



PHOTO: STAR

People of Jamuna char areas have to carry their produces to miles away from home on foot during the dry season when selling for reasonable prices often remains a dream to them due to lack of suitable communication. The photo was taken from Gabsa in Bhuapur upazila of Tangail district recently.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

PCJSS council from today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati
With a call to strengthen movement for establishing the rights of the hill people, the three-day long 9th council of Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) will begin today (Monday) at the auditorium of Rangamati Municipality office. However, the inaugural session will be held at the Rangamati Gymnasium at Rajbari in the hill town. Chairman of CHT Regional Council Jyotindra Bodhipriya Larma, who is also president of the PCJSS, will open the council at 10.00am

3 robbers arrested

A CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi
Police arrested three youths from Putia Bazar under Shibpur upazila allegedly while preparing for committing robbery at around 11am Saturday. Police also recovered a 9mm pistol and two machetes from the arrestees. The arrestees are Raju, 37, Atiqur Rahman Niron, 36, and Ibrahim, 20. Narsingdi Additional Police Superintendent Zahid Hasan said, the gang in a private car went to the Bazar for committing robbery. Locals caught them and informed police. Police went to the spot and recovered the arms searching the private car and arrested the 'robbers'.

Three murdered in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura
Three people were killed in three villages of Sadar upazila in two days till Saturday night. The deceased were identified as Sadek Matobar, 60, of Pukhuria, Zahangir Hossain, 30, of Laskarpur and Shukur Ali, 30, of Sirjidia. Police quoting family members said Sadek went out of his house at around 8:00pm on Saturday but did not return. Locals yesterday morning found his bruised body in river Nabaganga in Alukdia village. Zahangir, son of Ali Akhter Biswas was hacked to death at village Laskarpur on Saturday morning as rivals equipped with lethal weapons attacked their house following a row over fishing in a pond. Meanwhile, Shukur of village Sirjidia in the same upazila succumbed to his injuries at around 7:00pm on Friday as he was beaten mercilessly by the rival villagers in the morning in a row over damaging fence of a crop field.



PHOTO: STAR

Farmers of Mohonpur upazila in Rajshahi district demonstrate in front of Rajshahi Palli Bidyut Samity office yesterday demanding smooth supply of power during the ongoing boro season.

Power office besieged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
Over 200 farmers of Mohonpur upazila yesterday laid a siege to local power office at Naohata demanding adequate power supply for irrigating their boro fields. Witnesses said the agitating farmers thronged Mohonpur Upazila Parishad premises at about 10:00am and demanded smooth power supply for boro irrigation. Later, the farmers riding motorcycles went to Mohonpur branch of Palli Bidyut office at Naohata, 14 kilometres away from the upazila headquarters, and laid a siege to the power office. Ali Azam Mollah, vice chairman of Mohonpur upazila, said the officials assured the farmers of ensuring power supply up to 14 hours in Mohonpur area for boro cultivation.

Journalist attacked in Bagerhat

UNB, Bagerhat
Criminals attacked Chitalmari Press Club general secretary SM Sagor and ransacked his business establishment at Chitalmari Bazaar on Saturday night. Local journalists said upazila vice-chairman Shaheb Ali Farazee misbehaved with the teachers of Sabokhali High School at the school's managing committee meeting. As local newsmen decided to publish the incident Farazee became furious. Later, some 25/30 supporters of Farazee at 8pm attacked Sagor, who is also correspondent of Daily Destiny, and his business establishment and vandalized valuables.

Production at JFCL stops again

Short supply of urea feared as low gas pressure hampers output

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail
Urea production in Jamuna Fertiliser Company Limited (JFCL) has remained suspended for the last three days due to technical glitches. Production at the country's largest urea producing factory halted on Friday midnight after a boiler leakage was detected at its ammonium plant, JFCL sources said. "Abnormal fluctuation of gas pressure is the cause behind the leakage. Production cannot resume till March 30," said JFCL Managing Director Ahsanuzzaman.

Earlier on two occasions during the current peak season, leakages in the sensitive costly machinery and equipment due to fluctuations of gas pressure resulted in production suspension, company sources said. Established in 1991, JFCL at Tarakandi in Sarishabari upazila of Jamalpur district supplies urea to 19 districts including four in greater Mymensingh region through its 1,823 dealers. Urea production at JFCL was suspended on several occasions in last two years due to technical

glitches caused by abnormal fluctuations of gas pressure. The company produced a record 5,20,000 tonnes of urea in the financial year (FY) 2007-2008 against its normal capacity of 5,00,000 tonnes. However, as per installation, its production capacity is 1,700 tonnes a day or about 5,60,000 tonnes a year. As the company could not sustain the production of 2007-2008 FY due to low gas pressure since July 2008, it is unlikely to meet the production target of 3,85,000 tonnes in the current financial year.

Company sources said 46MSCFD (370PSI) of natural gas is required as raw materials per day but the supply has been reduced to 30MSCFD (220PSI). They said 26.00kg/cm² gas pressure is required to produce 1,700 tonnes of urea a day but JFCL cannot produce more than 900 tonnes with a gas pressure of 15.92kg/cm² currently. Consequently, Jamuna Fertiliser Company Limited (JFCL) incurs a production loss of 800 tonnes of urea a day due to shortage of gas supply. Against the backdrop of low pro-

duction in general and its present suspension at JFCL, farmers in the districts concerned are apprehending short supply of urea during the remaining one month of the peak boro paddy cultivation season. Earlier in last week, JFCL Managing Director Ahsanuzzaman told The Daily Star that the plant could be closed at any moment if it continues to run with such low gas pressure. Six fertiliser companies in the country can produce 20 lakh tonnes of urea a year against a total demand for 28 lakh tonnes.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE IN PADMA

Looting of articles on from unprotected site

A CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Visitors and locals are taking away different materials from the brick structure found in the middle of the Padma at Bagha in Rajshahi on March 26. Local people said two chowkidars (village police) have been posted to look after the structure but it is impossible on their part to control hundreds of visitors. People thronged Chawk Rajapur village yesterday to have a glimpse of the structure believed to be an archaeological treasure. The visitors reach the spot in boats and get down on the roof of the structure. Bagha upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Dewan Md Shahriar Feroz said as the people in large number are descending on the structure and moving freely, it faces risk of being damaged.

The upazila administration yesterday posted red flags and put a notice at the site, urging the visitors not to take away bricks or other materials from the structure. The UNO said if anybody removes bricks or other materials from the structure he will be liable to punishment under the Archeology Act of 1968. Regional director of the Department of Archeology Badrul Alam yesterday visited the structure. He said it cannot be said for sure how old it is, but from size of the bricks and formation of the lime and other construction materials it seems the structure might be of Mughal era or British period. "After examining the structure, the experts will determine the age of it," Alam said, adding that they will take all necessary measures to preserve the structure.

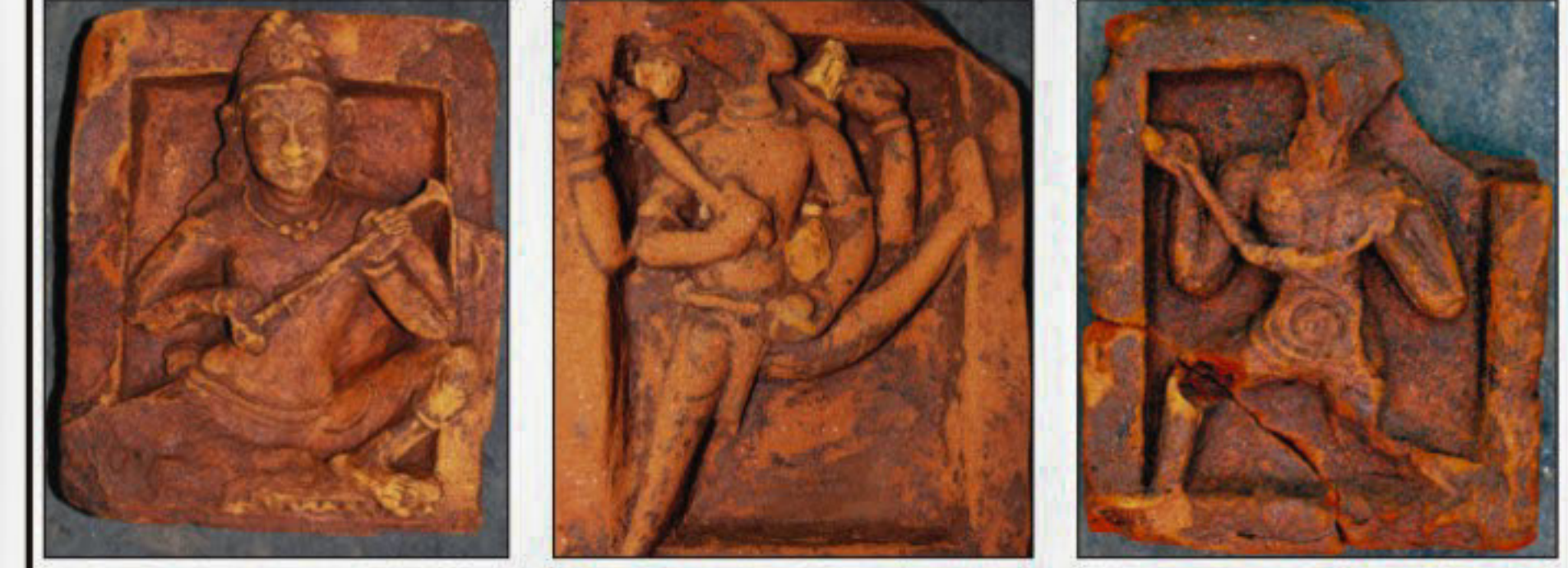


PHOTO: STAR

The garvagriha of the eighth century Vishnu temple found during the recent excavation at Chandipur village in Birampur upazila of Dinajpur district, below, three terracotta statues found at the site.

Temple built in early Pala period dug out

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, from Birampur

Archaeologists of Jahan-girnagar University in Dhaka have recently dug out the first Hindu temple from the early Pala period in Bengal at Chandipur village in Birampur upazila of Dinajpur tentatively dating back to the 8th century. No other Hindu temple of any kind dates from Pala period (eighth to eleventh century) in Bengal, according to experts. A team of students of the Department of Archaeology and experienced excavators from Mahasthan, directed by Swadhin Sen, assistant professor, Department of Archaeology, and led by Prof Syed Md Kamrul Ahsan of the same department, started digging on this archaeological mound locally known as "Tilshwarir Mound" in 2007. A number of experts from India, France, England and

Bangladesh from various fields including archaeology, geology and geomorphology are collaborating with the team. Archeologists exposed a cell with four pillars and a staircase leading into that cell along with other brick built structures on the eastern part of the mound and found huge amount of potsherds of Pala period and onward in previous season. Swadhin Sen, the director of the excavation team, said this season they have found another cell on the western part adjoining the earlier one. According to him the four-pillared room served as the garvagriha and the cell of the west with a brick built platform inside acted as the mandapa as per the layout style of a Hindu temple. He added that the stratigraphy of the excavation proves that the religious edifice was used and reused several times until the 14th-15th century. The team has found three

terracotta plaques from a trench. One of them has been identified with the Vamana incarnation of the Hindu god Visnu. The two others are under scrutiny now. Visiting the site, Dr Arun Nag, reader of ancient Indian culture, history and archaeology of Biswabharati University and an expert in eastern Indian architecture, has inferred that this temple is devoted to Visnu. The architectural style and the pottery assemblages found from several consecutive floor levels and floor preparation levels dates back to the 8th century, the period of early Palakings. Prof Dipak Ranjan Das, a retired professor of ancient Indian history, culture and archaeology of Calcutta University and one of the most prominent authorities on eastern Indian architecture, supported this inference on dating of the temple.

'71 KILLINGS

Three sued in Madaripur

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

A case was filed on Saturday against three people including Rajoir upazila BNP leader Mohiuddin Hawlader alias Moni Hawlader on charges of abduction and killing of three freedom fighters during the liberation war in 1971. Martyred freedom fighter Salam Khan's son Haider Ali Khan of Mollakandi village under the upazila filed the case with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court. Senior judicial magistrate Md Yusuf Hossain ordered officer-in-charge (OC) of Rajoir police station to take the case into cognizance and record it as an ejarah. According to the case, Rajoir thana rajakar commander Mohiuddin Hawlader alias Moni Hawlader on August 3, 1971 along with 16 to 17 other rajakars including his two top aides Rafique Hawlader and Salam Hawlader abducted three freedom fighters including Salam Khan from their houses. They took them to the torture cell at Madaripur AR Hawlader Jute Mills where the Pakistani occupation forces tortured them to death and buried them under the earth there. Plaintiff Haider Khan said the accused have been threatening him in various ways. He demanded security from the government.

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