

KALAPARA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

# Endowed property 'sold' by custodian!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A petition was filed on Sunday with the deputy commissioner of Patuakhali, seeking protection and recovery of endowed property of a century-old Buddhist temple, belonging to the Rakhine community in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali.

The petition was co-signed by Luma Magni, a Rakhine rights movement leader and president of Kuakata Rakhine Market, and Uchachi Master (Madbar), a resident of Keranipara in Kuakata.

According to the petition, several of the people who are entrusted with the safekeeping of the property, with the connivance of a few members of the Rakhine community, have forged land documents and collected advance payments from an influential quarter in exchange for 25 decimals of the endowed land.

As a result, the claimants were making attempts to build structures on the piece of land, the petitioners said.

Asked, Emang Talukder claimed that the temple management committee, upon obtaining consent of the local Rakhine community, approved the sale of 25 percent of the endowed land to create fund for maintenance and renovation of the temple, and hence, the advance payment was registered accordingly.

Contacted, Patuakhali Deputy Commissioner Kamal Hossain said they would take necessary steps in this regard following due investigation.

the Buddhist community and residential facilities for priests of the temple are on 64 percent of the land.

There is a Buddha statue inside the temple that was established by the Rakhine community about 120 years ago.

But recently, Emang Talukder, chairman of the temple's management committee, with the help of a secretly reformed committee, unlawfully forged land documents and collected advance payments from an influential quarter in exchange for 25 decimals of the endowed land.

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## Poverty, blind faith at play

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(JMB), Hizb ut Tahrir (HuT), Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT), Ansar Al Islam, Allahr Dal, Neo-JMB and other outfits, said the report. The Daily Star has obtained a copy of it.

"The key reasons behind the involvement of such a big number of people from the northern region in militancy is that they are lagging behind economically compared to people living in other parts of the country," said the study.

Extremism flourished in the North due to religious bigotry derived from blind religious faith, presence of many madrasas run by followers of Ahale Hadith and emergence of JMB in the char areas of the Jamuna river in different districts, it added.

"Farmers and people from different professions like honey traders, small book shop owners, masons, carpenters and paddy harvesting labourers were motivated to join militancy through misinterpreting religion, taking the opportunity of their poverty and convincing them that they should take revenge for the torture on Muslims across the world," the study said.

Omar Faruk, professor at the Department of Criminology and Police Science at Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University, said the country's northern region is a "breeding ground" for militants due to its socio-economic, and geographic conditions and religious beliefs of locals.

"The patrons of militancy invest in needy people of the region and their religious spirits are lifted to the highest level negatively so that they can act as militants against the state," he told The Daily Star.

As many people from the area have strong attachment to religion, it is easy to lead them astray, Faruk said.

"They are getting financial support for their families and also feeling satisfied that they are doing it for earthly life as well as for the afterlife. So, they are taking the risk," he said.

ATU Superintendent of Police (media and awareness) Mohammad Aslam Khan said they carried out the study as there is no comprehensive research on militancy in Bangladesh.

"A complete knowledge on militants will help us combat militancy more effectively. Besides, it will help the government take up necessary anti-militancy measures," he told The Daily Star on October 25.

The ATU report said a total of 1,945 cases were filed against 9,172 militants during the 20 years. Of them, 38 percent are JMB members, 23 percent Neo-JMB, 16 percent HuT, and five percent each Huji and ABT members.

It said 301 people were killed and 1,431 wounded in 180 violence, and attacks by militants and drives by law enforcers during the same period.

The research found that among the 1,217 accused militants studied, 81 percent were from Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions followed by 12 percent from Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions. The rest seven percent were from Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna and Barishal divisions.

Nearly half (45 percent) of the militants belong to low income families. Having inadequate education, many of them joined militancy to earn a livelihood after

being influenced by misinterpretation of religion, the report said.

Involvement of people from high- and middle income families in militancy are also evident since the Holey Artisan terrorist attack in 2016, it added.

The report stated that 45 percent of the militants came from low income families, 23 percent from lower middle income, 28 percent from middle income, two percent from higher middle income and one percent from higher income families.

The study said the highest number of people were drawn into militancy through misinterpretation of religion by extremists while the second highest number through online.

It found that 17 percent militants were farmers, 14 percent small traders, 13 percent labourers, 12 percent students, two percent imam or muezzin, four percent teachers and three percent madrasa teachers.

**RISE, SPREAD OF MILITANCY**  
Militant activities first started in Bangladesh in the 1990s with the founding of Huji-B in 1992 by returnees from Afghan war against the then Soviet Union through a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club, said the ATU report.

