

## Rain damages 60pc of Khulna's fish enclosures

Farmers stare at Tk 94.6cr loss

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Incessant rain over the past three days has caused significant damage to fish farms across Khulna, particularly impacting shrimp farmers during their harvest season.

Thousands of enclosures have been washed away, leaving fish farmers facing severe losses.

According to the district's fisheries department, 1,195 ponds and 7,510 fish enclosures -- about 60 percent of the district's total -- have been flooded. Dumuria upazila is the worst hit, with 3,750 enclosures submerged. Paikgacha upazila follows, with 1,850 enclosures inundated.

The total damage is estimated at Tk 94.6 crore, with fish farmers, including those cultivating carp, facing losses of Tk 17.12 crore.

Shrimp farmers have been hit the hardest, suffering losses of Tk 58.7 crore.

Additionally, 1,58 crore shrimp fry have been destroyed.

"All my enclosures were flooded just days before the harvest season," said Saiful Haque, a farmer from Dumuria upazila.

Saiful had invested Tk 7.8 lakh in a five-bigha enclosure for fish and another for shrimp. Now, with his enclosures ruined, he faces the burden of a Tk 3 lakh loan, as well as the cost of repairs.

"It will take at least three months to rebuild, and I have no means to repay the loan," he added.

Pibprodas Boiragi, a farmer from Rangpur village in Dumuria, said, "I bought nets to protect my enclosure,

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PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Durga idols vandalised in Mymensingh, Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Durga idols have been vandalised in Mymensingh and Kendua upazila of Netrakona in separate incidents.

In Mymensingh, locals detained a 17 year old boy for ransacking a Durga idol in Gouripur Municipality around 3:30am yesterday, and handed him over to police, said Mirza Mazharul Anwar, officer-in-charge of Gouripur Police Station.

Family members claimed him to be mentally challenged and showed a card of Department of Social Welfare in support of their claim, the OC said.

In Netrakona, miscreants vandalised two Durga idols at Matrisangha Durga Temple in Jurail village under Kendua upazila on Tuesday, said OC Mizanur Rahman of Kendua Police Station.

On information, police and army personnel visited the spot, he said.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
SEPTEMBER 27  
Fazr Juma As Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:35 12:30 4:15 6:00 7:30  
JAMAT 5:10 1:15 4:30 6:05 8:00  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Form commission to reform land, agri sectors

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An independent commission for reforms in land and agricultural sectors must be formed immediately, urged discussants at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday.

The speakers emphasised that a large portion of farmers in Bangladesh remain landless, with many abandoning the profession due to inadequate government support. Around 88 percent of khas land is illegally occupied by influential elites, while laws meant to protect farmers' rights remain largely unenforced, they added.

"The Ministry of Agriculture is currently overseen by an adviser who also manages home ministry, a role which demands full attention. Similarly, the land ministry is handled by an adviser juggling several other ministries. As a result, land and agriculture are not receiving the focus they require," said Shamsul Huda, executive director of the Association for Land Reform and Development.

The press conference, held at Dhaka Reporters Unity, was jointly organised by 11 organisations, including ALRD, Nijera Kori, the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, the Bangladesh Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge, and the Jatiya Adivasi Parishad.

Huda highlighted the need for

dedicated advisers for the land and agriculture ministries, arguing that this would enable more effective oversight.

He also stressed the importance of recognising the traditional rights of indigenous people over land and forests, and protecting their farming practices.

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SHAMSUL HUDA  
Executive Director of ALRD

"Even after 53 years of independence, indigenous peoples' rights to protect their land and lives are still insecure. They live in constant fear of attacks and eviction," Huda added, calling for the full implementation of laws

protecting land, citizenship rights, and the security of minority communities.

The speakers announced ten demands, chief among them the appointment of an experienced and qualified adviser to exclusively oversee both the land and agriculture ministries.

"Most indigenous people rely on agriculture for their livelihoods, yet their lands are being taken away," said Nirala Mardi, cultural secretary of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad. "Where will they go if their lands are taken?" she asked.

Borkot Ali, director of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, said the commission should be led by competent, neutral individuals.

Manindra Kumar Nath, joint general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oiika Parishad, pointed to the significant impact land-related conflicts have had on minority communities, saying the minority population has declined to 8.6 percent.

"Communities like Harijans, Ravidassia, and Telugus have lived on these lands for centuries, yet they are denied ownership. This injustice must be addressed," he said.

Uzzal Azim, programme manager at the Kapaeng Foundation, BELA lawyer Rumana Sharmin and Manabdhikar Shongskriti Foundation lawyer Nahid Shams also spoke.

'It's false and absurd'  
Says Channel i on case against 5 directors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Channel i authorities yesterday expressed deep concern over a case filed by Farzana Rashid Brownia against five of their directors in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court.

In a statement issued by its Executive Director (Administration) Mohammad Masud, they demanded an end to the harassment caused by what they termed a "false" case.

The statement said the allegations -- including claims of non-payment of dues to Brownia, extortion demands of Tk 50 crore and threats -- are entirely false and absurd.

Channel i said Brownia was never a permanent employee of the organisation. She was hired to manage a programme called "Swarna Kishori," which was once aired on Channel i, and she was compensated for her role accordingly.

The "Swarna Kishori" programme was discontinued in November 2018, following a decision by the authorities. Therefore, any claim that Channel i owes dues to Brownia is irrelevant.

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**TEACHER MURDER**  
Fear, insecurity grip family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Amid the nationwide unrest following the ouster of Awami League government on August 5, a retired teacher was brutally hacked to death at his residence in Bagerhat on that night.

The deceased was Mrinal Kanti Chatterjee, 65, of Chhoto Paikpara in Rakhalgachhi union of Sadar upazila.

The assailants also left his wife Shefali Chatterjee, 60, and elder daughter Jhuma Chatterjee, 35, critically injured, vandalised the house and looted valuables.

Shefali and Jhuma both were admitted to Bagerhat 250 bed hospital for treatment. After their recovery from the injuries, the family lodged a case with Bagerhat Model Police Station on August 18 over murder and robbery, accusing nine named and 15-20 unidentified others.

Police so far managed to arrest only one

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## Former minister Razzaque sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail



A case was filed against Abdur Razzaque, former agriculture minister, and 116 leaders and activists of Awami League and its associate bodies on charges of attacking a procession during the anti-discrimination student movement in Tangail's Mahupur on August 4.

Jahid Hasan filed the case with a senior judicial magistrate court in Tangail on Wednesday and the court yesterday directed the officer-in-charge of Madhupur police station to register the case as an FIR, said Malek Adnan, lawyer for the complainant.

## RANGICHHARA GOVT PRIMARY SCHOOL

# New building turns risky in just 2 years

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Within just two years of construction, the new one-storey building of Rangichhara Government Primary School in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar has turned into a risky structure.

The building, built on a four-storey foundation, has already developed cracks throughout the structure. The ceiling collapsed in several places, while the upper wall linings of classrooms and balconies have fallen off.

Students and teachers have been attending the classes amid fear and risk of the building collapsing any moment.

"The classrooms have become very risky. Since our second term exams are going on, we are compelled to attend school amid fear," said Nidhi Naidu, a fifth-grader at the school.

Several other students echoed her.

Family members of students and local residents expressed concern over the safety of some 200 students who are attending classes amid the situation.

The school, established in 1949,

got approval for a four-storey new building in 2021-22 fiscal year under the demand-based government primary school development project. The construction work of the school building was given to Salim Construction of Srimangal. The one-storey building was constructed at a cost of around Tk 82.25 lakh.



However, within two years of construction, cracks have appeared in the structure while plasters are getting removed in different places.

"The issue with the building's condition has been informed to the officials concerned and relevant authorities," said Sushil Chandra Das, headteacher of the school.

Zakir Hossain, former president

of the school's management committee, brought allegation of irregularities in construction of the school building.

Contacted, Iftekhtayer Hossain, upazila education officer in Kulaura, said he visited the school recently after guardians submitted formal complaints to him and Kulaura upazila nirbahi officer Mohiuddin.

"I saw first-hand that both students and teachers were afraid to enter the new building. I understand that buildings deteriorate over time. But these structures should last at least 50 years. It is unacceptable that a building is on verge of collapse within a couple of years after construction," he said.

Iftekhtayer informed that the engineer responsible for the construction has promised to initiate repairs promptly.

Md Shariful Hoque, sub-assistant engineer of Local Government Engineering Department in Kulaura, said the problem will be resolved soon.

The Kulaura UNO said necessary actions will be taken after investigation into the matter.

ক্রমিক নং	বিবরণ	বর্তমান	সংশোধিত
১	দরপত্র এছেরে দঙ্গে, শহীদ সোহরাওয়ার্দী মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা এবং আউটপোসিং প্রতিবেশে জনবল সংজ্ঞারে নিমিত্তে পিপিআর-২০১৮ এর ছক মোতাবেক অকৃত চিকিৎসার/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিপত্তি হইতে সীলনের দ্রুততা আবশ্যিক করা হচ্ছে। উক্ত দরপত্রের আংশিক সংশোধন নিম্নরূপঃ	১। পরিচালকের দঙ্গে, শহীদ সোহরাওয়ার্দী মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা। ২। উপ-প্রাচীর কমিশনার, ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, (তেজগাঁও) এবং কার্যালয়, ২২/৫, বিলজী রোড, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা। ৩। ১০/১/২০২৪ইং তারিখ সকাল ৯:০০ ঘটিকা হইতে দুপুর ১২:০০ ৪। ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। ৫। ১০/১/২০২৪ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১:০০ ঘটিকা।	গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার পরিচালকের কার্যালয় শহীদ সোহরাওয়ার্দী মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭ www.shsmch.gov.bd তারিখ ১০/১/২০২৪ইং
২	দরপত্র খোলার সময় ও তারিখ	০৩/১/২০২৪ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা।	
৩	দরপত্র সিডিউল তেজগাঁও	মানুষাল পদক্ষিণে (তেজগাঁও)	এস্টিভি (জাতীয়) নন-কর্নেলিটিং সার্টিফিকেট (ওটিএম)। যেসকল দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠান চালানের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করেন তাদেরকে টেরিশার্ক হতে পুরাতন সিডিউল ছুটির দিন ব্যাটাইট ১০/১/২০২৪ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত সকাল ১০ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ১:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে চালান প্রেসিডেন্সে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

GD- 549

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তারিখ  
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১০/১/২০২৪ইং

তারিখ

পরিচালক