

TEOTA PALACE IN MANIKGANJ History, heritage worth celebrating

ZAHANGIR SHAH with ANDREW EAGLE

Three kilometres to the south is the ceaseless bustle of Aricha Ghat, where thousands of passengers and limitless cargo traverses the Padma River every day. At Aricha, one witnesses the hectic pulse of the modern Bangladeshi nation. Amid such frenetic activity, it's not easy to appreciate that just a stone's throw away, among the tranquil ruins of the 250-year-old Teota Palace a bygone era can yet be imagined.

Teota village on the Jamuna's banks in Manikganj's Shivalaya upazila was the seat of the influential Teota landlords, who in the nineteenth century administered one of eastern Bengal's largest estates. The palace built in a blend of European and Mughal styles isn't only their famed residence; it's where national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam met his wife Pramila Devi.

THE TEOTA ESTATE

The founder of the Teota lineage Panchanan Das Gupta, popularly known as Panchu Sen, was born in the 1740s. The family weren't landlords and Panchanan lost his father Anandiram Das Gupta at an early age.

Panchanan was first involved in the tobacco trade in SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



The renovated Navaratna Math on the premises of the Teota Palace in Manikganj's Shivalaya upazila. Right, part of the dilapidated palace. The photos were taken recently.



PHOTO: ZAHANGIR SHAH

Correction

The name of former Awami League President Maulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish was mentioned wrongly as Maulana Abdur Rahman Tarkabagish in a chart titled "Who led AL, When" published on page 2 of The Daily Star on Saturday. We regret the inadvertent error.

BB HEIST Process on to get back \$15m in the Philippines

UNB, Dhaka

An "execution suit" was filed with a Philippines court to get back \$15 million of the Bangladesh Bank's reserve heist money.

"The suit was filed by the Philippines Department of Justice on behalf of the authorities representing Bangladesh central bank in the Philippines. It is a part of the process to get back the recovered money of \$15 million," Suvankar Saha, executive director and spokesman for Bangladesh Bank, told UNB.

On October 19, a Philippines court ordered Banko Sentral ng Philipinas, the central bank of the country, to return about \$15.25 million to Bangladesh.

The \$15.25 million was a portion of the money which was recovered after being stolen from Bangladesh Bank's reserve account and ended up in the South-east Asian country.

The Philippines court released the verdict after hearing an appeal in the case filed by the Department of Justice (DoJ) in the Philippines.

A total of \$81 million stolen by international cyber hackers from Bangladesh Bank's treasury account with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York on February 5 is thought to have ended up in the Philippines, although only \$15.25 million of that amount could be traced.

The remaining amount, or at least some portion of it, is believed to have made its way into the country's casino and gaming industry, which is not covered by its anti-money laundering laws.

After an investigation, Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

List the homeless

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there will be no poverty in the country."

The government has brought the poverty rate down to 22.4 percent from 97 percent. The country's per capita income would keep rising, she added.

The AL chief said the party faced adverse situations many a time. But its grassroots leaders kept the organisation going by making sacrifices and overcoming the odds.

Reaffirming her government's zero tolerance policy on terrorism, she said, "We've taken all measures against it. No one would be able to use the country's land for terrorist activities. We will not allow anyone to use our land to carry out attacks on any neighbouring country.

"Our decision is that there will be no place for terrorism and militancy in Bangladesh. We will establish Bangladesh as a peaceful country in South Asia."

In her 40-minute speech, the PM highlighted the country's development activities in various sectors, including health, education, ICT and agriculture.

"Our target is to strengthen the economy... We have taken steps to build 100 economic zones for local and foreign investors to create a great number of jobs."

On the foreign policy, the PM said Bangladesh wants to maintain good relations with all at bilateral, regional and international levels.

Earlier, the ruling party's council started with the rendering of the national anthem at 10:07am.

Hasina arrived at the centre stage at 10:05am and inaugurated the two-day programme at 10:13am. It was followed by a cultural programme.

AL Office Secretary Abdul Mannan Khan read out a condolence motion and then one minute's silence was observed. Party General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam presented the "Report of General Secretary".

The PM hoped Bangladesh would be a bridge between the East and the West, and said her government puts emphasis on connectivity, especially the regional one.