The militant outfit grabbed the spotlight through an attempted bomb attack at a rally venue of the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina in Tungipara in 2000 and carrying out the attack at Ramna Batamul in 2001 that killed at least 10 people.

The report said though militant activities in Bangladesh was begun by Huji, it was intensified by Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMB), later renamed JMB.

Under the leadership of Shaikh Abdur Rahman, JMB/JMB started to emerge in the char areas of the Jamuna river in the districts of Jamalpur (birthplace of JMB supremo Shaikh Abdur Rahman), Bogura (birthplace of JMB second-in-command Siddiqu Islam alias Bangla Bhai) and Gaibandha with the participation of some ideologues of Ahale Hadith in 1998-99.

The activities then spread to almost all northern districts, including Chapainawabganj, Natore, Naogaon, Rajshahi, Pabna, Joypurhat, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Kurigram and Panchagarh.

Later, along with JMB, activities of other militant outfits like Neo JMB, Huji-B, ABT and Allahr Dal spread in the areas, the report said.

The JMB grabbed the spotlight through countrywide bombing in 2005 and carrying out attacks on cinemas and judges. Some 230 cases were filed and 1,438 JMB operatives were arrested following the near-simultaneous bombing in 63 districts on August 17 that year.

The report further said in 2010 the activities of HuT increased while Qawmi madrasa teachers and students got organised under the banner of Hefajat-e-Islami to resist Shahbagh-based Online Activists' Forum in 2013. The ABT then started killing bloggers one after another.

In 2015, a section of JMB leaders and operatives broke away from the outfit and formed Neo-JMB which drew global attention in 2016 by carrying out deadly attacks, including at Holey Artisan Bakery, Sholakia

## Youth takes own life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A youth, accused in several criminal cases including for murder, allegedly took his own life in Jhalakathi's Rajapur upazila.

The deceased, Sagar Hawlader, 26, was son of Ratan Hawlader of Nalbuniya village in the upazila.

Local police said an unnatural death (UD) case was filed in this regard on Tuesday night.

Locals found Sagar's body on a cot inside his room and informed the police, who recovered the body and sent it to hospital for autopsy.

Quoting the villagers, police said Sagar might have committed suicide at the empty house as he had a bitter relation with almost all his neighbours for long due to his involvement in various criminal activities.

Officer in Charge (OC) of Rajapur Police Station Shahidul Islam said Sagar was accused in at least six cases, including for murder, stabbing policeman and drug peddling.

Eidgah and on foreign nationals. Its activities are still going on, the report said.

In 2017, the JMB, Neo-JMB and ABT were active in targeted killings, it added.

The following year, the visible activities of JMB and other militant outfits reduced due to a tough stance by law enforcers, but they continued their activities secretly and on online platforms from underground, the report said.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The ATU made 15 recommendations on tackling militancy. It suggested stepping up watch on fugitives and militants gone into hiding after securing bail from courts and bringing them to book, keeping constant watch on militants now on bail and also on those behind bars.

The report recommended keeping a constant watch on the activities of militants hiding abroad as they are continuing their activities using fake Facebook IDs. Besides, measures should be taken and cyber intelligence should be enhanced so that Islamic preachers cannot spread extremism through online and different YouTube channels.

It said the authorities concerned should hold regular coordination and views-exchange meetings of intelligence agencies and other stakeholders, develop a comprehensive database on militants, destroy the militants' financing network and step up vigilance on Rohingyas.

The study further suggested strengthening counter radicalisation and de-radicalisation activities, ensuring assistance and security of militants trying to get back to normal life, keeping a watch on people who travel to or stay in the Middle East, particularly in IS infested areas.

It said the authorities should organise regular sermons by imams about the difference between Jihad and extremism, create awareness against militancy among students through holding seminars, debate programmes and distributing leaflets in schools, colleges, universities and madrasas, carry out publicity campaigns about Islam as a religion of peace and publish anti-militancy posts on social media.

### Honeybees applies

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study, from the UCL Centre for Biodiversity & Environment Research, said: "Here we have provided the first evidence that honeybees modify their social interactions and how they move around their hive in response to a common parasite."

"Honeybees are a social animal, as they benefit from dividing up responsibilities and interactions such as mutual grooming, but when those social activities can increase the risk of infection, the bees appear to have evolved to balance the risks and benefits by adopting social distancing."

Bees are not the first animal to be observed practising social distancing: baboons are less likely to clean individuals with gastrointestinal infections, and ants infected with a pathogenic fungus relegate themselves to the suburbs of anthill society.

After the incident, Babul lodged a case against three unidentified men with the Panchlaish Police Station.

Later, the case was taken over by PBI from DB of Chattogram Metropolitan Police.

On May 11 this year, Chattogram PBI summoned Babul to its office for interrogation. He failed to give satisfactory answers to the detectives and was taken into PBI custody, said PBI officials.



People of Sabullah Shikdar Dangipara area in Harirampur union of Faridpur's Charvadrason upazila came under the wrath of Padma erosion.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Eroding Sugandha, Padma devouring fresh areas

MD ABBAS

Houses, croplands, a mosque and several establishments have disappeared due to sudden erosion of Sugandha river near Rahamatpur area under Babuganj upazila in Barishal in the last one week.

More than 50 houses, croplands and several establishments are under the threat of erosion. In this circumstance, many people are relocating their houses and cutting down trees.

Locals and experts said climate change, incessant rain, cutting soil for brick kilns and unplanned river governance are responsible for the river erosion.

In the meantime, Sabullah Shikdar Dangipara area of Harirampur union in Faridpur's Charvadrason upazila has fallen under the onslaught of the erosion of the Padma river.

Hundreds of families have become destitute but the erosion could not be stopped. Local people said more and more people will be destitute if steps are not taken immediately.

Houses of Idris Ali Bepari, Babul Hawlader and Omar Ali have been devoured by the river erosion at Paschim Khudrakhati village under Rahamatpur union of Babuganj. Besides, the Paschim Khudrakhati Mosque, 50 decimals croplands and a hundred-year-old Eidgah field were wiped from the map.

### DU's current

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qualifications.

The court also directed the DU authorities to promote Ayesha to the post of associate professor and provide her the relevant financial benefits. They were also directed to submit a compliance report to the court in two months.

The Appellate Division on April 8, 2010, modified the HC verdict and allowed the DU authorities to keep Afroza Hossain, Kamal Uddin and Mehjabin Hoque in the service.

The apex court, however, ordered the DU authorities to give seniority and relevant financial benefits to Ayesha.

The university then gave the seniority and benefits to Kamal Uddin instead of Ayesha, in violation of the SC directives, which is a contempt of court, Asrarul added.

### Myanmar defies international pressure, rejects Suu Kyi visit

REUTERS

Myanmar's ruling military yesterday stood by its decision to deny a Southeast Asian envoy access to detained former leader Aung San Suu Kyi, resisting growing international pressure to comply with a regional peace plan agreed in April.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win, the second in command of the junta that seized power from Suu Kyi's elected government in February, said allowing a foreigner access to someone charged with crimes was against domestic law.

The other members of the committee are Kazi Muttaki Ibn Minan, deputy commissioner (DB), Abu Bakar, deputy commissioner (CITB), and Kazi Arifuzzaman, assistant

### Mamunul faces trial

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framed charges on the basis of the charge sheet, said Asaduzzaman, inspector of the court police.

Mamunul was brought to the court in Narayanganj from Kashimpur jail yesterday morning and sent back to the prison after the court proceedings, he further said, adding that the plaintiff was not present in the courtroom.

On April 3, some Awami League men kept Mamunul confined in a hotel room where he went with a woman. As the chaos was going on Mamunul claimed that the woman was his second wife.

As the news of Mamunul's

confinement spread, several hundred Hefajat men unleashed violence there and took him away.

A total of five cases were filed against Mamunul and other Hefajat men in connection with the violence.

On April 30, the woman, whom Mamunul claimed as his second wife, filed a rape case against him with Sonargaon Police Station.

In the case statement, the woman alleged that Mamunul raped her multiple times over the last two years luring her with marriage.

Police arrested Mamunul on April 18 from Jamia Rahmania Arabia Madrasa in the capital's Mohammadpur area.

### HC asks Rangpur cops

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citing the statement.

On Tuesday, the HC bench wanted to know about the alleged custodial death, the subsequent attack on law enforcers by a mob, and the government steps taken over the issues.

The bench set November 15 for passing further orders on the matter.

Mehdul Karim, additional commissioner of Rangpur police, was made the head of the probe committee, reported our Dinajpur correspondent, quoting Sajjad Hossain, additional deputy commissioner (DB and media) of Rangpur Metropolitan Police.

The other members of the committee are Kazi Muttaki Ibn Minan, deputy commissioner (DB), Abu Bakar, deputy commissioner (CITB), and Kazi Arifuzzaman, assistant

21 rifles in Chandpur area today. In another operation, Mukti Bahini raided Pakistani troops position at Hugli tea garden. In this action, four enemy soldiers were killed and six wounded.

Mukti Bahini today captured Barhatta Police Station and Tantar areas of Mymensingh district after clearing West Pakistani policemen and Razakars. They held the officer-in-charge of the police station and 105 Razakars. They also seized an LMG and 80 rifles from the police station. From Tantar, the freedom fighters captured 12 bombs and a few mortars.