



Students of Golgaon Government Primary School in Habiganj's Chunarughat upazila attend classes at the worn-out schoolhouse that has turned risky due to lack of renovation for long.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Kids attend classes in risky schoolhouse

**The worn-out old building, comprising four rooms, was built in 1995, while the other one was constructed in 2010. However, the old schoolhouse saw no renovation work since it was constructed in 1995.**

MINTU DESHWARA

Students of Golgaon Government Primary School in Habiganj's Chunarughat upazila have been attending their classes amid risk of accident due to the dilapidated condition of the year-old schoolhouse.

As there is no alternative, children are compelled to attend classes in the worn-out old schoolhouse that saw no renovation work for years.

Headteacher of Golgaon Government Primary School Shahina Khatun said they have informed the authorities concerned to rebuild the old school building on several occasions, but step has been taken in this regard so far.

She also alleged that they are not getting approval of reconstruction of the old schoolhouse due to lack of supervision and negligence of the authorities concerned.

Moreover, the number of students is declining gradually in fear of possible accidents, she added.

According to the department concerned, students of at least 10 schools including Golgaon Government Primary School in the upazila are attending classes in the dilapidated buildings of the



institutions amid risk of accident.

During a recent visit to the institution, established in 1972, this correspondent saw there are two one-storey buildings in the school premises.

The worn-out old building, comprising four rooms, was built in 1995, while the other one was constructed in 2010.

However, the old schoolhouse saw no renovation work since it was constructed in 1995.

As a result, a number of cracks have developed in the roof of the entire building and plaster falls off the sidewalls of the classrooms quite regularly.

After cracks were spotted in almost all the classrooms, classes are being taken in only one out of the four rooms of the old building.

Meanwhile, many guardians are now reluctant to send their children to the school due to the dilapidated condition of the classrooms.

While talking, a number of students of the institution said their books and uniforms get wet quite often as water falls from the roof even after a slight rain.

Many guardians said it is very difficult to continue educational activities in the worn-out

schoolhouse without conducting its renovation work.

Acting Chunarughat Upazila Education Officer Khorshed Alam said a letter has been sent to the ministry concern for approval of reconstructing 10 risky schoolhouses including Golgaon Government Primary School in the upazila.

They are yet to get any allocation in this regard, he said.

Chunarughat Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Siddharth Bhowmik said they hope to start the renovation work of the schoolhouse soon after getting the allocation.

## Work left incomplete for months

MIRZA SHAKIL

Thousands of people are being deprived of different facilities as renovation work of Tangail-Aynapur road has remained incomplete for nearly seven months.

People, who use the road every day, blamed the authorities concerned for their negligence in completing the road work in time.

Authorities concerned, however, alleged that the contractor concerned left, keeping the work half done couple of months ago.

Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) reconstructing the 9.9 kilometre-long regional road at a cost of Tk 10.9 crore.

Construction firms RS Sumon (JV), who got the work order, started the renovation works in July 2021.

The deadline of the work, which was scheduled to be completed by October 2022, was later extended for two months more till December the same year.



But the construction firm missed that deadline too.

Meanwhile, after completing about 50 percent of the work, the contractor concerned left the road due to unknown reason.

Mamun Miah of Gala area in Tangail Sadar upazila said nearly one lakh people of the upazila as well as adjacent Kalihati and Bhuanpur upazilas use the regional road every day.

But, after dumping the brick chips the contractor left the scene, keeping the work unfinished.

Saiful Islam, a resident of Magurata village, said many local inhabitants, especially children and elderly ones, are suffering from respiratory problems due to the dust, generated from the brick chips.

Moreover, almost all the roadside trees, houses and cropland are now covered with huge dust, he added.

Housewife Achhiya Akhter of Mirpur village said due to the dilapidated condition of the important road it is very difficult to take any patient to a hospital in Tangail.

While talking to this correspondent, several transport workers said they have to face serious trouble while crossing the road due to potholes at different spots.

Contacted, Tangail LGED Executive Engineer Rafiqul Islam said after missing out the first deadline the contractor concerned was asked to complete the work by December 2022, but the firm missed that deadline too, leaving the work unfinished. They are now taking necessary measures to complete the remaining work by calling a fresh tender, he added.

## Oil tanker in flames

FROM PAGE 16

of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority.

"The exact amount of oil spilled into the river is yet to be determined."

Selim further mentioned that he was 200 metres from the site of the incident and had to leave due to the intensity of the fire.

The oil tanker, 'Sagar Nandini 2', was carrying 7 lakh litres of diesel and 4 lakh litres of petrol and had arrived in Jhalakathi from Chittagong on Thursday.

On Saturday, an explosion occurred on the tanker, resulting in four fatalities and five injuries.

The bodies were recovered from inside the oil tanker after rescue vessel 'Nirvik', brought from Barishal, pulled up the sunken tanker.

Following the explosion, the unloading of seven lakh litres of diesel was completed.

Yesterday, during the preparations for unloading 4 lakh litres of petrol, the oil tanker caught fire.