She expressed optimism that the country's GDP would reach 8-10 percent by 2041.

Hasina said her government would take necessary measures to ensure education, safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities for all, and nutrition for every child.

Internet services will be there for all, and multimedia classrooms would be

set up in all educational institutions to materialise the dream of "Digital Bangladesh".

She said 78 percent people are now under electricity network. Electricity coverage would be 100 percent by 2021.

The government will implement its programmes to combat the adverse impacts of climate change, she said, adding that it took initiatives with its own resources for adaptation to and mitigation of impacts of climate change.

Bangladesh will be rebuilt in the spirit of the Liberation War and the government will do whatever necessary to take the fruits of independence to every household, said the PM.

Hasina said the anti-liberation forces came to power and tried to destroy the spirit of the Liberation War after the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. "The defeated forces of 1971 were rehabilitated in politics and they distorted the real history of the Liberation War."

She said the AL government in 2009 restored the spirit of the Liberation War and people got the opportunity to know the history of the Liberation War.

The PM recalled that when the AL elected her as party president in 1981, she returned home from abroad despite stiff opposition from the then military regime.

Hasina said that because of people's love, she could get over the shock of the August 15 tragedy and decided to work for people.

She talked about the glorious history of the party founded in 1949, and mentioned that the AL was the main political platform through which the people of Bangladesh achieved whatever they have got now.

AL Presidium Member Mohammad Nasim, General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam and 14 political leaders from abroad also spoke at the council.

A total of 6,570 councillors and 6,570 delegates took part in it. Political leaders and representatives of various professions also joined the inaugural session.

It was attended by, among others, Jatiya Party leaders Anisul Islam Mahmud and Ziauddin Bablu, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Communist Party of Bangladesh President Mujahidul Islam Selim, Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu, 32-party alliance leader Nazmul Huda, and Jasad (Rab) President ASM Abdur Rab.

Foreign delegates sing AL's praises

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developments taking place in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has achieved, in recent years, economic development, improved people's wellbeing and maintained social stability under the leadership of the Awami League, said Zheng Xiaosong, vice minister, the international department of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

The AL has always been pursuing a policy of friendship towards China, he said, adding that the two sides have had close ties.

Based on the principles of independence, complete equality, mutual respect and no interference in each others' internal affairs, the "Communist Party of China stands ready to further elevate its relations with your party by deepening our exchanges and cooperation," said Xiaosong, also the special envoy of the Chinese president.

Vice President of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Vinay Sahasrabudhe said, "Democracy for development is our common and shared vision."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been giving highest importance to cordial and harmonious relationship between India and all of its neighbouring countries, particularly Bangladesh, he said.

Under the leadership of Modi, several issues, including the Land Boundary Agreement, which had long been unresolved, have seen "the light of the day" and now India is working on other unresolved matters, Sahasrabudhe said.

"The border might be dividing us but there are several factors that unite us. On both sides of the border we see the dream of Amar Sonar Bangla."

He pointed out that in at least three

areas Bangladesh and India have been working together and will have to work together.

"I am happy that Madam Sheikh Hasina has recently reiterated her position, unequivocal position, that she will not allow the land of Bangladesh to be used by any terrorist group," which was a bold statement, the BJP leader said.

He said he was also aware of the fact that the bonding between India and Bangladesh has been built on "our confidence, our belief, our trust in the principles of spiritual democracy, which is the foundation of our political democracy."

"At the same time, we also share our aspirations for politics of performance, of which Modi is the embodiment. We believe that democracies ultimately will have to deliver. They will have to make a difference. And therefore democracy for development is our common and shared vision."

Terming Awami league as the largest political party of Bangladesh, the BJP leader said Hasina is the rare leader who can really be described as "Jononetri".

"I am more than convinced that you are true Jononetri, not only of your country but of the entire sub-continent and the people of the world."

Remembering Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the liberation war, he said that when East Pakistan had been fighting its war for liberation he was a school student.

"I was in class eight and I used to report to my school gathering at the time of prayer every day about whatever was happening in the East friend. In fact, my headmaster had asked me to prepare a scrapbook of all the news clippings and I remember the very inspiring stories of Bangabandhu Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman.

"I must say here Bangabandhu is not only a source of inspiration for the people of Bangladesh but for all those who strive for liberation, humanity, liberty and values of humanity," Sahasrabudhe said.

