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1,100-year-old temple found in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Archaeologists have unearthed an Hindu temple believed to be over 1,100 years old at Bochaganj upazila of Dinajpur.

"This is a small temple and was built sometime between the 8th and 9th centuries during the Pala period," said Prof Swadhin Sen, leader of a Jahangirnagar University team digging out the temple in Maherpur village.

Khademul Nabi Badal, chairman of Chhatoil union, said the land under which the "historic archaeological beauty" was found, was leased to a local for farming a few months ago.

While cleaning bushes from the land last month, villagers suddenly noticed some ancient-looking bricks and guessed that there could something of archaeological interest underground.

Learning about the matter, the union chairman instantly informed it to Swadhin, a teacher of JU's Archeology department, who along with his team was working at another "archaeological" site in nearby Basudevpur village.

Prof Swadhin's team consisted of a group of students of the Archeology department and experienced excavators from Mahasthan of Bogra.

The temple was discovered after the team dug the site for days, said Badal.

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The relics of an 1100-year-old temple at Maherpur village in Bochaganj upazila, Dinajpur. A team of archaeologists from Jahangirnagar University is now excavating the site. Inset, terracotta artworks found during the digging.

PHOTO: KANGKAN KARMAKAR

Save migrants drifting at sea

UN urges Asian nations to keep ports, borders open

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN, US and rights bodies yesterday urged regional governments to take swift action to save migrants as around 6,000 Rohingyas and Bangladeshis are still believed to be stranded in the sea in Southeast Asia.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed alarm that some Southeast Asian countries might refuse entry to several thousand people believed to be stranded on smugglers' boats in the Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca.

The UN chief urged the leaders in the region to keep their borders and ports open

for these migrants.

"The secretary-general is concerned about the crisis evolving in the Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca where several thousand people are believed to be stranded on smugglers' boats," says a statement issued on Thursday in New York through his spokesperson.

Ban also urges the governments concerned to ensure that obligation of rescue is upheld and prohibition on 'refoulement' is maintained. Refoulement is forcible return of individuals to their country of origin where they could face persecution.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Arrest, punish the killers of freethinkers
40 eminent citizens urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens and scholars yesterday expressed grave concern over the killing of freethinkers and progressive writers.

In separate statements, they demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the killers. They also observed that the culture of impunity would encourage the culprits to commit more killing.

Bangladesh Rukhe Darao, a platform of progressive and pro-liberation forces, in a statement called for ensuring security to the persons who are in the killers' "hit list".

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It's time to wake up

Unplanned urbanisation leaves Dhaka city vulnerable to catastrophic damage in strong earthquake, say experts

TAWFIQUE ALI

Unplanned urban development and housing settlement on filled up marshland and low-lying flood flow zones have made the capital highly vulnerable to earthquake hazards, said leading seismic experts.

They feared an earthquake above 7 magnitude on the Richter scale would result in colossal loss of life and properties in the city.

"A major earthquake is at the door of Bangladesh ... the country's geological position, tectonic setup and seismic historical facts are indicative of such an impending disaster," said Prof Syed Humayun Akhter, chairman of the

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ANANTA MURDER
Police probe Farabi link

STAR REPORT

Police are investigating whether Sylhet-based friends of Shafiu Rahman Farabi, the lone arrestee in the blogger Avijit murder case, had any links to the killing of another blogger, Ananta Bijoy Das.

Shafiu Rahman Farabi, known in the social media and blogosphere for his vitriolic campaigns against progressive and free-thinking bloggers, used to stay at Munshipara in Sylhet with his family occasionally.

He got in touch with some like-minded local youths, according to investigators.

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RAIN RELIEF
Electrocution, lightning kill three

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A boy was killed by a lightning strike, and two other people died after being electrocuted in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and Lalbagh during downpours yesterday afternoon.

The boy, Badal, 14, was hit by the thunderbolt when he along with his friends was playing cricket near Chandrima Udyan around 5:00pm. He died on the spot, said Syed Muniruzzaman, a sub-inspector of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

In another incident, a woman and a child were electrocuted at Rasulbagh in Lalbagh during their bathing in the rain.

The dead are Ruma, 28, and Rifat, 5.

The two were electrocuted when the puddle where they were bathing came into contact with a live electric wire somehow around 5:30pm, said Motaleb Munshi, a sub-inspector of Lalbagh Police Station.

They were declared dead on arrival at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, he added.



SELFIE DIPLOMACY ... Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi clicking the selfie with Chinese PM Li Keqiang. Inset, the selfie tweeted by Modi shows the two leaders at a historical site, smiling shoulder to shoulder.

PHOTO: NDTV

China should 'reconsider' its approach

Modi tells Beijing for realising full potential of bilateral ties; 2 countries sign 24 deals

AFP, Beijing

Visiting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday told his Chinese counterpart that Beijing needs to "reconsider its approach" to relations between the Asian giants, as the Hindu nationalist leader departed from the usual diplomatic pleasantries.

Modi, who despite his hardline reputation has moved to engage with Beijing since his election last year, made the remarks after being welcomed to the Great Hall of the People by Premier Li Keqiang.

"I stressed the need for China to reconsider its approach on some of the issues that hold us back from realising full potential of our partnership," Modi said, adding that he "suggested that China should take a strategic and long-term view of our relations".

His comments stood out from the usual public declarations by

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'Lessons have still not been learnt'

Says UN human rights expert group about Rana Plaza disaster

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations Working Group on business and human rights yesterday said that "the lessons of the Rana Plaza disaster have still not been learned."

The experts' warning comes after a new tragedy in the global garment industry involving the death of more than 70 factory workers in a fire at a shoe factory in Manila this week, according to a press release issued

in Geneva.

"The tragic death of factory workers, mainly women, is a stark reminder of the urgent need for action to protect workers in the garment industry, despite the Bangladesh Accord for Fire and Building Safety, created two years ago, on the same date as the Manila shoe factory fire," said Michael Addo, who currently heads the expert group.

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