

Negligence leaves 300-year-old temples in ruins

AZIBOR RAHMAN

The place bears the sign of a marvellous ancient architectural design that featured 11 Shiva temples surrounding a large square-shaped courtyard.

The single entrance to the courtyard is on the eastern side, and the central temple is just opposite to the entrance. The rest 10 small temples are lined up around it.

Seeing the spectacular designs of the temples, one can surely wonder about the art and cultural heritage of a bygone era.

Even the government announced the place as an "archaeological site" in 2001.

The temples are located on the bank of Bhairab river, around eight kilometres away from Jashore's Abhaynagar upazila headquarters.

These temples, however, are now on the verge of ruin due to a lack of maintenance and renovation by the authorities concerned.



The 300-year-old archaeological site, featuring 11 Shiva temples surrounding a large square-shaped courtyard, is now lying in a dilapidated state due to lack of renovation and maintenance. This photo was taken recently from this historic site, on the bank of Bhairab river, around eight kilometres away from Jashore's Abhaynagar upazila headquarters.

PHOTO: STAR

The launch ride from hell

One year since Jhalakathi tragedy; trauma of a lifetime for everyone involved

SOHRAB HOSSAIN and KM HABIBUR RAHMAN

On one fine winter evening, exactly a year ago, a launch named MV Abhijan-10 left Dhaka for Barguna around 6:00pm, with over 600 on board, although there was room for only 420.

A few hours later, the vessel's engine developed a few problems, and it started getting hotter every minute. Rather than stopping the vessel, the master decided to continue the journey, while staffers tried to fix the "minor" issues, or that's what they told the passengers during the time.

Soon, flames started



emanating from the engine room and those on the roof saw fire coming out of the exhaust pipe when the vessel was around a kilometre off Jhalakathi Launch Terminal.

Instead of stopping at the

terminal, the master kept going forward on Sugandha river until an explosion caused a huge fire around 3:00am. The launch was in Charkathi area of Jhalakathi Sadar upazila at the time.

The deadly blaze charred the whole vessel, leaving at least 49 dead, of whom 37 were from Barguna, and over 100 with burn injuries, while some remained missing.

Habibur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Barguna, said 14 of the 22 victims who remained unidentified were later identified through DNA tests.

Local authorities have not received DNA reports of eight people, Habibur said. He could not clarify the reasons behind the delay. The rest of the bodies are still missing.

THE TEARS OF RATAN BIBI Ratan Bibi was ecstatic as she was about to meet her son

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A road marred by garbage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Kishoreganj's Natun Jaikhana area is right beside the busy Kishoreganj-Netrakona-Mymensingh highway. Hundreds of people reside in this place, and the highway is the entry point to Kishoreganj. Long-route buses going to Dhaka, Sylhet, Cumilla and Chattogram ply the road on a regular basis.

Shockingly, out of all the places garbage could be dumped at, the municipal authorities have chosen Natun Jaikhana to dispose of wastes.

This status quo has been prevailing for 10 years, and throughout all this time, locals have been suffering as bad odour emits from the temporary dumping station set up there all the time, said Abul Hashim, a local and driver of a three-wheeler.

Sometimes, the garbage spills on the highway, creating a nuisance for scores of passengers who travel through it every day, he said. The situation deteriorates when it rains, as the wastes get mixed with rainwater and flow to adjacent areas and local ponds.

On various occasions, locals urged municipal authorities to address this situation, which is also a health hazard, but they continued to turn a blind eye to this menace, the residents alleged.



Babul Mia, a transport worker, said hundreds of buses and other vehicles from Kishoreganj, Netrakona and Mymensingh use the road every day, and both passengers and transport workers are victims of the situation.

Md Azharul Islam, chairman of adjacent Binnati union parishad, said, "The highway is a bridge between Kishoreganj and the rest of the country. Traffic jams are a regular scene on this highway during night because of the garbage trucks."

Dr Saiful Islam, civil surgeon of Kishoreganj, said such temporary garbage stations beside localities make people vulnerable to different diseases, including respiratory problems and skin conditions. Such dumping pollutes the soil, air and water, harming the ecology.

Contacted, Kaiser Ahmed Riad, conservation

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PRAYER
TIMING
DEC 24



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5-25	12-45	3-45	5-24	7-00
Jamaat	6-00	1-15	4-00	5-27	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



The election to Rangpur City Corporation will be held on December 27. Prior to that, a mock voting using the EVM was held yesterday amid low turnout. This photo taken at Lions School and College in the city, where only five people cast their vote till 3:00pm.

PHOTO: STAR

RANGPUR CITY POLLS

Most voters don't know how to use EVM

Says mayor candidate Mostafizar Rahman after mock vote

KONGKON KARMAKER, from Rangpur

Around 90 percent of Rangpur city dwellers still have no knowledge on how to use electronic voting machines (EVM), and many are unaware of the fact that the city election will be held through EVM, said mayoral candidate Mostafizar Rahman Mostafa yesterday.

The Jatiya Party-backed mayoral candidate expressed this concern when mock voting using EVM was held at all 33 wards in the city. He made the remark after visiting several of the mock-voting centres.

He said such campaigns are not enough to make people aware. "They're absolutely of no use."

Mostafa urged the returning

officer to hold mock voting in phases at the wards, but to no avail. It is not possible to make 4.26 lakh voters aware of EVM in two days, he told journalists in Dhap area.

He said he has been urging the Election Commission to hold mock voting from the beginning. Most people still don't know how to use EVM, he said.

This correspondent visited several mock-voting centres yesterday and found them empty.

Visiting Adarsha High School at ward 21 around 2:30pm, it was found that two EVM operators were sitting idle, as the centre remained empty. The number of voters registered with the centre is 1,936. Only nine people visited the centre.

Masud Rana, in-charge of the centre, said announcements were made through loudspeakers, encouraging people to come and cast their vote. The mock voting was closed at 4:00pm.

The same situation prevailed at Lions School and College, a centre in ward-23. The centre has 922 voters. Of them, only five cast their votes till 3:00pm.

Around 3:00pm, one Md Rana cast his mock vote. "It's quite easy and friendly to use." But he mentioned that many did not know that the mock voting was being held there.

Abdul Baten, returning officer of the city election, said the election

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“
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MOSTAFIZAR RAHMAN MOSTAFA

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e-Tender Notice

An e-Tender has been invited for the following work through e-Gp portal, which will be visible from Today. Registered person/organization on e-Gp portal can visit (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Tender ID No	Name of Work	Last Selling date & Time	Closing date & Time	Opening date & Time
33/e-GP/RHD/EE/DRD/2022-2023 Tender ID No: 770195	Construction of RCC Cross Drain at 5th km of Maheshpur-Baropukuria Road (R-558) under Road Division, Dinajpur During the year 2022-2023.	10/01/2023 16.00	11/01/2023 12.30	11/01/2023 12.30

Reference No. 35.01.2764.413.07.003.22-2358
Date: 22/12/2022

Assistant Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Dinajpur.

GD-2367

Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Dinajpur.