Indian opposition leader in Rajya Sabha, Golam Nabi Azad, praised Hasina's role in fighting terrorism in Bangladesh.

A leader of the Congress Party, he described the relationship between his party and the AL as very strong.

Sergei Zheleznyak, lawmaker of the ruling United Russian Party, spoke in Russian language and an interpreter translated his speech in Bangla.

The Awami League has been playing an important role in establishing stability in the world and in South Asia, he said.

"Our friendship has started since liberation war. Since then the relation between Bangladesh and Russia is based on cooperation and mutual respect."

The two countries have a great future in business and economic sectors, Zheleznyak said, adding that he was happy to acknowledge that the economic and business ties between the two nations were gradually increasing.

The United Russia's main aim is to ensure sustainable development, the Russian lawmaker said and expressed the hope that the Awami league had a similar goal.

"That's why we consider Awami League as our partner."

Italian ruling party lawmaker Khalid Chaouki thanked the ruling Awami League for "a great job against terrorism" after the terror attacks in July this year.

Chaouki said both the countries had many things to do together, particularly in the new era of Sustainable Development Goals and asked Italians to come and explore Bangladesh.

BNP shuns AL council

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Leaders of the main opposition Jatiya Party and components in the grand alliance - Workers Party, both factions of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and Samyabadi Dal also joined the grand event.

Bikalpa Dhara President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Secretary General Maj (ret'd) MA Mannan, CPB adviser Manjurul Ahsan Khan and President Mujahidul Islam Selim, JSD-Rob leader ASM Abdur Rob, Jatiya Party presidium members Anisul Islam Mahmud and Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, Workers Party President Rashed

Khan Menon, General Secretary Fazle Hossain Badsha, JSD-Inu President Hasanul Haq Inu, General Secretary Shirin Akhtar, Dilip Barua of Samyabadi Dal, Enamul Haq of Nap, among others, attended the council.

Asked, a BNP leader wishing anonymity said although the party had earlier decided to attend the council, they later considered the "negative impacts on the party leaders and activists".

"Many of our leaders were killed and there have been many cases of enforced disappearances during the present government rule. What will we say to a vic-

tim's family if they ask what we had said about these issues at the council?" added the leader.

BNP Joint Secretary General Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal on Friday said they were going to attend the council to prove that BNP is not a narrow-minded political party.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday Alal said he did not know why the party backtracked on the decision.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir also told this correspondent that he was unwell and did not know if BNP was going to the council.

Stokes gives England the advantage

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runs to their overnight score of 221 for five, thereby producing a crucial lead of 45 runs for England. He then scored a match-turning 85 that led England to a lead of 273 runs in their second innings at the end of the day with two wickets in hand.

Bangladesh's star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan also played a crucial hand, picking up five wickets for 79 runs to still keep home side's hopes alive, but his accomplishment was marred by an atrocious shot in the second ball of the morning when he was the lone experienced batsman capable of taking the team past England's lead.

On a day that saw 13 wickets fall, debutant pacer Kamrul Islam Rabbi opened the door for a sliver of hope in the third session by bowling Jonny Bairstow for 47 and putting an end to a 127-run sixth wicket partnership with Stokes which rescued England from 62 for five. Shakib, who already had three wickets in the first two sessions, then trapped Stokes plumb in front in the 65th over for a 151-ball 85 featuring six boundaries and three sixes. In the 69th over, Adil Rashid played with bat close to pad against a Shakib delivery headed for the stumps, and Bangladesh reviewed after the umpire judged it not out. The replay showed

that the ball hit pad first and Shakib, who earlier went past 150 Test wickets, had his 15th five-wicket haul.

Earlier, seven overs into the second session which England started on 28 for three, Gary Ballance swept a ball from Taijul that ran off the face straight into Imrul Kayes's lap at leg gully to be fourth out with the score on 46. Then Ali went for the sweep with the score on 62, but the ball came off his gloves and was about to land down the leg side behind the wicket, but an alert Mushfiqur Rahim completed a diving take to have Ali out for 14.

