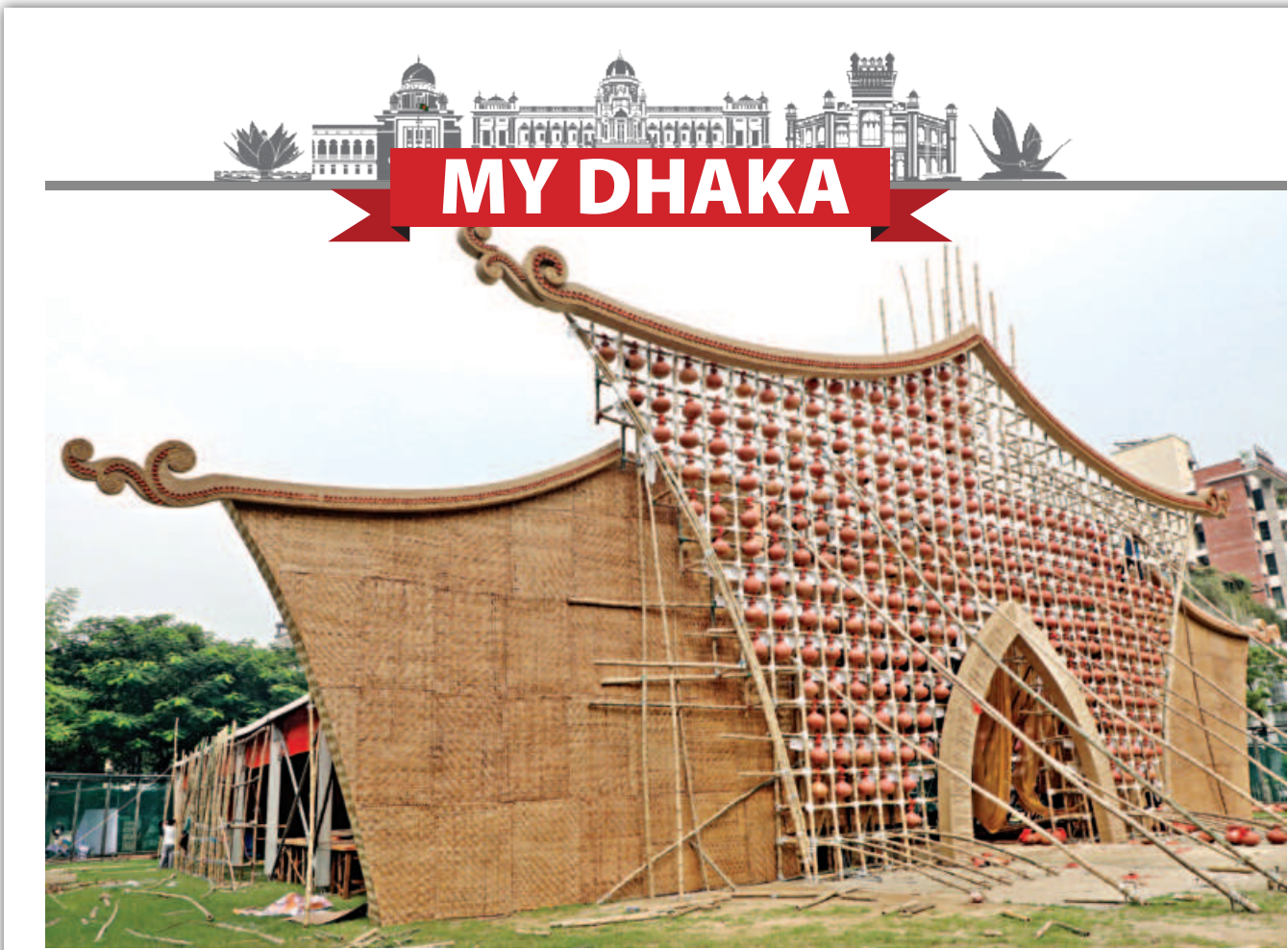


PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BANANI PUJA MANDAP

Preserving folk traditions

RBR

Durga Puja or Sharbajanin Durgotsav encompasses an emotion, a culmination of a long wait each year to celebrate the win of good over evil and the scene at the puja mandap is one to behold.

The tempo of puja mandaps are always lively and energetic. The colours donning the mandap – saffron or mustard yellow playing with vermilion red amalgamate with nine hues of Durga.

The Gulshan-Banani Sharbajanin Puja Foundation organises the biggest arrangements in the country. This year Partha Protim Saha, CEO of Karikori Karkhana and curator, Gulshan-Banani puja mandap for the past seven years, shuns all the ornamentations of the past and introduces a new environmentally friendly mandap-making concept.

Partha and his creative team members are exploring the theme of a particular Rabindra Sangeet, *Aaji Bangladesher hridaya hote*, from where they took upon the meaning that a mother's poor straw hut is a golden temple for her children. Thus, they are trying to bring back Bangalee aesthetics by giving this significant puja mandap a total earthy, deshi look.

"This year we decided to make a *kure ghor* and turn it into a golden temple using all natural building materials like paddy straw, chattai (a handcrafted mat of green cane), jute ropes, and wooden boards. For ornamentation, we will use terracotta kolshi or pitchers, shora, diyas and bamboo sticks. Our colour scheme is inspired by the reddish tone of terracotta, the golden strain of paddy straw and the green of bamboo.

"It is strictly an earthy colour palette. The mufassil towns and Chattogram district in particular have always opted for environmentally friendly mandaps. It will be a challenge to appease the crowd of Dhaka with a deshi look, but I believe it can be stylised and made glamorous," Partha says.

People of various professions are involved in mandap making this year. Around 50 to 100 people are working in the pre-and-post-production stages. The Gulshan-Banani puja mandap accounts for a cost of little less than a crore, which is far less than the previous years; the core team of this project wants to establish the idea of promoting Bangladeshi folk traditions.

The team of designers have kept in mind the hassle of disposing of the post-production debris. It becomes a serious problem to clean up after the Puja ends as most designers use

thermocool, polystyrene foam and other synthetic materials to give a rich, lavish look.

"It all contributes to environmental disasters. If we can impress the sophisticated crowd of Banani Puja Mandap with local art forms and crafts, then it ought to have a positive impact on the local industries. This grand stage is a perfect place to promote and appreciate folk art. It will put this intangible cultural heritage of Bangladesh in the spotlight," says Joy Prakash, art director of the project.

It is hoped that this year's huge local craft activation will benefit the pals or terracotta artisans the most. The mandap-making process will require a lot of terracotta art and they have placed a huge order for terracotta kolshis and shoras. This mere order will help them keep afloat economically throughout the year. According to Partha, Durga Puja is more of a festival than devotion. The beats in a rhythmic pattern of the dhakis or dhak, a Bangalee drum, establish a groove that spiritually communicates with the devotees who dance to its pulsating sounds. The priest chanting his mantras in a soft rhythm, the blowing of the conch shell, and the tinkling of the bells announcing the arati or worship rituals of the Devi, all bring about a fervour in you.

Step down or face non-stop movement

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Road in front of the BNP office in Nayapaltan. Many of them travelled from different districts to attend the event.

BNP MEN ARRESTED

A Dhaka court yesterday sent BNP Organising Secretary Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu to jail and placed 11 others on two-day remand in a case filed over assault on police.

According to the case documents, Dulu, along with the other accused, attacked detectives with locally-made weapons while the cops were raiding a neighbourhood in Badda

around 7:55pm on October 17. Three detectives were seriously injured.

"The arrestees gathered there from across the country on Dulu's instructions to carry out subversive activities to topple the government," Sub-Inspector Ripon Mia of the DB told the court.

Dulu told the court that he was a cancer patient and his chemotherapy must begin within a week.

His lawyers said the complaint against Dulu was false.

The DB arrested 51 BNP members at a hotel in Kakrail on Tuesday night. A case was filed against them

with Ramna Police Station under the explosive substances act last night.

Rajib Al Masud, deputy commissioner of DB (Motijheel), told The Daily Star last night that the arrestees hurled crude bombs at police and a firearm was recovered from them.

In the capital's Shewrapara around 10:30pm on Tuesday, Kafirul police arrested five people, including Abul Kalam Azad, the convener of Tanti Dal. They were sent to jail yesterday.

DMP Spokesperson Faruk Hossain told reporters that the arrests were part of their regular drives but did not say how many people were detained.

It added, "24,000 people in the Dhaka region alone were estimated to have died prematurely due to air pollution in the 13 years between 2005 and 2018."

Additionally, women and children are more likely to be exposed to indoor air pollution because only 23 percent of the population has access to clean cooking fuels.

Asked, Ahmad Kamruzzaman Majumder, chairman of the environmental science department at Stamford University Bangladesh and Center for Atmospheric Pollution Studies, said, "While the intensity and extent of heatwaves are increasing, the use of fossil fuels is accelerating both the rise in temperature and air pollution, creating multifaceted risks for public health."

Additionally, climate change is also impacting mental health, contributing to conditions like anxiety and depression.

Prof Iqbal Kabir, director of Climate Change and Health Promotion Unit of the health ministry, said, "Climate change is a big public health crisis for Bangladesh."

"It's crucial that we swiftly implement policies to pave the way for a low-carbon emitting, resilient nation and protect the well-being of our people today and in the future."

It's final: PM to head polls-time govt

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director said that our economy is on the right track, inflation is reducing slowly and the future of Bangladesh is bright."

He said AL President Sheikh Hasina is a "magical leader".

"We need some patience. Now people are suffering due to some problems, but we have a leader who will find a way out of this."

Leaders and activists from different units of Dhaka city joined the rally at which the two Dhaka mayors also spoke.

Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said, "Different global powers and local reactionary forces are jointly conspiring to defeat the progressive power and to form a puppet

government. It is not the time to hold rallies only. We need to turn our homes into fortresses...."

AL praesidium member Abdur Rahman said the BNP is planning a blockade of Dhaka after Durga Puja with 10 lakh people. "If they announce such a programme, are you [AL leaders and activists] ready to come out of your homes with sticks instead of banners and festoons?"

Abu Ahmed Mannafi, president of Dhaka south city AL, presided over the programme. AL praesidium members Shahjahan Khan, Mofazzol Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Jahangir Kabir Nanak, AL Organising Secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim, AL Joint Secretary Hasan Mahmud also spoke at the event.

Palestinians still counting the dead

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result of an errant rocket fired by a terrorist group in Gaza."

Biden also said the US would provide \$100 million in new funding for humanitarian aid in Gaza and the occupied West Bank, reports Reuters.

The president said he would ask Congress this week for unprecedented aid to boost Israel in its fight with Hamas, aid that is expected to be folded into a massive \$100 billion package in Congress.

But he also warned Israelis that they should not give into their "rage" after the attack and follow the law of war.

Jordan on Tuesday announced the cancellation of a summit involving Biden. It was hoped that it would breathe new life into the Middle East peace process following major fighting between Israel and Hamas.

Journo assaulted at Cumilla Medical College Hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A journalist was assaulted by a doctor and "his men" at the casualty department of Cumilla Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Rofikul Islam Khokon, Cumilla bureau chief of Jamuna TV, accused doctor Abu Jafor Rony of the casualty department and "his men" of not allowing a cameraperson to record footage and forcing them out of the hospital.

He alleged that Jafor and "his men" punched him.

"I went to the hospital to record footage of a tortured teen domestic help who was undergoing treatment there. I praised the doctor for their service and requested him to let me discharge my duties. But the physician and his men assaulted me. They also tried to vandalise the camera."

This correspondent could not reach Jafor for comments as he did not respond to calls.

Azizur Rahman Siddique, director of the hospital, said, "If the journalist files a complaint, I will form a committee to investigate the matter."

Two killed in Gazipur road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Two people were killed in a road accident on the Dhaka-Kishoreganj highway in Gazipur's Kapasia upazila yesterday afternoon.

Deceased Harun Mia, 40, and Rashid, 65, were residents of Kapasia.

Ali Hossain Chowdhury, president of Mia Bazar Association, said Harun was going to Kapasia town from his village home around 4:30pm. He lost control of his bike in Kapasia's Mia Bazar area and hit the pedestrian who was crossing the road.

Harun died on the spot. Locals rushed injured Rashid to Kapasia Upazila Health Complex, from where he was referred to Dhaka for better treatment.

Rashid's son Amin told The Daily Star that his father died on the way to Dhaka.

War crimes accused held in Faridpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion has arrested a fugitive accused of committing crimes against humanity in Mymensingh during the Liberation War. A team of Rab-2 picked up Anwar Hossain alias Bihari Anwar from Kotwali area in Faridpur on Tuesday, Shihab Karim, senior assistant director (media) of Rab-2, said yesterday.

A case was filed against Anwar on August 6, 2017, for looting valuables, killing people and torching houses in Mymensingh's Phulpur upazila in 1971. He went into hiding soon after the filing of the case, the official added.

In March 2019, the International Crimes Tribunal-1 issued an arrest warrant for him.