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2018

BAGERHAT LAND RECORD OFFICE

Working for 7 years at risky building

PARTHA CHAKRABORTY, Bagerhat

Over 150 employees of Bagerhat sub-registrar and land record offices have been working in a tattered building for the last seven years despite serious risks.

The building constructed in Sarui area during the British rule, was declared unusable by the Public Works Department in 2012.

Although the government has already approved the money needed to relocate the offices, no new building has been constructed due to shortage of land, officials said.

The age-old building was previously used as the district judge court. The court shifted to a new building in the 1990s. In 1997, the law ministry allocated the building to the district registrar, sub-registrar and land record offices, employees told The Daily Star.

Only one of the three offices has been able to move to a new place two months ago.

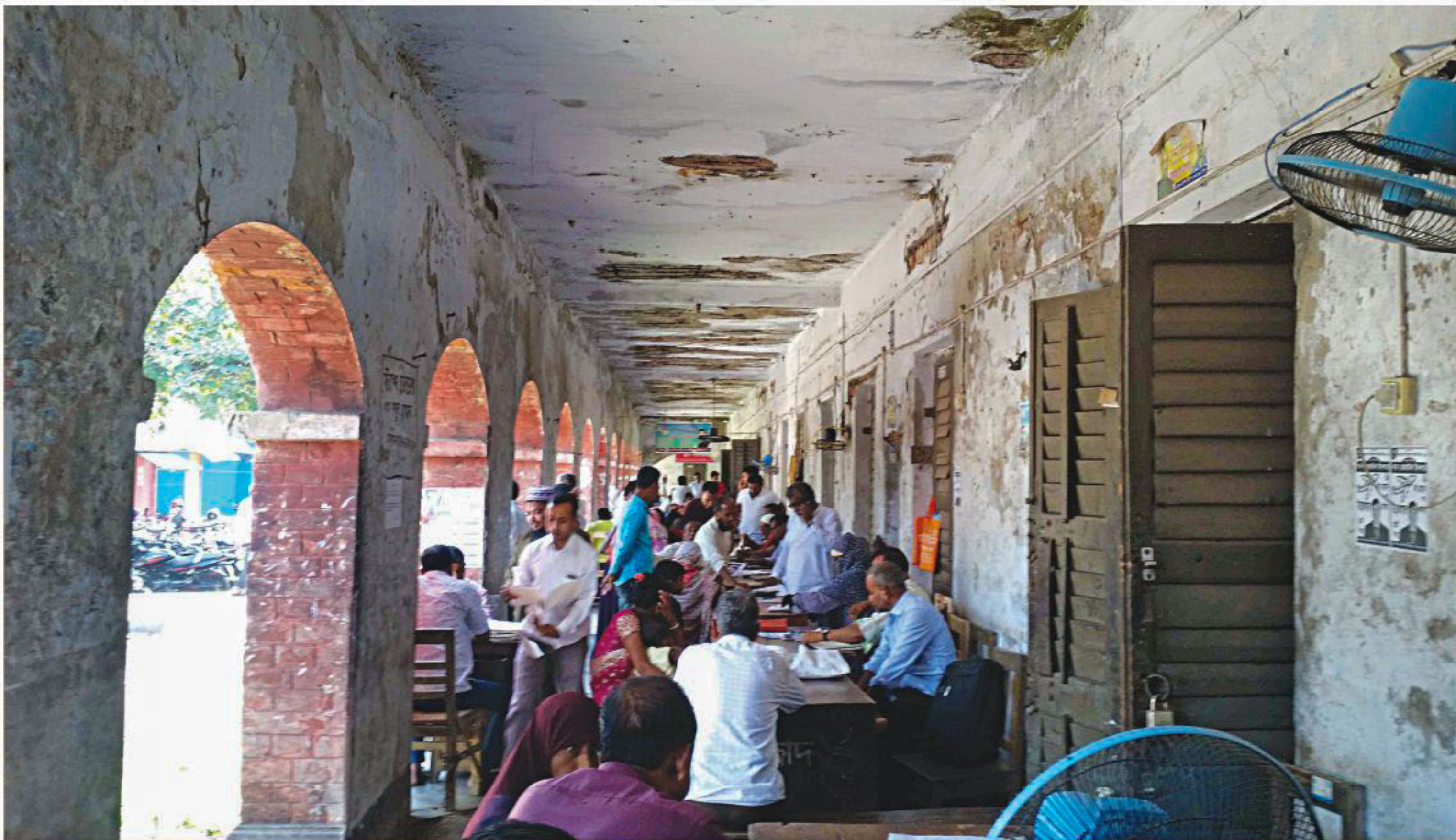
On a visit to the offices on March 24, this correspondent saw that the roof was in a poor condition. Sometimes, chinks of plaster from the leaky ceiling fall on people and furniture. Officials have to place large plastic sheets on the roof during monsoon.

