

# DOWNPOUR IN JASHORE

## 52 SCHOOLS WATERLOGGED

MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

Swelling rivers following incessant rains recently flooded the low-lying areas in Jashore's Manirampur upazila, leaving at least 52 educational institutions submerged.

The situation has disrupted academic activities severely, including several schools being compelled to announce closure.

Sources at the upazila education office revealed that floodwaters inundated at least 52 educational institutions in Nehalpur, Kultia, Manoharpur and Durbadanga unions under the upazila.

Among those, Hatgachha Govt Primary School, BHMS Lower Secondary Girls' School, and Hatgachha Secondary School have suspended their academic activities amid the situation, while eight others including Mashiahati Degree College, Kultiya Girls' School, Baje Kultiya Govt Primary School, and Mashiahati



Secondary School may have to announce closure soon.

Visiting various schools in the upazila, this correspondent observed that students were going through immense sufferings, being compelled to tread through waist to knee

deep water to attend classes, while many educational institutions were seen conducting classes with the classrooms submerged.

The inundated roads adjacent to the schools were facing severe traffic

congestion. Several schools were seen to have installed makeshift bamboo bridges to allow students enter school compounds safely.

"Downpour over the past few days caused water to accumulate on the school

ground and submerge the classrooms. Students have been facing difficulties to attend classes... They are also being deprived of sports activities as the school ground is flooded," said Mamata Rani, headteacher of Alipur Govt Primary School.

Utpal Biswas, senior teacher of Lakhaidanga Secondary School, echoed her.

Sanjit Kumar Biswas, headmaster of Hatgachha Secondary School, said the classes have been suspended due to the ongoing unavoidable situation, and the matter has been informed to the upazila secondary education office.

Akram Hossain, secondary education officer of Manirampur upazila, said, "We have received written applications from five schools that are facing severe waterlogging on school grounds and in classrooms, and may have to announce closure. We advised the teachers to continue academic activities through alternative methods."

### Need proper reforms before election

Says Jamaat ameer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday said they want the country to go through proper reforms before an election.

An acceptable election can only be held after a thorough reform, he said.

He was speaking as chief guest in a rally, organised by Pabna district unit Jamaat, held at the Pabna Edward College yesterday afternoon.

"We want to give a logical amount of time to the interim government before holding the election so that they can make proper reforms in different sectors. Through the path of such reforms, we can have a fair and acceptable election," said Dr Shafiqur.

The roadmap for the reformation should be fixed after holding discussions with political parties, he also said.

Appreciating the initiative of the interim government, the Jamaat Ameer said this government has been formed through a revolution, so they have to do a lot.

"If the interim government fails, then the entire nation will fail. So they have to be successful, and we have to help this government for the sake

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



## Excavation work turns bridge on Fanai river risky

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

A 24-meter paved bridge over the Fanai river in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila has become hazardous for vehicles and pedestrians due to damage caused by river excavation.

The bridge, constructed by the Local Government Engineering Department in 1997-98 fiscal year, connects the Lakshmipur-Hashimpur road in the upazila.

Bangladesh Water Development Board in 2021-22 FY excavated a 40-kilometre stretch of Fanai river at a cost of around Tk 17 crore.

"The excavation caused substantial damage to both the bridge and connecting road. Excavation equipment disturbed the soil around the bridge's central pillar, causing it to tilt and eventual sink as the river's water level rose during onrush of upstream waters," said Alauddin Kabir, a local resident and journalist.

Also, before the excavation was completed, heavy rains caused collapse of the Rangichhara-Lakshmipur-Gutguti road at several points, he added.

About 100 feet stretch of the road has so far collapsed along the embankment on the east end of the bridge, posing risk of the bridge collapsing any time, while leaving the route extremely risky for movement.

Approximately 20,000 people from Purshai, Bhatgaon, Deogaon, Hasimpur, Beri, Rangichhara, Norton, Kabiraji, and Palgram villages rely on the bridge for access to Kulaura upazila headquarter and Rangichhara Bazaar.

Visiting the area recently, this correspondent saw a signboard on the east side of the bridge that reads: "Dangerous bridge, traffic prohibited, by order of the authorities."

Roshan Ali, a local resident,

urged authorities concerned to construct a new bridge and repair the damaged road.

Tarek Bin Islam, an engineer of LGED in Kulaura upazila, said they have inspected the bridge and are in discussions with higher authorities regarding construction of a new bridge.

Confirming the matter, Ahmed Abdullah, LGED executive engineer in Moulvibazar, said, "A proposal submitted to higher authorities for constructing a new bridge and repairing the damaged portions of the road is awaiting approval."

Javed Iqbal, executive engineer of BWDB in Moulvibazar, said the dredging of Fanai river was conducted to manage rapid hill runoff, according to the river's measurements.

"Inspections will be done soon to implement necessary measures to protect the river protection embankment," he added.

### Tourists asked not to visit Sajek till Sept 30

UNB, Dhaka

The local administration of Rangamati district has extended its order to not to travel to Sajek for three more days till September 30.

Additional District Magistrate Zobaida Akter issued a notice in this regard yesterday.

According to the notice, the tourists were discouraged from travelling to Sajek from September 25 to 27.

Considering the situation, the officials extended the travel ban for three more days.

## Man beaten to death in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

On suspicion of stealing a fishing net, a group of youths allegedly beat a man to death in a village of Dinajpur Sadar upazila on Friday, said police.

The deceased is Tahidul Rahman, 40, of Sahedganj Hatkhola village under the upazila.

Citing relatives and witnesses, police said around 11.00am on Friday, five to six youths went to Tahidul's house and accused him of stealing a fishing net. Then the group forcibly took Tahidul to a nearby bamboo orchard in the village.

They tied him up and kept beating and torturing him for a couple of hours. After Tahidul fainted due to the torture, the gang took him to a local doctor for treatment.

After Tahidul regained consciousness, the torturers dropped him back home at around 4:30pm. Tahidul's blind mother was at home then. After some time, when he was not responding to his mother's calls, she went towards him and found out her son's numb body as he was lying on the floor lifeless.

His mother started screaming, and then locals arrived there and found Tahidul dead at around 7:30pm. Being informed, police went there and recovered the body and sent it to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital for autopsy. Tahidul's body was full of torture marks, said police.

Shahinul Islam, a cousin of Tahidul, filed a murder case with Dinajpur Sadar Police Station accusing five individuals in this connection.

Police did not disclose the names of the accused for the sake of investigation. OC Farid Hossain of the police station said an investigation was ongoing in this regard.

## Fifty hurt in AL infighting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least 50 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups of Awami League in Saltha upazila of Faridpur yesterday morning.

The clash ensued in Gotti area between supporters of Md Rafiq Matubbar, a member of upazila unit AL, and Md Aziz Mollah, president of Gotti union unit of Krishak League.

There has been a longstanding conflict between Rafiq and Aziz over establishing supremacy in the area, said locals.

Following an altercation between two teenagers — Rafiq's supporter Nurul Islam's son and Aziz's supporter Mukul's daughter — on Friday afternoon, there were chases and counter-chases between the two groups before police brought the situation under control.

The groups, however, clashed again with lethal weapons around 6:00am yesterday in front of Rafiq's house on Saltha-Faridpur road, leaving at least 50 injured.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



Workers load a truck with old books collected from hawkers in various areas of Barishal. These books will be taken to paper mills for recycling. The labourers earn Tk 500-700 working from morning till afternoon. This photo was taken in the city's Hatkhola area yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS



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### শাখা স্থানান্তর

রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি. এর ক্যান্টনমেন্ট শাখা, রাজশাহী ২৯-০৯-২০২৪ তারিখ রোজ রবিবার হতে নতুন ঠিকানায় স্থানান্তরিত হয়ে ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম শুরু করছে।

পুরাতন ঠিকানা	বর্তমান ঠিকানা
<del>রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি. ক্যান্টনমেন্ট শাখা হোল্ডিং-৫১১, কাদিরগঞ্জ দড়িখরবোনা পোস্ট-ক্যান্টনমেন্ট, থানা-বোয়ালিয়া রাজশাহী।</del>	রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি. ক্যান্টনমেন্ট শাখা "গ্রীন হাসেম গার্ডেন" দ্বিতীয় তলা হোল্ডিং-৫৪৮, নন হাউজিং এস্টেট উপশহর মোড়, দড়িখরবোনা পোস্ট-ক্যান্টনমেন্ট, থানা-বোয়ালিয়া রাজশাহী।

সম্মানিত গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক এবং শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের ব্যাংকিং সেবা গ্রহণের জন্য নতুন ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগের অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।