On December 25 last year, The same oil tanker had previously sunk in the Meghna River in Bhola.

## Fireman dies

FROM PAGE 16

number taken into custody the night before. Three police officers were also wounded.

Internal affairs investigators on Monday began interviewing a passenger in the car Nahel was driving without a licence, a police source told AFP.

Meanwhile, a collection for the family of the 38-year-old policeman who fired the fatal shot – now charged with voluntary manslaughter – topped 930,000 euros (over \$1.0 million).

The protests present a fresh crisis for Macron, who had been hoping to press on with pledges for his second term after seeing off months of demonstrations that erupted in January over raising the retirement age.

## Flood risk rises in the north

FROM PAGE 16

affected as flood water inundated low-lying areas. Many areas of the district town have gone under water.

The district has been witnessing heavy rainfall for the last few days. On Saturday, Sunamganj town recorded this year's highest 332mm rainfall in 24 hours.

Chhatak upazila, which is located at the foothill of India's Cherrapunji, experienced 218mm rainfall in 24 hours from 9:00am Sunday, according to the BWDB.

If heavy rainfall occurs in Cherrapunji and the adjacent areas of Meghalaya, it would have a severe impact on Sunamganj as the rainwater drains through different rivers of the district, said BWDB officials.

According to BWDB, the Surma was flowing above the danger level at every point in the district. Besides, the water levels in the Jadukata, Boulai, Rakti, Kushiara, Chalti, Patlai, Naljur, Khasiamara and Kalni rivers were also increasing fast.

People have been suffering immensely due to the sudden flooding.

"If such rainfall continues for two more days, the fish in my farms will be washed away," said Kabir Ahmed, a fish trader of Shantiganj upazila in

Sunamganj.

Last year, the district witnessed a severe flood that claimed some 15 lives and affected around five million people.

In Netrakona, vast areas of Kalmakanda upazila have been inundated as the water level in different rivers were rising fast due to heavy rainfall and onrush of water from upstream.

The Someswari was flowing 35 cm above the danger level at Dakbanglo point at 6:00pm yesterday, said BWDB officials.

Several hundred people have so far been marooned. Water has entered the premises of some 50 educational institutions in Kalmakanda, said locals.

In Kurigram and Lalmonirhat, all the rivers, including the Brahmaputra, Dudhkumar, and Dharla, were rising fast, posing the risk of inundating shoal areas.

If the trend continues, water levels in the rivers may cross the danger levels by today, said BWDB officials.

In Bogura and Gaibandha, the Brahmaputra and Jamuna were rising and the trend would continue for the next five days, said officials.

Our correspondents in Sylhet, Mymensingh, Lalmonirhat and Bogura contributed to this report.

## Japan emerges

FROM PAGE 16

technical training Intern scheme in 1993, as per the Bangladesh mission in Tokyo.

Under the programme, Japan invites technical interns in various fields, including agriculture, fishery, construction, food manufacturing, textiles, and machine and metals, for a stay of three to five years.

A Bangladeshi technical intern in Japan can earn over Tk 1 lakh a month, according to the BOESL website.

Syed Saiful Haque, chairman of the WARBE Development Foundation, said to increase the number of skilled workers sent to Japan under the specified skilled worker scheme, the Bangladesh government can attract Japanese employers by inviting them to Bangladesh.

This way, Japanese employers will have firsthand experience with Bangladesh's workforce.

Till June last year, there were 20,954 Bangladeshis in Japan, according to the website of the Japanese foreign ministry.



A balloon depicting German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is inflated by members of ONE, a global NGO campaigning to end extreme poverty and preventable diseases, on the day of a protest against planned German budget cuts for development aid, in front of the Reichstag, the seat of the lower house of parliament Bundestag, in Berlin, Germany, yesterday. Text reads: "Can the world rely on you?".

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Thai king inaugurates parliament as Move Forward looks to lead new government

REUTERS, Bangkok

Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn inaugurated the opening of parliament yesterday, setting the stage for an attempt by the progressive Move Forward Party to form a government after its surprise election win six weeks ago.

Move Forward won big support from youth voters and the capital Bangkok, campaigning overwhelmingly on social media on an anti-establishment platform that could complicate its effort to win

enough support to form a coalition government.

It will team up in parliament with the populist heavyweight Pheu Thai Party after the two won the lion's share of seats, trouncing parties allied with a royalist military that has controlled government since a 2014 coup.

The two are part of an eight-party alliance and have played down talk of a rift over the house speaker post, which could determine the passage of flagship legislation and timing of key votes.

Late yesterday, in what is being seen as a compromise between Move Forward and Pheu Thai, the alliance nominated veteran politician Wan Muhamad Noor Matha for house speaker and gave a deputy speaker position each to the two main parties.

Wan Noor, 79, of the Prachachart Party has been closely allied with Pheu Thai in the past, and served in its administration led by billionaire Thaksin Shinawatra between 2002 and 2005.

Parliament is expected to endorse the speaker today.