“We have been risking our lives. Plaster chunks often injure us. Many important papers and documents get ruined,” said an employee.

SM Shahedul Islam, sub-registrar, said, “We are in fear of a total collapse of the building. The risks are higher during monsoon.”

District registrar Sheikh Habibullah said, “We are looking for a piece of land. Once we find it, we will inform

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Employees and service seekers in the corridor of the dilapidated building of Bagerhat sub-registrar and land record offices recently. Bottom right, plastic sheets hang from the ceiling to prevent rainwater from coming in.

PHOTO: STAR



Ninth grader tries to take her own life after ‘rape’

STAR REPORT

A ninth-grader attempted to die by suicide allegedly after being raped several times and publicly beaten up by the rapist in Mymensingh’s Gafargaon on Thursday.

The 14-year-old girl had been admitted to a medical college hospital, her family members said.

She alleged that Ridoy Mia, 23, had raped her several times in the last one year and promised to marry her.

He asked the girl to meet him in Atka Beel area on Thursday morning. After she went there, Ridoy along with three others threatened to kill her if she told anyone about his conduct, said a member of the girl’s family.

As an argument started between them, Ridoy and his friends started punching and hitting her. Hearing her screams, locals rescued her, but Ridoy and his friends managed to flee.

Soon after returning home, the girl swallowed poison, her uncle told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Two killed in ‘gunfights’ in Gazipur, Bogura

STAR REPORT

Two men were killed in separate “gunfights” in Gazipur and Bogura early yesterday.

In Gazipur town’s Salna area, a group of suspected arms dealers got involved into a “gunfight” with Rab around 2:30am yesterday.

Rab conducted a drive in the area on information that arms were being smuggled. Sensing their presence, the arms dealers opened fire, forcing them to retaliate, the elite force claimed.

Lt Commander Abdullah Al-Mamun, company commander of Rab-1, said the dead Habibur Rahman, 35, was accused in 13 cases with different police stations.

The body was sent to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Medical College morgue for autopsy, he added.

Two Rab officials -- Ujjal and Sanaullah -- also sustained injuries during the “gunfight”, he added.

Rab claimed to have recovered a pistol from the spot.

Meanwhile in Bogura, a youth was killed in a “gunfight” between two groups of criminals in Upashahar area of the district’s Sadar upazila yesterday.

Hearing gunshots petrol team of police went to the area and found Rafid Anam, 25, of the upazila’s Khandar area, in a critically injured condition around 3:00am, claimed police.

Badiuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Bogura Sadar Police Station, said they rushed Rafid to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Democrats keep up pressure on Trump

Issue subpoena to see all of Mueller’s Russia probe evidence; Kremlin once again dismisses report

AGENCIES

Congressional Democrats yesterday demanded to see all of US Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s evidence from his inquiry into Russian interference in the 2016 election, as they consider how to use the probe’s findings against President Donald Trump.

