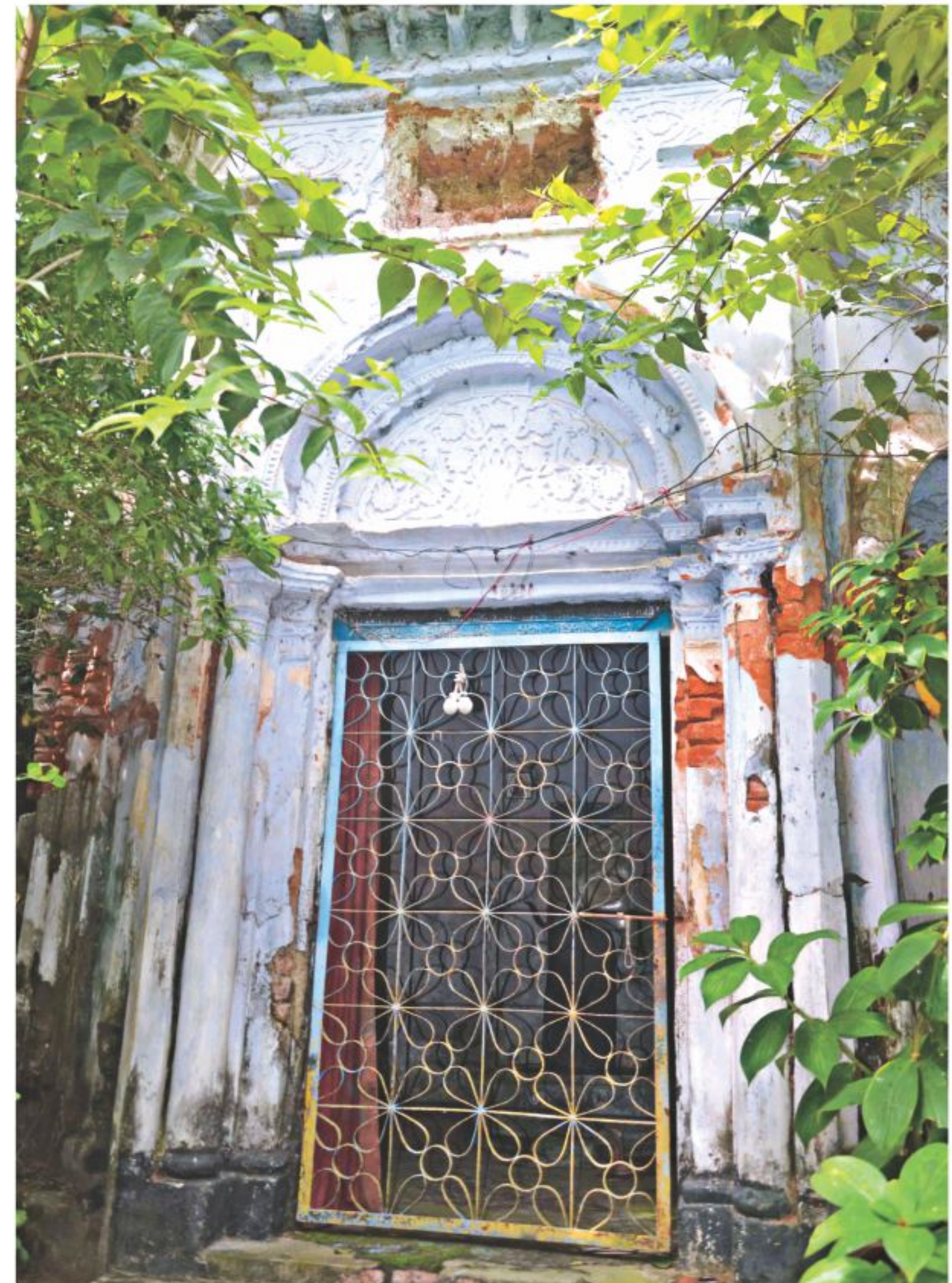


A GLIMPSE OF HISTORY



The "Durga Temple" in Taherpur of Rajshahi's Bagmara upazila. The last generation of King Kansa Narayan Roy built the temple in the 18th century, in memory of the late king who first introduced the festival of Durga Puja in a universal manner ensuring participation of all castes of the Hindus, as the saying goes. The temple's cleric Gopal Chandra Chakrawarty said the idol of Durga is available in the temple throughout the year. "After holding a Durga Puja, we keep idols until the next year for visitors. We immerse the old idols when new idols arrive," he said. These days, the temple has already lost much of its grandeur in the absence of much-needed renovation work. In this regard, Kartik Saha, general secretary of the temple committee, said, "We maintain it [temple] with our limited resources. Therefore, the authorities concerned have to come forward to preserve the heritage site." The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: ANWAR ALI

Tofa, Tahura's first birthday celebrated in Gaibandha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Formerly conjoined twins Tofa and Tahura celebrated their first birthday at their village home in Gaibandha on Friday. Paediatric Surgeon and Professor of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) Shahnoor Islam, who headed the nine-hour operation on August 1 to separate the twin girls who were born conjoined at the waist, participated in the birthday party along with their family and Dr Muhi of DMCH.

About the health condition of the twins, their mother Shahida Begum said, "The girls are doing quite well. They can now sit on their own."

Local UP Chairman Mijanur Rahman, the UP members and assistant commissioner (Land) as well as hundreds of local people gathered at Tofa-Tahura's house to celebrate their birthday, ignoring heavy rain, Dr Shahnoor said told The Daily Star.

"We had two cakes for the birthday girls; one was gifted on behalf of the local district administration and another on behalf of the doctors from Dhaka," she said.

The twins are now in a better health condition, but they will require improved care and regular follow ups, said Dr Shahnoor.

But the family is facing some economic challenges in taking care of the twins and their six-year-old brother as the father, Raju Miah, who is a farmer, lost his crops in the recent flood, she added.

The separation surgery was the first of its kind in the country.

A woman spends 8 hours a day for unpaid care work

Reveals ActionAid study saying that such work not getting social recognition in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women in Bangladesh on an average spend around eight hours doing unpaid care work per day, but such contributions are not getting social recognition or economic benefits, revealed a study yesterday.

Besides, women on an average spend 3.24 hours doing productive works such as sewing or making baskets but such contributions, be it unpaid care work or productive work, hardly get any kind of recognition, the study added.

On the other hand, men spend approximately one and a half hours for unpaid care work while 3.43 hours for productive work.

The study, conducted by ActionAid Bangladesh, was revealed marking inauguration of a photography exhibition titled "Different Images of Men" at Drik Gallery in the capital.

The exhibition is a result of a national photography contest on the theme of Unpaid Care Work (UCW) with an aim to encourage men to be engaged in household care work.

Addressing as the chief guest, Finance Minister

Abul Maal Abdul Muhith said economic evaluation of women's work is very important and the government will initiate an assessment of the unpaid work.

Under the Power Project, ActionAid conducted the study in Lalmonirhat and Gaibandha in late 2016 where 600 people participated.

The objective of the study was to identify the role of women in various capacities of the household, and to determine gender roles.

Quoting the study findings, its principal researcher Meghna Guhathakurta said 69 percent of the female respondents said that they had no one to help them, and 8.7 percent had their daughters to help them while 7.5 percent had the support of their husbands.

Secretary to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Nasima Begum said if the unpaid care work of the women is valued, the country could have double digit growth of GDP.

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid, said male members in the family do not recognise daily house chores as work.



Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith visits a photography exhibition titled "Different Images of Men" at Drik Gallery in the capital yesterday. ActionAid Bangladesh organised the event, which will continue till October 4.

PHOTO: STAR

Female journos urged to consolidate their positions

UNB, Dhaka

Head of the Bangla Service of Voice of America (VoA) Roquia Haider yesterday urged female journalists working at different media outlets in Dhaka to consolidate their positions in this male-dominated profession with their skills, sincerity and courage.

"Gender discrimination is found all over the world. Unfortunately, it's prevailing even in developed countries like the United States. But, women will have to move ahead with their talent, skills and courage in different fields," she said.

The noted broadcast journalist came up with the remarks while exchanging views and experience on journalism with young, mid-level and senior male and female journalists at a programme at the Jatiya Press Club.

"If you think you're able to deliver, go ahead; do not feel defeated while working in different areas -- sports, economy, environment and politic. If you want to interview the prime minister or heads of different states, do it boldly without hesitation," Roquia Haider said encouraging the female

journalists.

Farida Yasmin, the first female general secretary of the Jatiya Press Club, organised the event where the VoA Bangla head shared the challenges and hurdles and successes in her long career as a broadcast journalist.

Roquia Haider said she started her career as a news caster in radio here in 1969 and she joined VoA in 1981.

She said those working in the print and electronic media must follow ethics, maintain objectivity and accuracy of information. "Those with electronic media must be aware of their pronunciation as well."

Nari Sangbadik Kendra President Nasimun Ara Haq Minu, Bangladesh Women Journalists' Forum President Momtaz Bilkis Banu, senior women journalists Rashida Amin, Mahbuba Chowdhury, Editor of the daily Manabzamin Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, BSS Managing Director Abul Kalam Azad, UNB Editor Mahfuzur Rahman and Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Secretary General Omar Faruque, among others, spoke at the programme.

Appeal for help

CITY DESK

Sahidul Azad Turjo, assistant librarian of Government Shah Sultan College in Bogra and a former student of Information Science & Library Management Department of Rajshahi University, has been suffering from brain tumor for the last three years.

Doctors say the tumor has to be removed on an urgent basis to save his life. They suggest taking him to Chennai in India for treatment that costs around Tk 36 lakh, says a press release.

As the family alone cannot afford the treatment, they have sought financial assistance from the well-off of the society.

Aid can be sent to Sahidul Azad, Account No-125101207364, Dutch-Bangla Bank, Bogra Branch; bKash A/C No-01912704971, 01713722457 and 01716455293.



Govt now helpless

FROM PAGE 3

citizens those took shelter here in the face of persecution in their country.

The BNP leader said the international community can put pressure on Myanmar to change its stance by stopping their support to it and boycotting the country.

He urged the government to be active in convincing the influential countries to put pressure on Myanmar to take back its citizens with ensuring their citizenship and dignity.

Recalling the contributions of Hannan Shah to the party, the BNP leader said he was a strong party pillar. "His loyalty to the party founder and the leadership was incomparable."

BNP standing committee members Mahbubur Rahman, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Nazrul Islam Khan, Kalyan Party Chairman Syed Mohammad Ibrahim, BNP joint secretary generals Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal and Habib-Un-Nabi Khan Sohel, among others, spoke at the programme.

Star felicitates Sonia Bashir

FROM PAGE 3

and Information Services, said leaders like her are essential for taking the country's information and technology sector forward.

Kamran Bakr, chairman and managing director of Unilever Bangladesh Ltd, said the achievement is an "exceedingly great recognition" and that Bangladesh, including the corporate sector, is elated.

"We in The Daily Star partake in her achievement and would like to share our joy and rejoice together," said Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

He also handed over a crest as a token of appreciation to Sonia.

Arfan Ali, managing director of Bank Asia, hoped that taking inspiration from her great recognition, Sonia would dedicate herself more to the betterment of the country's people.

Lauding Sonia as a "wonderful personality", Rubaba Dowla Matin, managing director of

PlusOne, said that Sonia as a pioneering technology giant is always inspirational for her business acumen.

Thanking everyone for the reception, Sonia Bashir Kabir said women in rural parts of Bangladesh are full of energy. She added that all they need is the support to flourish and contribute to the Bangladesh's economy.

Sonia is also a member of the Board of Directors and co-founder of D Money, a financial start-up. She advocates digital literacy for women and has led programmes to increase women's participation in IT workforce.

Through Microsoft, she has worked to arrange micro-loans for women to found IT businesses.

Among others, Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation; Sonia Kabir's husband Ihtisham Kabir, her brother Aref Bashir and noted software engineer Mahboob Zaman attended the ceremony.