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# Dinajpur temple sheds new light on distant past

Excavation on in the 1,000-year-old site

KONGKON KARMAKER with ANDREW EAGLE

Long-renowned for its archaeological wealth, the importance of the Dinajpur region to the study of ancient Bengali civilisation has recently been confirmed. A one-thousand-year-old saptaratha style Brahmanical temple under excavation in Biral upazila, thought to be the first of its kind in Bangladesh, has archaeologists excited.

"The site is known as Buri Than, a sacred place of the Hindu goddess Buri," explains the director of the excavation team, Dr Swadin Sen, an archaeology professor from Jahangirnagar University. "It consists of a mound measuring 80 metres east to west and 60 metres north to south with a small temple dedicated to Buri at its apex."

"The original site would have been larger," he notes. "Some portion along the western and southern perimeter is occupied by locals."

The unearthed temple consists of a 36-square-metre sanctum with an assembly hall to the east. There is a curvilinear tower known as a rekha shrine in the sanctum and a characteristic stepped tower in the assembly hall.

Of architectural significance, the temple features a stone pedestal in seven-faceted 'saptaratha' design. "According to the available canons of art and architecture like the Bhuban Pradipa," explains Dr Sen, "temples are classified as triratha, pancharatha, saptaratha and navaratha depending on how many facets are present in pedestal design. Triratha is the earliest style, navaratha the most recent."

The dig has also yielded an earthen pot primarily used for displaying idols for worship, of the type known as a 'ghat' which often serves as a focal-point for worship in the absence of a formal idol.

Experts estimate the date of temple construction is between the 10th and 11th centuries CE.

"The architecture closely resembles the distinctive Kalinga style found in the Indian state of Odisha," says Dr Sen. Whereas the Odishan temples were

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The excavation site in Biral upazila of Dinajpur where archaeologists found a thousand-year-old Saptaratha temple recently. Ratha means facet or vertical offset projection on the tower and this temple's design features Saptaratha or seven facets.

PHOTO: STAR

## Saudi, allies vow more measures against Qatar

Say its refusal to demands sabotage region's security

AGENCIES

The four Arab states leading the boycott against Qatar said late on Thursday that Doha's refusal of their demands to resolve a Gulf diplomatic crisis is proof of its links to terror groups and that they would enact new measures against it.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Bahrain released a joint statement carried by the countries' state media saying their initial list of 13 demands was now void and pledging new political, economic and legal steps against Qatar.

The Qatari government sabotaged diplomatic efforts to solve the rift, the four states said, and its refusal affirmed its continuing sabotage of the region's stability and security.

Any measures taken by the four states would be aimed at the Qatari government but not its people, they said, without elaborating on when the new steps would be announced or what they would entail, reported Reuters.

Foreign ministers from the four states convened in Cairo the day before after the expiry of a 10-day deadline for their demands to be met. They condemned the tiny Gulf nation's response as "negative" and lacking in content.

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## Floodwater recedes, diseases spread

Situation improves in Sylhet region; Jamalpur affected as Jamuna swells

STAR REPORT

With floodwater receding in Sylhet and Moulvibazar, waterborne diseases are spreading in the flood-hit areas as there is hardly any medical care for a large number of affected people.

Meanwhile, Jamalpur became the latest district to have been hit by flood this year as the Jamuna was flowing 27cm above the danger level at Bahadurabad Ghat point at 6:00pm yesterday.

Sources at Water Development Board said the river swelled due to downpour and onrush of water from upstream.

Sirajul Islam, executive engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board in Sylhet, said the Kushiara was flowing 64cm above the danger level at Shewla point yesterday, down from 98cm the previous day.

"The situation will improve further if there is no rain in the next few days," he added.

According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre, water levels of the Surma

and Kushiara rivers were falling while the Brahmaputra, Jamuna, Ganges and Padma rivers were rising at many places yesterday.

People in Sylhet and Moulvibazar were suffering from waterborne diseases like typhoid fever, dysentery, diarrhoea and skin infections. Many complained about not receiving any medical attention and relief aid.

Visiting Baradal area in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila yesterday, The Daily Star found that 47-year-old Ila Begum, sitting on a boat, was pouring floodwater on her head to lower fever.

"I've been suffering from fever for a week. But no doctor or medical team visited our area since the flood hit us around two weeks ago. I don't have money to buy medicine," she said.

Mitu Das, 17, of Karera village in the same upazila said his mother was suffering from diarrhoea, but he had no money to buy oral saline or medicine.

Mira Begum of the same village took shelter in the upazila's Badeghat area. She

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## World's first golden bananas developed



MAIL ONLINE

Australian researchers have developed the world's first golden-orange fleshed bananas rich in Vitamin A.

The development of the biofortified fruit is part of a 'significant humanitarian project' by the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) aimed at improving the nutritional content of the banana in Uganda.

The fruit is a major food staple in Uganda, says the QUT's project lead and Distinguished Professor James Dale.

"Human trial is a significant milestone for this project which started in 2005 and should see pro-vitamin A-enriched banana varieties being grown by Ugandan farmers around 2020," Professor James Dale said.

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## Three girls raped in Savar, N'ganj

STAR REPORT

A female model was allegedly raped in Savar's Sobhanbagh area early yesterday.

The 25-year-old victim filed a case last night with Savar Police Station against three persons.

Police said Liton Mondal, a former source of police, brought two female models, including the victim, to Savar from the capital on Thursday evening, offering them a handsome amount for performing at musical programmes.

Along with an accomplice, Liton, now involved in drug peddling, took them to a room on the first floor of a six-storey building in Sobhanbagh around 9:00pm.

Liton raped one of the models at a room around 3:00am yesterday. The other model was confined to another room while Liton's accomplice stood guard outside.

At one stage, the two girls started screaming. Liton and his cohort quickly fled the scene and locals rescued the girls.

Mohsinul Kadir, officer-in-charge of Savar Police Station, said the other two accused are the building's caretaker Mokarram and security guard Mizan.

Police arrested the two but Liton is absconding, he added.

Our Narayanganj correspondent reports: two schoolgirls were allegedly

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A patient from Ruma upazila is being carried by her relatives to Bandarban Sadar Hospital as the Ruma-Bandarban road communication remains suspended following recent landslides. The photo was taken in Baromile area yesterday.

PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

## Police outpost ransacked in Mymensingh

Incident triggered by snatching of criminal from law enforcers; 2 Jubo League men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Some Jubo League men ransacked a police outpost in Mymensingh Town Hall area on Thursday night, about an hour after snatching a criminal from the law enforcers' custody, police said.

Two alleged activists of the youth wing of the ruling Awami League were arrested over the incidents.

A police patrol team caught Apu, a Jubo League activist accused in at least five cases filed with Kotwali Police Station, red-handed when he was vandalising a motorcycle in College Road Railway Crossing area around 11:00pm, said Sub-Inspector Faruque Hossain of the outpost.

Apu was being taken to the outpost. All of a sudden, a group of Jubo League men stopped the team near Gulkibari Graveyard area and snatched him away, he said.

About an hour later, Hazrat Ali, owner of the bike, went to the outpost to lodge a complaint. However, a group of Jubo League men, led by Mymensingh city Jubo League member Moniruzzaman Rony, went there and tried to snatch away Hazrat too, Faruque said.

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**SIBL Foundation Hospital  
& Diagnostic Center**

**PRAYER TIMING  
JULY 8**

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:10	12:45	5:00	6:55	8:17

JAMAAT 4:45 1:15 5:15 7:00 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION