

Another piece of history demolished

200yr old building that once belonged to founder of Pogose School knocked down

HELEMUL ALAM

Violating a High Court order, a 200-year-old building on Armenian Street in Dhaka's Armanitola has been demolished by its present owners to make way for shops.

The building originally belonged to Nicholas Pogose, an Armenian elite in the late 19th century and the founder of Pogose School.

For the last few decades, the house was being used as an office and warehouse of a pharmaceutical company.

The attempt to demolish the building started years ago but activists had long been protesting the move.

In 2005, the building was purchased by 18 persons including one Md Enayet Hossain, who claims to have purchased the building from the wife and daughter of the previous owner.

THE HC ORDER

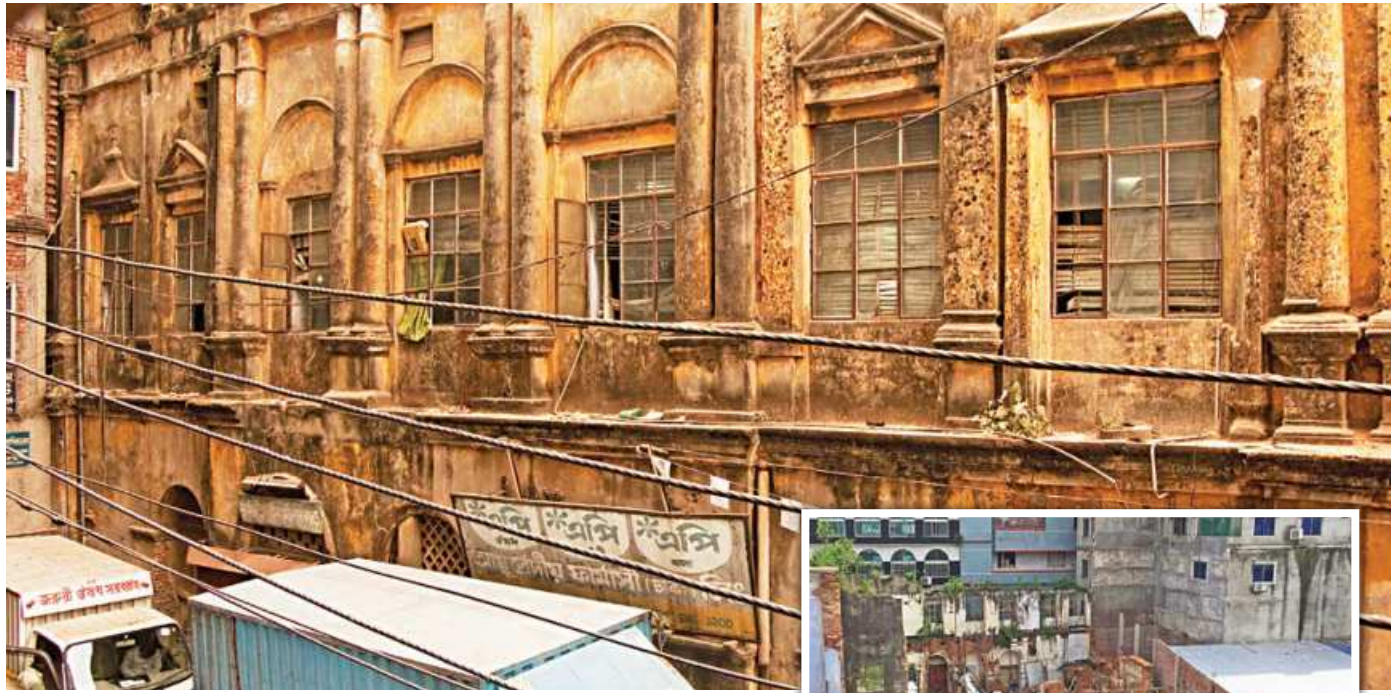
On October 9, 2017, The High Court Division in a suo moto (voluntary) order gave an injunction from proceeding with the demolition or alteration or modification of the building -- located on 8/1 and 8/2 Armenian Street.

The HC came up with the rule following a report published in a newspaper at the time.

The HC had also called upon 11 government agencies including Rajuk, Department of Archaeology and any other person interested in the property and asked as to why a direction shall not be issued upon the respondents concerned to enlist the property as a heritage building.

The court also directed the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to protect, preserve and maintain the said building in its original structure and form.

It had given order to prepare a report as



This 200-year old building was not just an Armenian legacy, but a part of the city's rich heritage. The building, once belonging to Nicholas Pogose, was demolished recently, in violation of a High Court order, inset.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

to the present status of the building and file the same before this court within 60 days.

'DEMOLISHED SECRETLY'

But since the beginning of September, amid the pandemic, the building's owners started to demolish the structure secretly and constructed around eight shops at the place after demolishing the whole building, said locals.

