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Devotees bid farewell to Durga

UNB, Dhaka

Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Bangalee Hindu community, ended yesterday with the immersion of the idols of Goddess Durga and her children in water bodies across the country.

According to Hindu mythology, this is when Durga returns to her husband's house at Kailash in Devaloy (heaven).

In the capital, thousands of people thronged the Buriganga in Bosila area to observe this final phase of the festival.

Hindu devotees came to the wharf in trucks, carrying idols and singing hymns with the sounds of musical instruments such as "Shankha", "Khol", and "Dhak".

Devotees were seen bidding farewell to the mother deity and her children – Lakshmi, Saraswati, Kartik, and Ganesh – and wishing for Durga's return next year.

They also took part in the "Shidur Khela", in which female devotees offered vermilion at the feet of Durga and put it on each other wishing for their prosperity.

This year, Durga Puja was celebrated at some 32,407 puja mandaps across the country, including 248 in the capital.

The five-day festival started on October 20 with incantation (Bodhon), marking Shasthi.

Devotees immerse an idol of goddess Durga in the Bay in Chattogram city's Patenga yesterday marking the end of the Durga Puja. According to Hindu belief, the immersion of idols signifies Durga's return journey to her heavenly abode in Kailash from her paternal home on earth.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



KHALEDA'S TREATMENT 3 US doctors to fly in today to help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three physicians from the US arrive in Dhaka today to assist in treating BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, said a member of the medical board formed for her treatment.

The three doctors include a hepatologist, an interventionist, and a nephrologist.

Rafiqul Islam, BNP's health affairs secretary, confirmed the matter.

The BNP chief has been suffering from multiple health complications, including arthritis, diabetes, kidney issues, liver problems, and heart diseases for a long time, said the medical board.

On September 12, the government extended the suspension of Khaleda's jail sentence by six more months with the same two conditions as before – she would not be able to go abroad and she has to receive treatment in the country.

Khaleda was freed from jail on March 25, 2020, after the government suspended her jail sentence for six months.

She landed in jail on February 8, 2017, after being sentenced to five years' imprisonment by a special court in Dhaka in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

On October 30, the following year, the High Court enhanced her punishment to 10 years after dismissing her appeal.



BHAIRAB BAZAR TRAIN COLLISION 'Human error' caused accident Finds initial probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The locomaster of the container train was supposed to stop the train ahead of Bhairab Bazar Junction Railway Station as both the outer and home signals were red.

But the locomaster violated both the signals before hitting the Egarosindhur Godhuli near the station on Monday, killing 18 and injuring scores, said officials of Bangladesh Railway.

The casualties could have been more had the trains been running at higher speeds. Both the trains were operating at 20 to 25 kilometres per hour, they said.



On the other hand, the huge crowd inside the passenger train might have caused more casualties as there were many standing passengers.

"So far, our finding is that the accident occurred due to 'human error' on the side of the locomaster. Some other issues are on discussion but we are yet to confirm those," said a member of the BR's zonal probe committee.

The committee will hold its first meeting today, where the suspended locomaster, assistant locomaster and guard of the container train were asked to appear before it, he added.

Another BR official said they had seen the 'data logger system' at Bhairab station after the accident and found

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OUST-GOVT MOVEMENT Islamist parties plan to step up agitation

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Some major Islamist parties and organisations are planning to intensify their street agitation to force the government to step down and hold the election under a neutral government.

They will not join the BNP's anti-government movement but will hold similar programmes.

These parties are also aiming to emerge as a third force and press home their own demands, alongside the one for the government's resignation.

Most Islamist parties have decided not to join the election under the incumbent government.

At the moment, 44 political parties, 14 of them Islamist, have registration with the Election Commission, which has been made mandatory for contesting in any election.

However, several Islamist parties and organisations are there without being registered with the EC.

Jamaat e-Islami, which lost its registration with the EC in 2018, has decided to step up its anti-government agitation after Durga Puja, which ended yesterday.

Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Syeed Abdullah Muhammad Taher told The Daily Star that their programmes would be tougher this time compared to their previous ones and that they will be similar to BNP's anti-government movement.

Jamaat had sought police permission to hold a rally at Shapla Chattar in the capital's Motijheel area on October 28. However, a joint commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police last night said that the party would not be given permission.

Hefazat-e-Islam, a Qawmi madrasa-based organisation, will hold an "Ulama Masayek" gathering on October 25 (today) at the Engineers Institute.

There, it will give the government an ultimatum for realising their demands, which include withdrawal of the cases against its leaders and release of its top leaders before the election.

The organisation earlier decided to hold its programme on October 28. As the BNP recently announced its grand rally for that day, Hefazat later changed its schedule.

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BNP'S OCT 28 RALLY Permission will be given if peaceful event promised Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said permission for BNP's October 28 rally will be given if the party promises that the event will be peaceful and there will not be any criminal activities.

"I believe the BNP will conduct their rally in a peaceful manner, and they will be granted permission. The police commissioner will evaluate their assurances and make a decision," Asaduzzaman told an event.

The BNP has lost significant public support due to its history of anarchy, militancy, and terrorism, he added.

While inaugurating the Madhubagh playground in the capital, he said people abhorred terrorism, and were determined to move forward.

It will be difficult for the BNP to regain people's trust, he said, adding that the BNP appears to be engaged in conspiracies to obstruct the country's progress with its programmes.

However, the government has not

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AI reads text from inscrutable ancient scroll

CNN ONLINE

At first glance, the Herculaneum scrolls look unremarkable, like pieces of coal. After surviving the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD, the nearly 2,000-year-old documents would crumble if anyone attempted to unroll them, and surviving pieces with writing were considered to be nearly illegible to the human eye – until now.

After two millennia, the first full word from one of the unopened ancient papyri has been decoded with the help of computer technology and



advanced artificial intelligence (AI), according to an announcement made by a team of researchers who launched the "Vesuvius Challenge," a competition designed to accelerate the discoveries made on the scrolls.

The word, "πορφυρας" or "porphyras," which is the Greek word for purple, was found first by University of Nebraska computer science student Luke Farritor, who participated in the contest, which calls for competitors to apply a technique known as "virtual wrapping" to two rolled-up scrolls released on the site, in an attempt to decipher the hidden words.



Staffers of Cyclone Preparedness Programme yesterday urge people in DC Ghat area near Barishal River Port to move to safety as Cyclone Hamoon was about to make a landfall.

PHOTO: STAR

BANGLADESH-INDIA FRIENDSHIP POWER COMPANY (PVT.) LIMITED
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Memo No.: BIFPCL/Hospital Project Consultant/EOI/957 Date: 25/10/2023

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR ENLISTMENT OF APPLICANTS FOR ENGAGEMENT OF A HOSPITAL PROJECT CONSULTANT FOR 25 BED MAITREE HOSPITAL FOR 2x660 MW MAITREE SUPER THERMAL POWER PROJECT AT RAMPAL DISTRICT – BAGERHAT, BANGLADESH

BIFPCL is constructing a 2x660 MW coal-based power project at Rampal, Bagerhat district of Khulna division. BIFPCL intends to enlist competent Bangladeshi individual as "Hospital Project Consultant" for its upcoming 25 bed Hospital at Rampal, Bagerhat. The individual qualified through this EOI shall only be invited to participate further in RFP process. For Qualifying Requirement, EOI document and other information, please visit our website at www.bifpcl.com or contact Chief Procurement Officer, BIFPCL, Level-17, Unique Heights, 117 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000, Tel. No. +88-0258314264, email: cpo@bifpcl.com.

Interested individual may submit the Applications for Enlistment (Hard copy only) on or before **09/11/2023 (Thursday)** at 11:00 Hrs. (BST) at aforesaid address and EOI shall be opened at 11.30 Hrs. on 09/11/2023 (Thursday).

If the EOI opening day is declared as holiday by the Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the EOI will be opened in the next working day.

Md. Ziaur Rahman
Chief Procurement Officer (CPO), BIFPCL