

FLY ASH FREE  
**AKIJ CEMENT**  
bonding forever

100+ YEARS  
ASSURANCE OF DURABILITY

24/7  
08000-123456

**BERGER**  
express  
painting

রঙ করতে  
ঘরমুঠা  
শুলো-ময়ানা  
আর না

**BANKING IN DIRE STRAITS**

# Will needed to fix ills

*Remedy there, but will the govt go for it?*

ZINA TASREEN

People do not lack strength; they lack will, the French poet and novelist Victor Hugo once said. The words perfectly describe the government's attitude thus far towards fixing the banking sector.

With defaulted loans mounting and liquidity drying up, the maladies of the banking sector, the heart of the economy, can derail Bangladesh's campaign to become an upper middle-income country by 2030.

If the Asian financial crisis of 1997 and the global financial crisis of 2007-08 are any indication, it is often elevated financial sector vulnerabilities that bring stories of extended economic success to a crashing halt.

This dawned on the government too, which is why it invited the International Monetary Fund earlier this year to conduct a diagnostic review on the sector.

A specialised mission of the IMF's Monetary and Capital Markets department twice visited Bangladesh in the last six months for the prognosis and wrote up a prescription with 43 reforms.

But, does the current Awami League government, which is now in its third term, have the will to act on the recommendations?

The mission's paramount recommendation is greater

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

- Rx
- WILL POWER
  - SAY 'NO' TO POLITICAL INFLUENCE
  - MORE POWER FOR BB
  - STATE BANKS UNDER BB CONTROL
  - FEWER DIRECTORS
  - WIND UP AILING BANKS, NBFIS



## No politics based on religion

*Decides Ducsu meet about DU campus*

DU CORRESPONDENT

An executive meeting of the Dhaka University Central Students' Union yesterday accepted a proposal for pressing a ban on religion-based student politics on the campus.

As per the meeting agenda, Ducsu Literature Affairs Secretary Mazharul Kabir Shayon placed the proposal, which was granted unanimously, said meeting sources.

Ducsu General Secretary Golam Rabbani, who was removed from the general secretary post of Chhatra League on September 15 on extortion charges, was not present.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman, also the president of the student union, said, "As Dhaka University is a democratic institution and a place of non-communal values and spirit, there is no room

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## Lokman has Tk 41 cr stashed abroad: Rab

*Two cops suspended for letting 15 Nepali staffers of 'casino' escape*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammedan Sporting Club director in-charge M Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan deposited around Tk 41 crore in two banks in Australia, Rab said yesterday.

"During primary interrogation, Lokman admitted amassing huge sums of money... He has moveable property worth around Tk 3 crore," Rab-2 Commanding Officer Lt Col Ashique Billah told reporters yesterday.

Since his son is studying in Australia, a major portion of the Tk 41 crore has been deposited in ANZ and Commonwealth banks there.

Meanwhile, the National Board of Revenue yesterday asked all banks to freeze the bank accounts of Lokman and his wife.

A security guard at his building in Monipuripara said his family members were not home.

Rab arrested Lokman Hossain, also a director of Bangladesh Cricket Board, at his residence on Wednesday night with four bottles of liquor.

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 20 SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

## Make Myanmar take back the Rohingyas

*PM urges the world at an event in New York*

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the world must take all measures to force Myanmar to create conditions enabling safe, dignified and voluntary return of Rohingyas to their ancestral home.

She was addressing an interactive dialogue titled "A conversation with Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina" at Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) in New York on Wednesday.

"Through planned atrocities, the government of Myanmar cleansed its Northern Rakhine State of the Rohingya minority. They fled violence and atrocities and we opened our border to shelter them on humanitarian ground," the PM said. Hasina said Bangladesh is providing humanitarian support to the Rohingyas to the best of its ability. "We want a peaceful and immediate resolution of the crisis. Myanmar has created the crisis and the solution lies in Myanmar."

The PM said the international community, particularly the EU, China and the USA, have been extremely helpful to Bangladesh in dealing with the crisis.

She urged all to visit the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

"We believe, while in those camps you will be shaken by their horrifying stories

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



## Four of a Buddhist family slain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police recovered the bodies of four members of a Buddhist family from the home of a Qatar expatriate in the district of Ukhia upazila yesterday.

The expatriate, Loken Barua, was on his way to Bangladesh after the incident took place.

The dead, all of whom had their throats slit, are Loken's mother Sokhi Barua, 62, Loken's wife Mila Barua, 26, his son Anik Barua, 6, and his nephew Soni Barua, 5, all residents of Purbo Ratnapalong village in the upazila.

Police suspected that the murder might have taken at late night on Wednesday or during the early hours of yesterday.

The village is mostly populated by Buddhist families and most of them are acquainted to each other, said locals.

At around 7:00am yesterday, one of their neighbours Dipali Barua went to Loken's house to bring fish, which she stored in his refrigerator.

After reaching, Dipali found the door locked. After knocking the door several times, she did not get any response. She then looked through one of the windows of the house and saw slit-throated body of Sokhi.

Dipali immediately informed the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

## MASTER'S IN CSE AT BSMRSTU Chairman the first student!

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Have you ever heard of a chairman of a university department officially recommending himself for his enrolment in a Master's course at that very department and eventually having the degree?

As absurd as it may sound, that's exactly what happened at the Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) department at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University (BSMRSTU) in Gopalganj.

In fact, the man, Akkas Ali, now a former chairman of the department, was the first and only student taking the course that year.

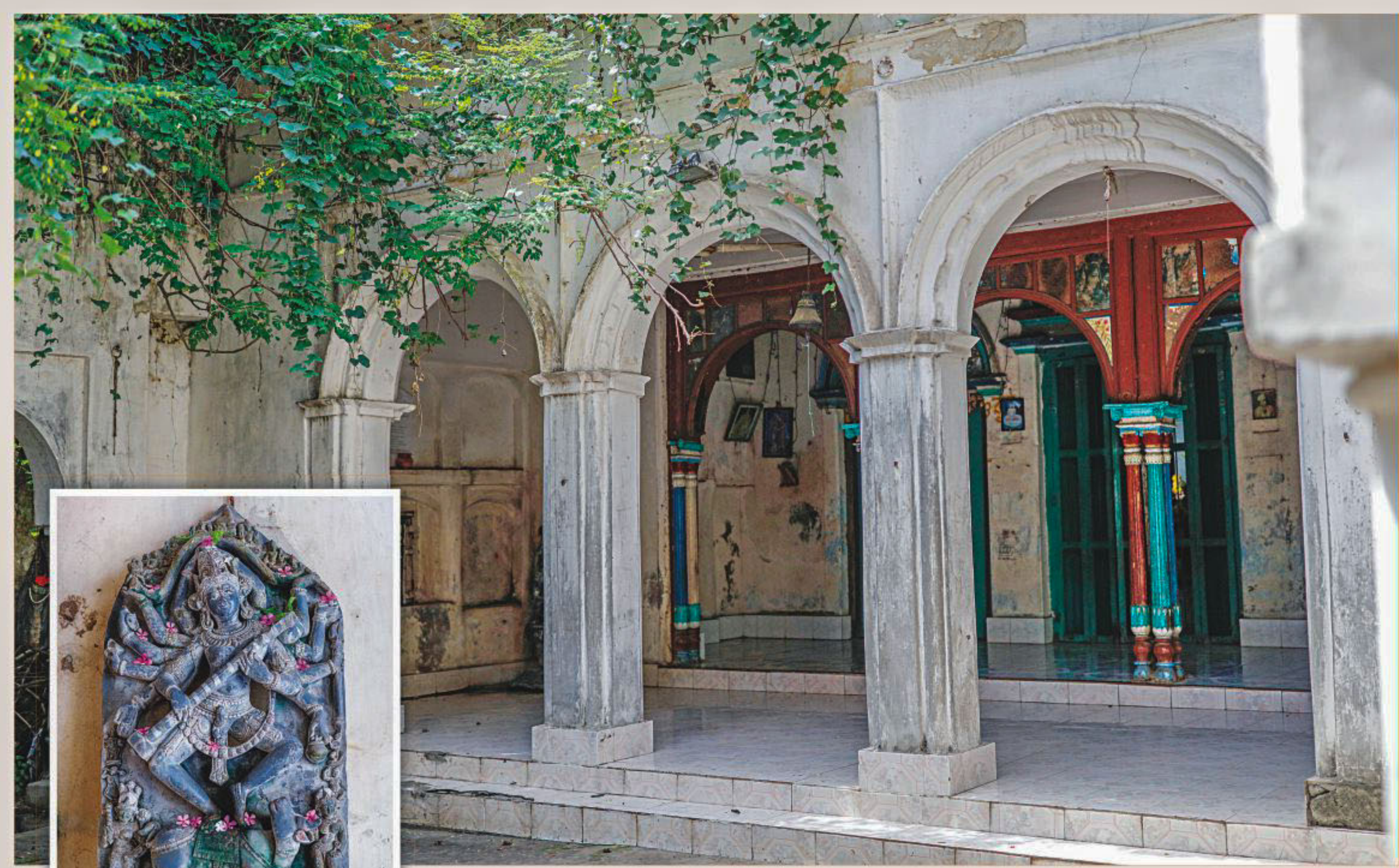
He completed the last semester of the course there because he had already done three of another Master's programme at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