But then Ben Stokes, as he did with the ball earlier in the morning, came forward with his uncomplicated brand of cricket to take the game away from Bangladesh. He was careful not to commit to the front or back foot early and picked the ball off the pitch, to a large extent negating the effects of guessing which way the ball would turn. With the new ball losing its hardness, it was no longer zipping off the pitch, allowing Bairstow and Stokes to put on the most crucial partnership of the match.

The morning session, when Bangladesh resumed on 221 for five, began with Shakib playing perhaps the most irresponsible shot of his career. The down-the-wicket heave in the second ball off Ali resulted in a stump-

ing that set off a collapse of five wickets for 27 runs and a crucial 45-run first innings deficit.

Debutant Sabbir Rahman scored 19 of those runs but when he was ninth out, caught at first slip by Cook off Stokes -- who in the 82nd over trapped Mehedi Hasan Miraz leg-before -- in the 86th over with the score on 248, a first-innings lead for England became a formality. Last batsman Kamrul Islam Rabbi shouldered arms to a reverse swinging delivery and was bowled, giving Stokes figures of four for 26, quite an achievement for a pacer on a spinner's pitch.

Bangladesh however struck back quickly in England's second innings with Miraz and Shakib opening the bowling. Cook and Ben Duckett made it to 26 without loss, but England then lost three wickets for two runs in four overs before lunch. Miraz landed one on a perfect length turn which took the edge off Cook's forward defence for Riyad to take a good, low catch at slip. In the next over Shakib had Joe Root, who was looking for the sweep, leg-before and bagged his 150th wicket. He continued to try to make amends for his early morning indiscretion by having Ben Duckett caught off the bat and pad at short leg to signal lunch after a session that saw eight wickets fall.

Massive cyber attack

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former "spy hunter" on the FBI counter-intelligence force.

"This is not some hacker sitting in his basement typing away on a keyboard."

The attack was said to put a troubling new spin on an old hacker attack known as distributed denial-of-service (DDoS), where millions of devices in the fast-growing internet of things took part in the cyber onslaught.

Armies of computers infected with malicious code are typically used in DDoS attacks intended to overwhelm targets with simultaneous online requests.

Hacker software referred to as Mirai that takes control of IoT devices was evidently linked to the attack, with the broad range of devices making requests helping get past Dyn defenses.

"We are seeing attacks coming from a number of different locations," Level 3 Communications internet services company chief security officer Dale Drew said in a video posted online.

"We are seeing attacks coming from an internet-of-things botnet that we identified called Mirai also involved in this attack."

Heavyweight cyber attacks that seem to yield trouble but no apparent payoff could be probing defenses to refine tactics for use on high value targets such as utilities or transporta-

tion systems, according to O'Neill and other computer defense specialists.

The attack could also have been meant as a message from a foreign power, cyber security analysts told AFP.

The onslaught commanded the attention of top US security agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security.

"DHS and the FBI are aware and are investigating all potential causes" of the outages, a spokeswoman said.

The outages left internet users unable to post messages, shop, watch videos and play games online for parts of the day.

Dynamic Network Services Inc, which manages internet traffic, said around 1100 GMT that its infrastructure had been hit by a distributed denial of service, or DDoS, attack in the eastern part of the United States.

The initial attack was resolved within about two hours but the company, known as Dyn, was slammed with a second DDoS wave.

DDoS attacks involve flooding websites with more traffic than they can handle, making them difficult to access or taking them offline entirely.

Domain name servers are a crucial element of internet infrastructure, converting numbered Internet Protocol addresses into the domain names that allow users to connect to internet sites.

Shamsur Rahman's 88th birth anniversary today

BSS, Dhaka

The 88th birth anniversary of renowned poet Shamsur Rahman will be observed today.

Different socio-cultural organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes to celebrate the anniversary.

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Bangla Academy, Jatiya Kabita Parishad and Shamsur Rahman Smriti Parishad will jointly organise a discussion and cultural function at Rabindra Chattar on the Bangla Academy premises at 4:00pm.

Bangla Academy President Prof Anisuzzaman, also chair of the Smriti Parishad, will preside over the function. Cultural personality Ramendra Majumder and poets Rabiul Hussain and Muhammad Nurul Huda are expected to join the programme, among others.

Private television station Channel i will telecast a special episode on "Shilpo Binodon" at 5:30pm, marking SEE PAGE 11 COL 5