



Terracotta ornamentation on the wall of the ancient Buddhist temple that was recently excavated at Bihar Dhap in Shibganj upazila, Bogra.

PHOTO: STAR

1,700-yr-old Buddhist temple discovered

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

Around 1700-year-old ancient Buddhist temple has been discovered in "Bihar Dhap" area under Shibganj upazila in the district during a recent archaeological excavation.

Earlier about 1500-year-old pre-Pal period Buddhist temple was excavated on the same premises.

The newly excavated Buddhist temple is more than 1700 years old, archaeology officials said, adding that the lower part of the temple was decorated with arched panels of terracotta and ornamental bricks.

A brick structure comprising some small rooms has also been discovered in the temple.

There are small steps leading to a lawn-like space that was possibly used for placing the statues of worship.

Abdul Khaleque, Rajshahi divisional regional director of Archaeology Department said the entire temple might emerge if the excavation work started early December last year runs properly.

Possibly this Buddhist temple was abandoned before construction of earlier discovered 1500-year-old pre-Pal period temple where more sophisticated terracotta and brick-built structures were found.

Fake insulin factory in city sealed off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday closed down a medicine factory at Basabo in the capital, which has been producing insulin illegally, and issued arrest warrants against its owners.

Tipped off, the court led by Magistrate Rokon Ud Doula raided National Pharma, a homoeopathy medicine factory owned by Dr Mosharaf Hossain at Padma Kanan in Basabo and found 20 packets of insulin there.

No pharmaceutical company of the country has permission to produce insulin, a life saving chemical for the diabetic patients. Only two pharmaceuticals are authorised to import it.

The court arrested two workers Md Naser and Md Rubel from the spot and fined them Tk 5 lakh under Dhaka City Corporation Act. It also instructed Sabujbagh Police Station to destroy all illegal medicines.

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PHOTO: STAR

A mobile court led by Magistrate Rokon Ud Doula seizes fake diabetes insulin at National Pharma (Homoeo) at Bashabo in the capital yesterday.

Ex-BIAM DG granted bail in attempted murder case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former director general of Bangladesh Institute for Administration and Management (BIAM) and nine others yesterday obtained bail in a criminal case filed against them for attempting to murder a teacher of Model School and College in the capital.

The complainant of the case, who was attacked on Tuesday, expressed distress over the bail order.

Metropolitan Magistrate Shafique Anwar passed the order upon a bond of Tk 10,000 each with guarantors after Mohammad Shahidul Alam, the former director general of BIAM, and his associates surrendered before the court and sought bail.

The nine others receiving bail are Arif Hossain, Belayet Hossain, Shahiduzzaman, Moniruzzaman, Rabiul Islam, Mohammad Asad, Apple Mahmud, Salahuddin Ahmed and Moshir Rahman.

Moving the bail petition, the defence lawyers argued that Shahidul Alam, also chairman of the school, had terminated teachers and employees of the school including the complainant for their alleged corruption. After that, the complainant with the connivance

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Impose ban on politics by teachers, students at public universities

Discussants demand at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday demanded ban on students and teachers' politics on public university campuses and drastic amendment to the University Ordinance 1973 to stop corruption and bring back academic atmosphere.

Blaming politicians and bureaucrats for destroying the academic atmosphere at public universities, the speakers, mainly university teachers, observed that it is high time campus politics was stopped as no political government will take such decision fearing political repercussion.

They raised demand for strict rules and regulations for appointing university teachers and cancellation of the election system for the appointment of vice-chancellor (VC), pro-VC and faculty deans. They also demanded scrapping of the system of the VC's appointment for more than one term.

The Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organised the roundtable moderated by TIB Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad at the Cirdap auditorium.

Professor of political science at Chittagong University Muhammad Yahya Akhter presented a research paper on corruption in the public universities.

Prof Mohammad Ali, former VC Chittagong University, said the University Ordinance 1973 must be revisited and drastically amended for stoppage of corruption and mismanagement. Opposing the system of the VC's appointment through election, he said after being elected the VC cannot take any decision against the teachers who elected him.