Akkas, as empowered by the Gopalganj university, even went on to set his course outline for the semester, BSMRSTU documents show.

The documents also show that Akkas had applied for a lecturer post at the BSMRSTU against its recruitment circular published on December 7, 2015.

According to the circular, applications were invited against 22 vacant posts of assistant professors and lecturers at 13 departments, including the CSE.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



## A journey to the past with dancing Shiva

TARUN SARKAR writes for The Daily Star

A statue of lord Shiva, kept in an Old Dhaka temple for ages largely beyond public knowledge, offers a new gateway to history as well as ancient art and heritage of this region.

It is a stone statue of Nateshwar, a depiction of dancing Shiva on the back of his bull-carrier Nandi, found at Sarangadhar Jeu Akhada in the capital's Chawkbazar.

The Nateshwar, worshipped in temples around the world, is a prominent symbol in art from the period of Chandra dynasty.

The dynasty ruled between the 10th and 11th century -- a glorious chapter in the history of Bengal -- with its capital in Mainamati and later transferred to Bikrampur.

The architecture and sculpture that flourished in that era had long been regarded as the works of Pala dynasty.

According to experts, the presence of the Shiva statue in Dhaka is a testament to the rule of Chandra dynasty in this region as well as a rich civilisation here in the 10th and 11th centuries.

The statue was discovered in 2011 during a prolonged study by the

Committee for Documentation on Architectural Sites in Dhaka.

Earlier in 2008, the committee began surveying old mosques, shrines, churches, graveyards and temples, as part of its investigation into Dhaka's ancient architecture.

After conducting a series of extensive research and survey, the committee concluded in 2015 that it has actually found a Nateshwar statue, and started preparing a draft report about the discovery in 2017.

Meanwhile, a number of researchers, journalists, photographers and cultural activists were invited to visit the statue at the Old Dhaka monastery, Sarangadhar Jeu Akhada.

The draft report was finalised in June last year.

However, no foreign journalists or researchers were informed about the discovery until June 11 this year when the committee communicated with Dutch researcher Anna Slajka, who had conducted an extensive research on Nateshwar.

Slajka, also curator of South Asian art at the Netherlands Rijksmuseum, said the discovery is indeed a great news.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

In Old Dhaka's Chawkbazar, Sarangadhar Jeu Akhada, a temple, houses the statue of Nateshwar, inset. The presence of the statue, depicting the dancing Shiva, is a testimony to the architecture and art of the Chandra era as well as a rich civilisation here in the 10th and 11th centuries.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON