

HATIYARA SCHOOL IN GOPALGANJ

Classes under open sky as building risky

SUJIT DAS, Faridpur

The students of Hatiyara Government Primary School under Kashiani upazila in Gopalganj are attending classes under the open sky as the school building has become unfit for use due to lack of renovation and declared abandoned.

The school, established on 34 decimals of land in 1957 and nationalised in 1973, has 91 students and five teachers at present.

Visiting the school recently, this correspondent saw classes were being conducted in front of the abandoned school building.

Polli Biswas, headteacher of the school, said the authorities declared the school building risky in March this year, as parts of the building have developed cracks.

“Since we don’t have any alternative, classes are now being conducted outside the school building under open sky,” she

added.

Rekha Rani Mollik, an assistant teacher of the school, urged authorities for constructing a new school building as soon as possible.

Lakshmi Sarkar, a fourth grader, and Chandra Biswas, a third-grader, echoed her.

Sumi Sarkar, mother of a student, called for prompt intervention of the authorities concerned to ensure a safe space for the school’s students to attend classes.

Contacted, Biswajit Saha, Kashiani upazila primary education officer, said auction of a tender for construction of a new building for the school has already been completed.

“The contractor has been asked to demolish the old building and construct a temporary structure for holding the classes till the new school building is constructed. Hopefully the problem will be solved soon,” he added.



Students of Hatiyara Government Primary School in Kashiani of Gopalganj attend classes under the open sky as the school building, deemed unsafe due to a lack of renovations, has been declared abandoned. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Shahadat to take oath as CCC mayor today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Shahadat Hossain, who was declared mayor-elect of Chattogram City Corporation by the Election Tribunal, is scheduled to take oath as the mayor today.

The oath taking will take place in Dhaka.

Visiting the CCC recently, this correspondent saw the mayor’s office has been cleaned and decorated.

In absence of ward councillors in the CCC at present, the government has formed a 21-member body to serve as the CCC’s council, which will be presided over by the mayor, said Sheikh Muhammad Tauhidul Islam, chief executive officer of CCC.

Shahadat could not be reached over phone for his comment.



MEGHNA RIVER  
Man dies in speedboat- trawler collision

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A man was killed and four others were injured in a collision between a speedboat and a trawler on Meghna river in Munshiganj Sadar upazila on Friday night.

The deceased was identified as Shanto Ahmed, 35, joint convener of Sadar upazila’s Jubo Dal, said Khalilur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Munshiganj Sadar Police Station.

The incident occurred around 10:00pm in the Jazira area, where the trawler collided with the speedboat, leaving its passenger Shanto severely injured.

He was initially treated at Munshiganj General Hospital before being shifted to a private hospital in Dhaka, where he died around 2:00pm.

“Preliminary findings suggest it was an accident. However, further investigation is underway to determine additional details,” the OC said.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
**NOVEMBER 3**

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:55	12:45	4:00	5:30	7:15
JAMAAAT 5:30	1:15	4:15	5:34	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

KHULNA REGION

Integrated farming gaining ground

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Integrated farming methods involving multi-crop strategies are gradually transforming the agricultural landscape in Khulna region.

Hundreds of farmers are reaping the benefits of fish farming alongside paddy and vegetable cultivation, including better productivity, efficient resource allocation, financial stability and community development.

Geographically, the Khulna region is less endowed with resources compared to other regions of the country, while being largely affected by natural calamities as well as climate change.

Also, being a coastal region, the high level of salinity in the lands and waterbodies, especially during dry season, makes it less conducive for farmers to cultivate crops.

The low-lying region is also severely affected by waterlogging during monsoon, leaving vast stretches of agricultural lands inundated and not cultivable.

As such, thousands of acres of land lie fallow for much of the year. In recent years, however, things have started to change, as farmers in Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira districts have been engaged in integrated farming practices, with necessary advices and assistances from the Department of Agricultural Extension.

Hundreds of hectares of fallow lands are now being used for vegetable cultivation, alongside fish farming.

Freshwater sources are being used to rear freshwater species such as carps and catfish varieties, while the adjacent lands are being used to cultivate vegetables like

Development of salinity-tolerant paddy varieties enabled farmers to cultivate paddy in salinity affected areas, alongside farming shrimp and crab within enclosures.

This strategy has led to a substantial increase in profitability, generating two to three times higher returns compared to

has been practicing integrated farming of shrimp and vegetables for past 10-12 years.

“I have two large enclosures for shrimp farming. Along the edges of the enclosures, I cultivate okra, bitter gourd, beans pumpkins and watermelon. I have also recently began cultivating Aman and other paddy varieties on elevated lands,” he said.

Dhrito’s success encouraged farmers from 12 neighbouring villages follow his footsteps.

Biprodas Boiragi, a fish farmer from Chaksoilmari village under the upazila, has been cultivating beans, cucumber, sponge gourd, bitter gourd, bottle gourd, tomato, red amaranth, pumpkin, and spinach on 40 decimals of land along his fish enclosure.

Md Insad Ibne Amin, upazila agriculture officer of Dumuria, said around 4,500 local farmers have been successfully implementing multi-crop strategy for past 10-12 years.

Contacted, Md Kazi Zahangir Hossain, deputy director of DAE in Khulna, said around 15,000 farmers have adopted integrated farming practices in Khulna region.

“With their contribution, the region is poised to become a model for integrated farming practices that blend tradition with innovation, turning challenges into opportunities for prosperity. We will continue to encourage and support them,” he added.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

By applying integrated farming methods involving multi-crop strategies, hundreds of farmers are reaping the benefits of fish farming alongside paddy and vegetable cultivation in Khulna region.

long bean, cucumber, sponge gourd, bitter gourd, brinjal, bottle gourd, beans, red amaranth, spinach, tomato and pumpkin, as well as fruits like off-season watermelon.

In some areas, farmers have been cultivating Aman paddy alongside freshwater fish varieties within enclosures.

traditional single-crop farming.

Such a scenario was witnessed in at least five upazilas of Khulna district, including Dumuria, Batiaghata, Rupsha, as well as in Fakirhat upazila of Bagerhat district.

Dhrito Sundar, a farmer from Kachharibari area under Khulna’s Batiaghata upazila,

SADEK GOLLA OF JAMTALA

A sweet legacy spanning 70 years

MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

About 38 kilometres from Jashore town, Sheikh Sadek Ali’s sweetmeat shop, famed for Sadek Golla, stands tall in Sharsha’s Jamtala area for past 70 years.

The small, humble shop, with very minimal decorations, still experiences a huge crowd every morning, forming a queue to purchase this rasgolla variant.

In an area where rasgolla is found in every nook and corner, what makes Sadek Golla so special?

To explore it, this correspondent visited the shop and spoke to its owners.

Sheikh Sadek Ali established the business in 1955. After his demise, his six sons – Anwar, Alamgir, Shahinur, Shahjahan, Jahangir and Nuruzzaman – took the helm and expanded the franchise to a total nine outlets – three in Jamtala area and six others across Jashore district.



The secret to Sadek Golla’s famed taste and flavour lies in its preparation, said Bazlur Rahman, 60, who has been working at this shop for last 30 years.

“We prepare the sweets from locally sourced cow milk.

The process begins with curdling the milk, then straining it to add semolina to the curdle, which is then

kneaded until it becomes a smooth mixture. The workers then use the mixture to prepare it in four sizes and two variants of rasgolla,” he said.

“The white ones are soaked in warm sugar syrup, while our specialty, Sadek Golla, is prepared by cooking it for longer until the desired light brown colour is achieved. The sweets are sold for Tk 5-30 apiece across four sizes,” he added.

Talking to this correspondent, Anwar

Hossain, eldest son of Sadek Ali, said their product’s goodwill has spread across the country and beyond.

“We usually sell around 2,000 kilogramme of sweets daily. The amount increases on special occasions and festivals, while some special orders also pour in almost every week. About 20 workers are employed in different shifts round the clock. The preparations start at 6:00am, while the shops are opened around 9:00am,” he said.

Sirajul Islam, a Bangladeshi expatriate living in the US, never forgets to take a few packets of Sadek Golla every time he flies back to Texas after visiting the country.

“This sweet is very light yet fragrant, and melts in your mouth as soon as you have a bite. We have been enjoying Sadek Golla for generations, and have never been unsatisfied with their quality,” he said.

Kazi Najib Hasan, upazila nirbahi officer of Sharsha, said the sweet has low sugar content but tastes delicious.

“Being diabetic, I usually avoid sweets. However, I never miss a chance to enjoy a couple of Sadek Gollas while visiting Jamtala market, as I don’t have to worry much about my sugar levels,” he added.

JULY UPRISING

Two AL, BCL men held in Uttara on murder charges

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested two people, an Awami League activist and a Bangladesh Chhatra League leader, in Uttara on Friday night and early yesterday, in connection with the killing of a protester during the student-people mass uprising.

The arrestees are Md Harez Uddin, 42, an AL activist, and Mahiyanul Haque Orchi, 27, Uttara Ward 1 BCL president.

Police detained Harez at 8:40pm from Road 18 in Sector 11, and Orchi was arrested at 3:40am from Road 4 in the same sector.

A murder case was filed with Uttara West Police Station on August 22 in connection with the death of Lablu Mia.

According to the case statement, on August 5, the protesting students and people were staying in the Rabindra Sarani area of Sector 3 and other Uttara roads. At that time, leaders and activists of different front associate organisations of AL started attacking and firing on the protesters. Lablu Mia was shot in the head. He was taken to Uttara Crescent Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Muhammad Talebur Rahman, deputy commissioner (DC-media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), confirmed the matter. They were arrested after analysing intelligence information and CCTV footage around the spot, he said.

The arrestees have been sent to court. The operation is underway to arrest others involved in the Lablu Mia murder case, he added.