Prof Ali said teachers dominate the university syndicates and take decisions in their favour.

Dhaka University Pro-VC Prof Yusuf Haider demanded specific rules and regulations for appointing teachers. Besides academic results, efficiency in research should be considered for appointing teachers, he said.

Demanding banning of politics on the campus, Prof Moinal Islam said the "cadre-based" student wings of the main political parties are mainly responsible for hampering the academic atmosphere at the public

universities.

Bangladesh Agricultural University VC Prof Mosharraf Hossain Mian underscored the need for implementing the rules formulated by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and keeping the universities out of any political influence.

UGC Chairman Prof Asaduzzaman told the roundtable that the government has cancelled allocations to a number of universities because of allegations of corruption and mismanagement.

In his research paper Prof Yahya showed that 74 percent students, teachers and guardians blamed teachers and students' politics for destroying the academic pursuits of the country's universities.

According to the research findings, 50 percent university teachers do not take classes regularly while the students do not complain about it for fear of harassment.

Fifty-nine percent respondents expressed views in favour of

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Rare turtles found dead in Cox's Bazar

AP, Dhaka

Hundreds of endangered sea turtles have been found dead along Cox's Bazar coast in the past two weeks, triggering concerns about pollution and local fishing practices, an official said Thursday.

A team of four scientists has launched an investigation into the deaths of the olive ridley turtles, said Jafar Ahmed, a top official in the marine fisheries department.

At least 65 of the sea turtles -- ranging from 88 to 132 pounds -- have been found dead along a three-mile stretch of the beach.

Hundreds more dead turtles have been found elsewhere in the area, and on a pair of islands. There is no clear total of exactly how many turtles have died.

Olive ridleys, the smallest of all sea turtles, are endangered. They often come ashore at this time of year to lay eggs, Ahmed said.

There have been reports of turtle deaths before, but not as many as this year, he said.

Ahmed would not give any specific reason for the spike in deaths, but said the use of illegal fishing nets near the shoreline has apparently increased recently. The fishermen do not properly release the turtles and often kill them, leaving them to wash ashore, he said.

Other turtles that come to lay

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Ex-BNP lawmaker's stone crushing plants demolished

Rajuk recovers six acres of occupied land in Gulshan

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), with the help of the joint forces, yesterday demolished stone crushing plants of former BNP lawmaker Giasuddin Ahmed at Shiddhirganj near Kanchpur Bridge in Dhaka.

Besides, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) demolished a number of illegal structures on nearly six acres of land which Rangs Group allegedly occupied illegally.

Giasuddin Ahmed received the allocation of two acres of land on the Shitalakhya in 1986 when he was the upazila chairman of Shiddhirganj upazila. When he became a lawmaker in 2001, he was allegedly occupying around six acres of land on the Shitalakhya and operating his stone-crushing plant Kassaf there, our Narayanganj correspondent reports.

He has allegedly been filling the riverbed with sand and stones for years and expanding the area of his plant. The Kanchpur Bridge itself was at risk as the stone-crushing

machines cause huge vibration, BIWTA sources said.

Giasuddin earned around Tk 20 lakh per month by renting his grabbed land out to other stone-crushing businesses, local and BIWTA sources said.

Despite reports in newspapers and on television channels about this, the authorities had failed to take actions against his plant. When a BIWTA team went to remove the stone-crushing plant in January 2006, the armed cadres of Giasuddin chased them away even though police accompanied the eviction team, BIWTA sources said.

AK Arifuddin, deputy director (port) of Narayanganj BIWTA, said they have selected 57 illegal establishments for demolition on the Shitalakhya.

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday recovered nearly six acres of land from Gulshan-2 at the end of Road-62. A real estate company, which had a signboard saying "Rangs Group", allegedly had been occupying the land for over 20 years, Rajuk Magistrate A S M E m d a u d

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AUG 17 BLAST 2 JMB cadres placed on 10-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two members of banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), arrested in connection with series bomb blasts in the capital on August 17, 2005, were placed on a 10-day remand yesterday.