Contacted, Enayet Hossain, one of the owners, said they demolished the building after Rajuk published a gazette notification on September 6 enlisting 70 buildings as heritage sites.

He said their building was not in the list. About the HC injunction, he said they demolished the building after getting Rajuk's list.

He also claimed that it was not Nicholas Pogose's house as there was a factory of an ayurvedic (herbal medicine) company.

"Urban Study Group, based on a false information, claimed it as the house of Nicholas Pogose," he alleged.

"It was one Koilas Chandra Roy who built an ayurvedic factory here and the

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TONU MURDER CASE

PBI takes over probe after 4yrs of no progress

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Police Bureau of Investigation has been assigned the investigation of the widely covered case of Cumilla Victoria College student and theatre activist Sohagi Jahan Tonu's rape and murder.

Salauddin Al Mahmud, court inspector of Cumilla confirmed it to The Daily Star. He said, "According to the police headquarter's directive, PBI has taken the charge of the probe of Tonu murder case."

The responsibility was handed over from CID officially on October 28 with a court-issued letter."

Sohagi Jahan Tonu was raped and murdered on March 20, 2016 at the highly secure area of Cumilla cantonment, where her dead body was recovered from the bushes near power house area.

According to case record, after two autopsies in the two weeks after her death, CID was appointed on March 31, 2016 for probe investigation. They could not manage to file a charge sheet in the four years since.

CID's only progress was tracing three spermatozoa samples from DNA testing of Tonu's clothing. CID confirmed that she had been raped before being killed. No matches were made from the DNA samples.

CID officials quizzed around 200 people, including army personnel and Tonu's friends, but there was no visible progress in the probe, which frustrated the family members and rights bodies.

On a few occasions, CID special team quizzed some people in Dhaka cantonment but their identities were not revealed. Their attempts to match the DNA samples also went in vain.

Tonu's mother Anwara Begum then claimed that if CID interrogated a certain sergeant and his wife, the truth will be revealed as she was a tutor at their house

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PHOTO COURTESY: EDGE GALLERY

Musings in watercolour

Group exhibition 'Jolokabbo 3' at Edge Gallery

SADIA TAHSIN, A&E Desk

Edge Gallery at the capital's Gulshan 2 is currently hosting the third season of Jolokabbo, a group watercolour exhibition, which intends to take the audience down a unique artistic voyage through the medium.

The event was arranged with necessary Covid-19 precautions, including face masks and hand sanitiser for all. The exhibition can also be viewed virtually through Edge Gallery's website.

Md Abu Soyeb, manager of the gallery, said, "Our online gallery will allow us to control the crowd amidst the pandemic. It will virtually connect artists and audience, even if they do not come to the physical exhibition... We must fight Covid-19 but also keep our economy moving."

A total of 34 artists are exhibiting 120 artworks at the event from November 15 to December 15. They are Alakesh Ghosh, Al-Akhir Sharkar,

Anisur Rahman, Anisuzzaman, Ariful Islam, Azmeer Hossain, Biplob Chakroborty, Biren Shome, Hamiduzzaman Khan, Hasura Akter Rumky, Jamal Ahmed, Kamruzzoha, Kauser Hossain, Mintu Dey, Mohammad Eunos, Mohammad Iqbal, Mong Mong Sho, Monirul Islam, Monjur Rashid, Nabaraj Roy, Nazmul Haque Bappy, Palash Datta, Ranjit Das, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Shahid Kabir, Shakiunnahar Kanon, Shamin Akter Lina, Shohag Parvez, Soikat Hossain, Sultan Ishtiaque, Swapan Chowdhury, Tamanna Tasneem Supti, Warior Rahman Sami and Zahangir Alom.

The theme of the exhibition was inspired by the country's heritage and natural beauty. The subjects of the artworks range from historical locations like Panam Nagar and Ahsan Manzil to flowers, pigeons, rivers, and boats.

Artist Zahangir Alom said, "I firmly believe in the ultimate power, mystery and splendour of nature, ranging from

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RAYHAN'S 'DEATH IN CUSTODY' SI Akbar sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, SYLHET

Suspended Sub-inspector Akbar Hossain Bhuiyan, the prime suspect in the killing of Rayhan Ahmed in police custody in Sylhet, was sent to jail yesterday on completion of his seven-day remand.

The SI was produced before the court of Sylhet Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Abul Kashem, which ordered to send him to Sylhet Central Jail.

Special Superintendent Muhammad Khaled-uz-Zaman of Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) confirmed the development to The Daily Star.

Akbar refused to give confessional statement under section 164 of the Penal Code, said the PBI official.

He did not elaborate further on the matter.

Rayhan (33) was tortured at Sylhet's Bandarbaraz police outpost on early October 11 night and died an hour after he was admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical Hospital by police personnel.

Shawkat Ali laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former deputy speaker Col (retd) Shawkat Ali, who was one of the accused in the historic Agartala Conspiracy Case, was laid to rest with state honours at his village home at Naria, Shariatpur yesterday.

