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BNP to help ensure safe Durga Puja celebrations

Forms committees for all mandaps across country

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP has taken steps to help the authorities ensure a peaceful celebration of Durga Puja across the country, amid concerns over security among the minority community.

Leaders said the party has formed committees for every Puja mandap across Bangladesh so that the Hindus can celebrate their biggest religious festival in a safe, peaceful and festive manner.

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman has instructed party leaders to visit the Puja mandaps to ensure a hassle-free celebration.

Following his instructions, the BNP has tasked its organising secretaries with monitoring the work to ensure security in each division during the Puja, party leaders said.

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Vehicles struggle to get through on the Cumilla-Brahmanbaria highway in Brahmanbaria's Ghatara area yesterday. Long tailbacks on this part of the highway are common as the construction work to widen the two-lane road into a four lane one, being implemented under an Indian Line of Credit, remains halted since August 5. The Indian contractor left the site citing safety concerns.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDOY

PSC chairman, 12 members step down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC) Chairman Sohrab Hossain along with 12 members of the commission have resigned from their respective positions.

Their resignation letters were sent to President Mohamed Shahabuddin yesterday afternoon, confirmed PSC's spokesperson SM Matiuur Rahman.



Sohrab Hossain

All members of the commission, except two, have resigned, he said.

A PSC member, wishing anonymity, said, "The advisers' panel has asked all members to resign from our posts immediately. We have no other option but to step down."

On Saturday, Sarjis Alam, a coordinator of the student movement, posted on Facebook, demanding immediate reforms to the PSC and urging that job exams for job seekers begin this week.

Ex-minister Saber freed after getting bail in 6 cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former minister Saber Chowdhury walked out of jail yesterday, hours after being granted bail in six cases.

Later, police released the Awami League leader from the lockup of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court (CMM) of Dhaka around 6:30pm, said court sources.

Earlier in the day, Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ziadur Rahman granted bail to Saber, ex-environment, forest, and climate change minister and former Awami League lawmaker from Dhaka-9, in two cases filed with Paltan Model Police Station, including one filed over the death of BNP activist Mokbul on December 7, 2022.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate

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Hezbollah's military capability still intact

Says its deputy leader as Israel begins ground ops in southwest Lebanon

REUTERS, Beirut

The deputy leader of Hezbollah said yesterday the Iran backed group had moved beyond "painful blows" inflicted by Israel as Israeli forces began ground operations in the southwest of Lebanon, expanding its incursions into a new zone.

Naim Qassem said the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel was a war about who cries first, and that Hezbollah would not cry first. He said its capabilities are still intact after a year of fighting.

"We support the political efforts that (Lebanese parliament speaker) Nabih Berri is undertaking towards a ceasefire," he said.

Israel's defence minister, meanwhile, said it appeared the replacement for slain Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah had been "eliminated", in

what would be another big blow for the Iran-backed group in Lebanon.

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant made the announcement about Hashem Safieddine, who has not been heard from publicly since an Israeli airstrike late last week.

Iran yesterday warned Israel against any attacks on the Islamic Republic, a week after Tehran fired a barrage of missiles on it, putting the Middle East on edge.

Any attack on Iran's infrastructure will be met with retaliation, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said, warning Israel against attacks on his country.

Araqchi will visit Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Middle East to discuss regional issues and work on stopping Israel's "crimes" in Gaza and Lebanon, Iran's ISNA news agency reported.

- » Senior Hezbollah official probably dead: Israel
- » Hezbollah fires rockets at Israeli troops
- » Iran warns Israel not to attack its infrastructure

INDIA STATE POLLS Congress-NC alliance wins in J&K

BJP to form govt in Haryana

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The National Conference (NC)-Congress alliance yesterday stormed back to power in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), India's only Muslim-majority region.

The NC-Congress alliance secured 48 of the 90 seats in J&K assembly and nearest challenger BJP bagged 29 seats in an election held for the first time after the removal of Articles 370 which gave the state a special status under the Constitution.

Congress could manage to win just six seats. The People's Democratic Party, led by former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, won just three seats.

NC President Farooq Abdullah told reporters in Srinagar that his son Omar would be the new chief

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MACHINE LEARNING WORK Hopfield, Hinton win Nobel Prize in Physics

REUTERS, Stockholm

US scientist John Hopfield and British Canadian Geoffrey Hinton won the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics yesterday for discoveries and inventions in machine learning that paved the way for the artificial intelligence boom.

Heralded for its revolutionary potential in areas ranging from cutting-edge scientific discovery to more efficient admin, the emerging technology on which the duo worked has also raised fears humankind may soon be outsmarted and outcompeted by its own creation.

Hinton has been widely credited as a godfather of AI and made headlines when he quit his job at Google last year to be able to more easily speak about the dangers of the technology he had pioneered.

"We have no experience of what it's like to have things smarter than us," Hinton said over the phone to the Nobel press conference, speaking from a hotel in California.

Hopfield, 91, a professor emeritus at Princeton

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Riyad calls time in T20Is as Tigers face India today

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI, From Delhi

Bangladesh will take on India in the second T20I in Delhi's Arun Jaitley Cricket Stadium today in a must-win match which is set to be the penultimate outing in the format for veteran Mahmudullah Riyad, who announced he will be retiring from the format at the end of the three-match series.

As the team is trying to build towards the 2026 ICC T20 World Cup, there were questions whether the 38-year-old Mahmudullah would fit into the equation.

The speculations gained

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Australia pacer Megan Schutt (R) celebrates with teammates after one of her three wickets against New Zealand during their 60-run victory in a Group A fixture of the Women's T20 World Cup in Sharjah yesterday. Schutt's three-for-three helped dismantle New Zealand for 88 runs in 19.2 overs after Australia had posted 148 for eight in 20 overs.

PHOTO: ICC



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"No day shall erase you from the memory of time"

It is with great sadness that we share the news that our mother,
Ms. Lubna Choudhury
Founder Principal and
Chairperson of Bangladesh International Tutorial,
passed away on **7th of October, 2024**,
at her residence in Gulshan.

We hope that you will join us in praying for her departed soul.

MAY ALLAH GRANT HER ETERNAL REST

MS. ANIKA RAHMAN
Managing Director & CEO, BITL

MS. TALITA CHOUDHURY
Director of Education & Board Member, BITL