The case was filed with Motijheel Police Station for the blasts near the traffic island in front of the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) Bhaban on August 17.

The arrestees -- Habib Ullah alias Habu, 32, from Sarulia at Demra and Iqbal Hossain, 30, from Terhat Lane of Kotwali, Dhaka -- were produced before the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka yesterday afternoon with prayer for a 10-day remand for interrogation.

In the forwarding report, Detective Branch (DB) Inspector Shamsul Islam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, said the

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Body of girl found in travel bag

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a minor girl inside a travel bag dumped at a school playground at the city's Mirpur yesterday.

The victim aged around 10 years and clad in frock and shorts bore wounds all over her body, police said.

A scavenger discovered the body covered with wrapper after opening up the bag abandoned at the western corner of the Monipur Boys' High School ground at around 10:00am. Informed, Mirpur police recovered the body and sent it to Dhaka Medical College (DMC) morgue for autopsy.

The victim's hands and legs were tied up with ropes and there was a deep wound in the head, which was bandaged, police said.

"Her skin was wrinkled from pouring hot water and there were several large burn and stab wounds

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Detained bus driver dies at hospital

Family alleges torture in custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bus driver died in Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) Wednesday afternoon due to what his family members claim torture in army detention.

Abu Musa Mia, 30, a Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) bus driver hailing from Shatghar Teota of Sivalaya upazila in Manikganj, was admitted to DMCH on Tuesday.

His family sources said 20-22 army personnel picked Musa up around 3:00am on January 24 at his home. They said his cousin's wife and neighbour Nargis Begum assisted the army personnel in

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PHOTO: STAR

Vehicles move haphazardly ignoring red lights at Kakrail intersection in the capital yesterday. Defiance of rules often adds to traffic congestion in the city.

Iraq minister arrested

4 GIs, 42 Iraqis, 13 insurgents killed in attacks

AGENCIES, Baghdad

Iraqi and US troops ramped up an operation to overrun insurgent hotbeds in Baghdad yesterday, as another 42 people were killed and dozens wounded in a string of attacks in several parts of the country.

A combined Iraqi-US force swooped on the health ministry mid-morning and arrested the second most senior official, the ministry's spokesman said.

"Joint Iraqi-US forces broke into the health ministry building and

arrested the deputy secretary Hakim al-Zamili for an unknown reason," ministry spokesman Qassim Allawi said.

The health ministry is run by officials close to the radical anti-US Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, who has been accused by US authorities of backing death squads that target Sunni Arabs in the bitter sectarian violence that grips Iraq.

US forces also killed around 13 fighters in an air strike on a "senior foreign fighter facilitator" northeast of the western district of Amiriya, a US military statement said.

Five people were also arrested in the raid against a network set up to aid foreign militants that come to Iraq to attack US-led forces.

The crackdown failed to halt the violence however, with security officials and medics reporting at least 20 people killed and 45 wounded by a car bomb in Al-Aziziya, 70km southeast of Baghdad Thursday.

Another car bomb in a predominantly Shia district in the eastern part of Baghdad killed 10 people

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UNDP ready to help EC in polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) yesterday at a meeting with the chief election commissioner (CEC) expressed its

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Palestinians agree on unity govt

AFP, Makkah

Rival Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah agreed yesterday on the distribution of ministerial posts in an eventual national unity government, sources from both sides said.

Fatah spokesman Maher Moqdad said "a deal has been reached on the ministerial posts, and the matter is closed."

A Hamas official said there is agreement that "seven posts will go to Hamas, six to Fatah, four to other Palestinian parties and five posts for independents, including those of foreign affairs and interior."

Palestinian "president" Mahmud Abbas will choose an independent

interior minister from among five names that will be submitted to him by Hamas," the source added.

Rival Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah met for a second day of crunch talks yesterday, with nightfall set as deadline for clinching a power-sharing accord aimed at averting civil war.

Working groups of the ruling Hamas and the Fatah faction of president Mahmud Abbas met from early morning in Saudi Arabia's holy city of Makkah to fine tune plans for a national unity government, a Hamas official said.

The working groups "must complete their work by Thursday

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