



Ramnagar Poshchimpara Primary School in Kushtia's Mirpur upazila could not be reopened after Covid-19 restrictions were lifted recently, as rice cultivation in its playground has made the school inaccessible for all. PHOTO: AMANUR AMAN

# Rice cultivation in school playground!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Schools in the country have recently been reopened following a long break due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, Ramnagar Poshchimpara Primary School in Kushtia's Mirpur upazila is still off limits to its students. The reason? The school building has turned inaccessible after rice was planted in the school's playground, blocking everyone's access to the school building. Ruhul Azam, president of the school's managing committee, said it may not be possible to fully reopen the school without harvesting the rice. On the reason why the playground was used for rice cultivation, he said instead of letting such a large piece of land go unutilised, it will be more beneficial if contributions to the school fund can be made from sale

of rice. "As it was uncertain when the school would open again, it was done upon discussion with teachers." "It will be like this for the time being. But a process is underway to bring students back to school," he claimed. Ujjal Hossain, headteacher (in-charge) of the school, said, "The president of the school's managing committee would be able to explain why he cultivated rice in the schoolground. I am unable to comment on this." Under the circumstances, most of the students, 176 in total, are now reluctant to come to the school, he said, adding that it took a lot of convincing on their part to bring a little over two dozen students to the school on Wednesday (September 15) amid widespread criticism from locals. Several teachers of the school

seeking anonymity said the entire land of the school including the playground is registered property of the school. The playground is for the students of the school and no one has the right to use it for other purposes arbitrarily. The school is in the process of being nationalised and government officials concerned already paid several visits in this connection, they added. Amid the coronavirus situation, Ruhul Azam, the president of the school's managing committee, in one morning suddenly started using a power tiller on the school playground, telling the teachers that rice would be cultivated there, said a teacher of the school, requesting not to be named. Another teacher said the students have been deprived of outdoor games and other

recreational activities in the playground ever since and there is not even any uncultivated space where students or teachers can stand outside the school building. Ramnagar village resident Sheikh Askar Hossain, a parent of a student at the school, said the president of the managing committee has no right to occupy the school playground this way. "But he did so by force." Contacted, Primary Education Officer Masud Rana of Mirpur upazila said they would take necessary action following investigation, as playground of any educational institution cannot be occupied. Mirpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Lincoln Biswas also assured of due action against the individuals responsible for occupying the school playground for rice cultivation.

## CHAPAINAWABGANJ EROSION

# Nearly 50 houses lost to Padma

100 families rendered homeless in three weeks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Over 100 families have been rendered homeless by the Padma river's erosion at Goadubi village under Sadar upazila of Chapainawabganj in last three weeks. Around fifty houses were swallowed by the river in the meantime, said locals. According to the locals, over fifty acres of farmlands, bamboo groves and mango orchards at Goadubi village under Char Bagdanga union have been effaced during the last three weeks. They said the people are shifting their houses from the erosion-hit places as the river is devouring fresh areas every day. Several hundred structures are facing the threat of being disappeared into the riverbed. While visiting the affected area of Goadubi village recently, this correspondent found many families moving to safer places with their belongings. "Severe erosion of the river has forced us to move to a safer place. As I have no land, now I have taken shelter in my sister's house at the village with my family," said Nazrul Islam. "My house was devoured by the river erosion on Sunday last, since then I have been staying at my in-law's house at Dailpara under Sundarpur union of the upazila with my two sons and wife as I have

no choice," said Rezaul Karim, another resident of the village. Like the two, many others are taking shelter at their relatives' houses or living on lands belonging to other people making makeshift shelters. Samjad Ali of the village, alleged that the Water Development Board (WDB) did not take proper steps in time to curb the erosion. "If they worked timely, river erosion could be protected," he claimed. My 3.5 bighas of land including a mango orchard have been devoured this season, he said. The villagers urged the authorities concerned to take steps immediately to protect thousands of people and their properties, including vast areas of cropland and a good number of establishments, from erosion. Sarwar Jahan Sujon, executive engineer of Chapainawabganj WDB said around 1300-metre-long stretch on the left bank of the Padma river under Char Bagdanga union is facing erosion. Of which, 670 metres at Goadubi village have already gone to the riverbed. They were dumping sand-filled GEO bags along the 670-metre-long stretch on the left bank to protect some establishments, he added.



Over 100 families have been rendered homeless by the Padma river's erosion at Goadubi village under Sadar upazila of Chapainawabganj in last three weeks. PHOTO: RABTUL HASAN DOLLAR

# Schoolhouse devoured in flood, built overnight

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Purba Satunama Aminpara Government Primary School, situated at remote Satunama shoal area along the Teesta river in Dimla upazila, had no physical existence since it was washed away in the last year's flood. Uncertainty gripped to restore the school's normal activities after the government decided to open all the educational institutions across the country from September 12, after 543 days of closure due to Covid-19 pandemic. But, thanks to the teachers, guardians and local people, who collected donations and voluntarily built a four-roomed makeshift schoolhouse overnight at a new location, in a spur on the right embankment of the Teesta river, on September 11. The new schoolhouse is about three and half kilometres away from the previous location. While visiting the newly built school on Tuesday this correspondent saw boundless joy among the kids, mostly from poverty stricken families, as they attended their classes wading through knee-deep water. Khalilur Rahman, headmaster of the school, said the school, on 46 decimals of land, was nationalized in 2013 and had 250 students and 4 teachers.



Teachers, guardians and locals voluntarily built this makeshift schoolhouse of Purba Satunama Aminpara Government Primary School on the right embankment of the Teesta river on September 11. PHOTO: STAR

"In August last year, when the school was closed due to the first spell of the corona pandemic, swelling Teesta devoured most part of Satunama shoal along with 200 homesteads and the schoolhouse," the headmaster added. Locals, somehow, managed to save some corrugated iron sheets and bamboo poles of the devoured school, and kept those at Uttar Sonakhuli village, which is three and a half kilometres away from the previous location. "We looked for land at a new place to rebuild the school, but failed at

none agreed to donate their land and there was no government khas land nearby," Khalilur said. Mohammad Nuruzzaman, a guardian, said they were baffled thinking their children's future after the government announced to open the educational institutions from 12 September. He said driven by the eagerness to start the kid's schooling, teachers, guardians and locals joined hands on Saturday afternoon, only a few hours before the school opening, and voluntarily set up a makeshift schoolhouse before next dawn.

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### আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহের দরপত্র/প্রস্তাব বিজ্ঞপ্তি

Table with 4 columns: S/N, ক্ষেত্র/বিভাগ, প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়, and details of the procurement process including dates and terms.

Table with 3 columns: S/N, স্থান, দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য, and দরপত্র জামানতের মূল্য, providing specific financial and location details for the tender.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Cabinet Division Common Service Branch

Ref: 04.00.0000.412.30.172.19-1641

Date: 19 September 2021

### e-Tender Notice Tender Notice no.3/2021-22

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of Stationary and miscellaneous Goods. The Tender ID number 609391 and method of tender is OTM. Only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no off-line/hard copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration is required in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd). The fee for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal has to be deposited online through any registered bank. Tender documents publication date is 15/09/2021.

(Rubaiyat-E-Ashique) Deputy Secretary Cabinet Division Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka Phone- 02-9511038

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GD-1681

(সামহুদ্দিন আহমেদ) পরিচালক ফোন: ৪৮১১২৪৫৬