

**CMCH BURN UNIT**  
Construction  
work to start  
in September  
Says health minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Health Minister Dr Samanta Lal Sen yesterday said the construction works of a 150-bed specialised Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit at Chittagong Medical College Hospital will start from September.

The prime minister is likely to lay the foundation stone of the project after returning from her visit to China, he said while briefing reporters.

Of the Tk 284.76 crore project, the Chinese government will fund Tk 179.83 crore as grants and the Bangladesh government will fund the rest.

Later, the health minister held a views-exchange with doctors and officials of CMCH.

The minister said, "I feel bad knowing that the MRI machine in the hospital is out of order. Chattogram is the second largest city after Dhaka. I will do whatever is necessary to fix the problem."

The minister said despite the availability of quality medical services in the country, people go abroad for treatment.

"Our prime minister receives treatment in the country... If the members of parliament use local hospitals for checkups, then the quality of treatment in the hospitals will improve and people's confidence in our treatment will return," he added.

The minister arrived in the port city on Friday and made unscheduled visits to a number of hospitals. He expressed dissatisfaction over different irregularities in some of those and asked DGHS officials to take action.

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**PRAYER TIMING**  
JULY 7

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-10	12-45	5-00	6-55	8-17
JAMAAT 4-45	1-15	5-15	7-00	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# Teaching suspended at 37 Kurigram schools

Chilmari-Roumari ferry service halted; flood situation may worsen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

At least 37 government primary schools across Kurigram have suspended their academic activities after being submerged under floodwater.

Visiting Uttar Majherchar Government Primary School in Krishnapur village under Kurigram Sadar upazila, this correspondent saw floodwater flowing over the roof of its one-storey building.

"There are 80 students in this school. Classes have been suspended as the school is completely submerged. The school building has to be repaired once the water recedes, before classes can resume," said Sabina Yasmin, headteacher of the school.

Around 36 other schools are also going through a similar situation.

Nabez Uddin Sarkar, district primary education officer in Kurigram, said, "There are 280 government primary schools in the shoals and riverbank areas in the district. Of those, 37 have been inundated by floodwater and had to suspend academic activities."

"With the water level of the Brahmaputra continuing to rise, more schools in these areas may have to suspend classes," he added.



This tin roof belongs to Uttar Majherchar Govt Primary School in Krishnapur village under Kurigram Sadar upazila. The entire school is now submerged due to flood. PHOTO: STAR

Meanwhile, the ferry service on Chilmari-Roumari route in Kurigram has stopped as the connecting roads at the ghats are submerged, putting commuters at risk.

Prafulla Chauhan, manager at Chilmari Ferry Ghat of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation, said the ferry service will resume once the water recedes.

"The Brahmaputra was flowing 78cm

above danger level at Chilmari point on Friday morning, with its water level having risen by 19cm in 12 hours since 6:00pm on Thursday," said Rakibul Hasan, executive engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board in Kurigram.

"The water level is expected to rise further as onrush of water from upstream in India continues," he added.

# Damaged by Remal, 133 Barishal schools yet to be repaired

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

At least 133 educational institutions -- including seven colleges, 70 schools and 56 madrasas -- in the Barishal district sustained damages from Cyclone Remal that lashed the country on May 26, according to sources at Education Engineering Department (EED) in Barishal. However, the authorities concerned are yet to come up with any steps to repair the educational institutions.

As such, academic activities at these institutions are being severely disrupted.

At many of these institutions, doors, windows and furniture were damaged, while some tin-shed roofs were even blown away.

Currently, these institutions are unable to conduct classes.

Despite urging authorities for necessary repairs to resume academic activities, there has been no response yet, said teachers and guardians.



PHOTO: TITU DAS

# A teacher dedicated to the cause

Schools remain closed but Bidhan makes sure children don't fall behind

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The relentless floods ravaging Sylhet have forced a harsh reality -- the closure of many educational institutions.

In Barlekha upazila of Moulvibazar district alone, over 252 villages have been submerged in the past 20 days.

At least 500 families sought refuge in 30 designated locations, many of which are schools repurposed as shelters.

According to official data till July 4, as many as 889 primary schools have been closed across Sylhet division either due to flood waters breaching its premises or for being converted into shelters.

For students, guardians, and teachers, learning gaps caused by forced closures of educational institutions is nothing new. This is a recurring event every monsoon, although it keeps getting worse every year.

Besides, the scars left by prolonged school closures during the pandemic are still fresh in everyone's minds.

However, one teacher has decided to take matters into his own hands.

Bidhan Chandra Das, headteacher of

schools and madrasas in the area.

But the little ones have one thing in common -- the shared need for education.

Bidhan has refused to let the flood drown their learning spirit.

He has dedicated himself to the students' well-being, remaining at the shelter throughout the day.

Bidhan's makeshift classroom offers a shred of normalcy when everything around these children are under water.

He offers Bengali, English, Mathematics, and Science lessons throughout the day, alongside holding cultural events.

Bidhan's efforts ensure these children, displaced by the floods, continue to receive the education they deserve.

Khaleda Begum, a homemaker from Murshibadkura village who took shelter at the school with her family, expressed her relief.

"I was worried that my children would lag



Hakaluki High School, has been holding classes for 25 students from 32 families currently sheltered at the flood-stricken school.

The students come not only from Hakaluki High School but also from other

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**Education will be severely disrupted for around 50,000 students from these 133 institutions unless urgent repairs are made.**

SUNIL BARAN HALDER

President of Teachers Association, Barishal

Amirul Islam, president of the governing body of Chandradwip College in Bakerganj upazila, said, "The tin-shed roof was blown away in the cyclone. We applied to EED and local UNO several times for repairs, but to no end. It is not possible to conduct classes amid monsoon without any roof."

According to EED sources, Bakerganj has been the most affected area, with 38 of its schools sustaining damages.

The repairs at each institution will require between Tk 50,000 and Tk 10 lakh, sources said, adding that further delay will only raise repair costs.

Sunil Baran Halder, president of Bangladesh Teachers Association's Barishal regional branch, said education will be severely disrupted for around 50,000 students from these 133 institutions unless urgent repairs are made.

Mujibur Rahman, parent of a seventh-grader from Baherchar Lakshipur Secondary School in Hijla upazila, urged authorities for urgent repairs.

Ashikur Rahman, deputy assistant engineer of EED, Barishal, informed that while Tk 5 crore was demanded for emergency repairs, no allocation has been made yet.

Md Shahidul Islam, executive engineer of EED, Barishal, said, "The cyclone-hit educational institutions will be repaired urgently once allocation is received."

## HANDIAL JAGANNATH TEMPLE

# Upholding the spirit of 'Ratha Yatra' for 6 centuries



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

For over six centuries, the Handial Jagannath Temple, located in Handial village under Chatmohar upazila of Pabna, has been celebrating the vibrant Ratha Yatra festival.

The Ratha Yatra, or chariot procession of Jagannath Dev, became popular in the subcontinent during the Ganga dynasty in the 11th century.

Historical records from the Calcutta Gazette suggest the Handial temple itself was established between 1300 and 1400 AD, on a vast 1.19-acre plot within the Chalan Beel region.

It was later renovated by one Bhawani Prashad in 1590 AD, according to a terracotta plaque on the temple's wall.

The temple's rich history, however, is not without its scars.

Its structures were damaged significantly during the 1971

Liberation War. Then it was renovated with modern designs with funding from devotees.

Yet, a single-door structure from the ancient temple remains, a symbol of its enduring heritage.

Today, the Handial Jagannath Temple continues to be a centre of cultural and spiritual significance.

The annual Ratha Yatra festival draws devotees from far and wide, celebrating the timeless traditions that have bound this community for generations.

At present, the temple is an archaeological site while being maintained by devotees, said Md Abu Sayeed, an official of archaeology department.

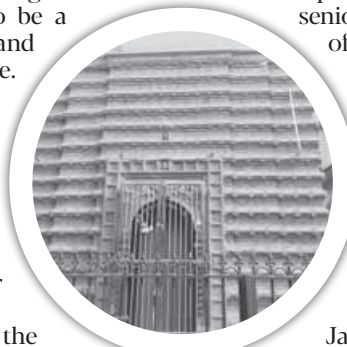
The temple was last renovated by the archaeology department in

2009-10, he added.

The temple's eye-catching architecture and intricate terracotta motifs attract tourists and visitors from across the country and beyond, Abu Sayeed added.

Dilip Kumar Brahmacharya, senior sebayet (manager) of the temple, said it is one of the three ancient temples in the subcontinent with Jagannath Dev's idol, and has been celebrating Ratha Yatra over the past 600 years.

"The temple consists of Jagannath Dev's temple, Mahaprabhu temple, Lakshmi Vishnu temple, Durga temple and Ratha temple. Religious festivities are held for each of the temples every year," he added.



## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1:  
National Single Window Implementation and Strengthening Customs Modernization  
National Board of Revenue (NBR)  
IDEB Bhaban (10<sup>th</sup> Floor), 160/A, Kakrail, Dhaka - 1000, Bangladesh.

Memo No. 1(192)/Active Items/Hardware/NSW/2024/2134

Date: 04.07.2024

**Subject:** Addendum to Bidding Document for Supply and installation of Hardware and infrastructure (network, communication, cabling, etc.) and standard software for NSW solution; other network, communication equipment, structure, hardware and cabling: Server & Storage and Network & Security components for NSW Server Room & DR. Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1. Request for Bids (RFB) No. NBR-GD2A.1.

### Addendum No. 1

This is for the information of all Bidders concerned that the following amendments have been made for the procurement mentioned in the subject above:

Ref.	Existing entry	Amended entry
Sl. No. of 06, SPN.	The deadline for Bid submission is: Date: July 08, 2024; Time: 14.00 hours.	The deadline for Bid submission is: Date: July 23, 2024; Time: 14.00 hours.
ITP- 23.1 & 26.1	Date & time for bid opening July 08, 2024; Time: 14.30 hours.	Date & time for bid opening July 23, 2024; Time: 14.30 hours.

All other terms and conditions of Bidding Document (RFB) No. NBR-GD2A.1 shall remain unchanged. This Addendum No. 1 shall be considered an integral part of the Bidding Document and shall be binding on all Bidders who have obtained or will obtain the Bidding Document from the Purchaser.

4-7-2024

(Abul Bashar Md Shafiqur Rahman)

Project Director

Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1:

National Single Window Implementation & Strengthening Customs Modernization

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