The valiant freedom fighter passed away at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka on Monday at the age of 83.

Before the burial, a gun salute was given by Bangladesh Army in honour of the war hero, who was the first director of the Army Ordnance Corps. Uday Shawkat Ali, grandson of the deceased, told The Daily Star.

Earlier in the morning, the body

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Drowning a leading cause of child death: experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Drowning is one of the leading causes of child death in Bangladesh, said experts at an orientation session for journalists yesterday.

Therefore, the government needs to be more proactive in adopting and enforcing policies that ensure protection of children, they said.

Society for Media and Suitable Human-communication Techniques (SoMaSHTe), with support from Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA), organised the session titled "Media Campaign to Prevent Child Drowning" at The Daily Star building, where 20 journalists from different media houses participated.

While giving presentation, International Drowning Research Centre-Bangladesh Director Aminur Rahman said, "The rate of drowning is higher in low-income countries like Bangladesh...and it is one of the leading causes of child death in the country."

Referencing a 2016 survey of Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB), he said, "Around 14,438 children aged 18 or under die by drowning in Bangladesh. It means on average, 40 children die by drowning every day."

"Usually, such deaths occur in ponds within 20 metres of home during 9am-1pm," said Aminur, also deputy executive

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KILLING OF ASP ANISUR

Registrar of Nat'l Instt of Mental Health held, remanded for 2 days

He's also a director of Mind Aid; two 'confess' involvement

STAR REPORT

Dr Abdullah Al Mamun, registrar of National Institute of Mental Health and Hospital (NIMH), was arrested yesterday in connection with the death of senior ASP Anisur Karim, who was allegedly beaten to death by staffers of a private mental hospital.

Mamun is also one of the directors of Mind Aid Psychiatry and De-Addiction Hospital.

Harun Ar Rashid, deputy commissioner (Tejgaon division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said a team of police picked him up from in front of NIMH around 10:30am for interrogation, reports our staff correspondent.

He was placed on a two-day remand after he was produced before the court of Dhaka

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Shahidul Islam with a 10-day remand prayer.

"We arrested him in connection with the case as he could not provide justifiable answers during interrogation," he said. The police official said Mamun referred Anisur to Mind Aid hospital where he was "beaten to death" on November 9.

With him, at least 13 people have so far been arrested in the case. Police said the hospital was being run without clearance and licence from related government departments. The facility was closed by police later.

Anisur's father Fajjuddin Ahmed filed the case with Adabor Police Station on Tuesday, accusing 15 people, including five shareholders of the

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BCL protests remarks on Bangabandhu's sculpture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a human chain of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in the port city yesterday warned fundamentalists against making derogatory comments regarding statues or sculptures of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Chattogram College and Government Hazi Muhammad Mohsin College units of BCL formed the human chain in front of Chattogram Press Club, protesting recent remarks by some religious leaders on making sculptures of the Father of the Nation.

Freedom fighter Mohammad Yunus -- also secretary general of Muktijuddher Bijoy Mela Parishad, Chattogram -- said Bangabandhu is the father of the nation and icon of Bangladesh's struggle for freedom. The nation will never accept any derogatory remarks on him.

Yunus said fundamentalists have been capitalising religious sentiment for personal gain, and such unethical practices will not be accepted.

"If you try to create any unrest in the country, we will not let you to do it," he warned them.

Zakaria Dastagir, general secretary of Chattogram city unit of BCL, said the country's students will resist fundamentalists, if they try to create anarchy.

Nurul Azim Roni, former general secretary of Chattogram city unit of BCL, spoke at the human chain, among others,



In-person classes are still on hold in universities across the country. These four classmates visited their campus at Jahangirnagar University after a long nine months, and did a quick photoshoot to mark the small reunion.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Murdered for a truck of onions

Driver, helper kill trader and injure another in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patna

A trucker and his helper allegedly killed a trader and injured another in Sirajganj yesterday before driving away with the traders' onion-laden vehicle.

The deceased -- Nur Mohammad Sarkar (45) -- was from Thakur village in Natore. The injured -- Samsul Islam from the same village -- was undergoing treatment at Sirajganj General Hospital, according to police.

After loading the truck with onions from Uttora Gonobhaban in Natore Sadar upazila on Monday night, the two traders were going to Bogura, Solonga Police Station Officer-in-Charge Tazul Huda quoted the injured as saying.

On the way, the driver changed the route, he said.

When they reached Patdhari on Bogura-Nagarbari highway in Solonga upazila of Sirajganj, the driver and helper hit them with iron rods and left them on the highway, said the OC.

Eventually, they looted the onions and drove away with the truck.

Later, locals found the victims there and informed the law enforcers, said the police officer.

Police found Nur Mohammad dead on the spot and the other critically injured. A case was filed with the police station, said the OC.