



## MANGALABASH: there's nothing good about it

Lone residential hall of Kabi Nazrul Govt College in sorry state

DIPAN NANDY

The name of the house is "Mangalabash" (home of good omens).

However, for the 150 students living there at present, there's nothing auspicious about it.

Mangalabash is currently the only residential hall of Kabi Nazrul Government College, one of the oldest educational institutions in the capital. It is a two-storyed building located in Mohini Mohan Das Lane at Farashganj.

Different books on Dhaka informs that the house belonged to Zamindar Jatindra Kumar Saha who left the area during the

1947 partition and settled in Kolkata.

The palace was left behind, abandoned. Its deeds and official papers were lost in transition.

Documents and historical sources find that government institutions and cultural clubs have used the building at different times. The building has been used as a dormitory of Kabi Nazrul College since before the 1971 Liberation War.

Later the building was named after Shamsul Alam, a student of this college who embraced martyrdom in the Liberation War.

Over the years, the building has become dilapidated.

Visiting the dormitory recently, this correspondent saw that the plaster is falling apart due to lack of maintenance. A dark and haunted aura looms inside the building, even during the day.

This correspondent wanted to visit the rooms where students stayed but was not allowed to do so by the dormitory authorities.

Students complained that there's no provision for clean or fresh water. And thus, they are constantly suffering from various water-borne diseases.

There's also no sanitary toilets. The ones available are barely usable. Students still have to bathe with water from a well

situated inside.

Although the hostel has a dining facility, it has been closed for nearly three years due to a lack of cook. As a result, students have to eat outside.

All in all, there's no end to the students' sufferings.

Rabiul Islam, a resident student, said, "I've stayed in this hostel for the past four years. We've had to suffer from the beginning and conditions have hardly improved."

Ali, another student, said for the last four years, they've appealed to the principal several times to solve the various

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A fisher family returns home in a boat with big smiles on their faces, and proudly show off their catch of the day. Like them, many families in the surrounding areas depend on the Pashur river for their survival. This photo was taken in Mongla recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

### PBI to probe case of missing Khulna woman

UNB, Khulna

A Khulna court has ordered the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to take over the probe into the case of a 55-year-old woman who has been missing since August 27.

The direction came in the wake of an appeal from the woman's family.

On August 27, Rahima Begum went missing after she had stepped out to fetch water near her home in Banikpara area of Khulna around 10:00pm. Her children found her sandals, scarf and the pitcher she was carrying on the spot.

The family first filed a complaint with the police, on which an FIR was lodged by the cops against some people.

On September 13, after

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### Man held for 'hurting religious sentiment'

UNB, Kushtia

Police in Kushtia arrested a 24-year-old man yesterday for "hurting the religious sentiment" of the Hindu community on social media.

Nayebur Rahman of Bahalbaria village under Mirpur upazila allegedly posted "offensive status" on his Facebook profile on Wednesday, with a view to instigate communal instability and hostility, said police.

Md. Khairul Alam, superintendent of police in Kushtia, disclosed the information at a press conference held at the district police lines in the afternoon.

The SP said Nayebur is a private jobholder in the capital.

He was arrested from his in-law's house in the upazila as a case in this regard was filed earlier, the official added.

## High risks, little rewards Fishes face loss due to fuel hike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

of Kalapara, Patuakhali.

Last month, the government slapped consumers with a record hike in fuel prices. As expected, the negative impacts of this overnight hike trickled down to the very grassroots.

The fishers who venture into the deep sea with their diesel-run trawlers were one of the hardest hit.

At the consumer level, the retail prices of diesel and kerosene was set at Tk 114 per litre on Aug 5, up by a whopping 42.5 percent from Tk 80 per litre.

After the 65-day ban on fishing, on July 23, over 50,000 hilsa fishers in Patuakhali went to the sea with renewed enthusiasm.

But the increase in fuel price, alongside turbulent sea meant this delight was short lived.

"We used to buy a barrel of diesel at Tk 16,500, but it's now more than Tk 23,000. A small-sized trawler needs seven barrels for a seven to eight-day trip, and a big trawler needs eight to nine barrels of diesel," said Matiur Rahman Chayan, proprietor of Safa Fishing at Alipur fish landing station

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