House of Representatives Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, a Democrat, issued a subpoena to the Justice Department to hand over the full Russia report by Mueller, saying he cannot accept a redacted version released on Thursday that “leaves most of Congress in the dark.”

“My committee needs and is entitled to the full version of the report and the underlying evidence consistent with past practice. The redactions appear to be significant. We have so far seen none of



the actual evidence that the Special Counsel developed to make this case,” Nadler said in a statement.

The report provided extensive details on Trump’s efforts to thwart Mueller’s Russia investigation, giving Democrats plenty of political ammunition against the Republican president but no consensus on how to use it.

The 448-page report painted a clear picture of how Trump had tried to hinder the probe but did not conclude that he had committed the crime of obstruction of justice, although it did not exonerate him.

The report blacked out details about secret grand jury information, US intelligence gathering and active criminal cases as well as potentially damaging information about peripheral players who

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

CID constable held with 990 yaba pills

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A constable of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and one of his associates were held with 990 yaba pills from Savar, on the outskirts of the capital, on Thursday evening.

The arrestees are Tajuddin, a constable of CID’s Uttara zone, and his associate Mofiz Mia, said Abul Bashar, officer-in-charge of Detective Branch (DB) of police in Dhaka (north).

Acting on a tip-off, a team of DB intercepted a battery-run auto-rickshaw in Changaon area of Savar around 6:45pm and recovered the contraband pills from the possession of the two, said the DB OC.

During primary interrogation, Tajuddin confessed that they were taking those pills from

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Bee-wildering! Hives of Notre-Dame in miraculous survival



AFP, Paris

Some 200,000 bees inhabiting hives in Notre-Dame cathedral survived the inferno that engulfed the heritage landmark in a miraculous escape, their beekeeper said Thursday.

“The bees are alive. Until this morning, I had had no news,” said beekeeper Nicolas Geant who looks after the hives which are kept on top of a sacristy that adjoins the cathedral.

“At first I thought that the three hives had burned but I had no information” after Monday’s fire, Geant told AFP.

“Then I saw from satellite images that this was not the case and then the cathedral spokesman told me that they were going in and out of the hives.”

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

AL leader held with gun near party office

Detained hours before Hasina’s scheduled event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Awami League leader was held with a licensed gun and eight bullets in front of the party’s Bangabandhu Avenue headquarters yesterday afternoon, hours before Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joined a programme there.

MA Mannan, president of ward-49 AL under Dhaka South City Corporation, was detained when he was passing the area, police said.

The AL leader was carrying a firearm licensed with his name, Shiblee Noman, additional deputy commissioner (Motijheel division) of Dhaka

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



A portion of a retaining wall beside a canal has collapsed in Cumilla city’s Noagaon Rail Crossing area on Thursday. Locals said the Cumilla City Corporation had constructed the wall just two months ago. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: KHALID BIN NAZRUL

Congress party spokeswoman Priyanka resigns

Joins BJP ally, complaining of misbehaviour by party men

REUTERS, Mumbai

A spokeswoman for India’s main opposition Congress party resigned yesterday and joined a group allied with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ruling party, complaining that misbehaviour towards her by male Congress members was ignored.

The resignation of Priyanka Chaturvedi, a regular on prime-time TV debates, is an embarrassing setback for Congress in the middle of a general election, and again raises the contentious issue of the treatment of women in India.

“A serious incident and misbehaviour against me by certain party members while I was on official duty for the party has been ignored under the guise of all hands needed for elections,” Chaturvedi wrote in the letter to Congress President Rahul Gandhi, and posted on Twitter.

Chaturvedi told a news conference she had joined Shiv Sena, a Hindu nationalist group allied with Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Her resignation is another problem for the former ruling Congress party, which is facing a confident BJP, buoyed in part by Modi’s tough stand against old rival

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5





PRAYER TIMING APRIL 20

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:25	12:45	4:45	6:27	8:00
JAMAAT 5:00	1:15	5:00	6:31	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION