

PRIMARY SCHOOLS North claims most awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Educational institutions from northern districts claimed most of the awards, including those for the best school and best headteachers in this year's National Primary Education Awards.

Subrata Khajanchi Government Primary School in Dinajpur's Chirirbandar upazila was named the Best Primary School in the country. Md Mostafa Kamal, head-teacher of Padmapara Govt Primary School in Bogura's Gabtali upazila, and Shiuli Sultana of Subordinate Colony Government Primary School in Nilphamari's Syedpur, were awarded Best Head-teacher in male and female categories respectively.

The awards were presented yesterday at the inauguration of the National Primary Education Week 2025, held at the Directorate of Primary Education in Dhaka.

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A farmer tries his luck catching fish in a canal in Sylhet's Khadimnagar union, near the Airport Area. After heavy rainfall, water from the hills flows into the canal, carrying fish with it. Taking a break from work, the man hopes to supplement his family's food by fishing. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Pirojpur's 43 canals reduced to drains and dumps



KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Once, the canals flowing through Pirojpur town were the main route for transporting goods and people via paddle and engine-run boats.

Municipal records show that at least 43 canals once crisscrossed the locality.

However, now it is unimaginable for even small boats to ply these canals, as most of those, including the widest Damodar canal, have been filled up or encroached upon by locals at various points.

Several canals have been narrowed down into drains in the name of development. As a result, these waterways are no longer of any use to townspeople or visitors.

"During the British era, two steamers could cross through the Damodar canal at a time," said an elderly local, Mohammad Babul.

"But now, it is on its deathbed," he added, noting that the canal has become heavily silted up alongside being encroached upon from both sides.

Raju Sheikh, another local, said, "During our childhood, a huge number

of water vessels would use the Damodar canal, which connected the Kacha river at Hulerhat and the Baleswar river at the old boat ferry terminal, as a shortcut."

The same scenario is seen in other canals of the town, including Krishnanagar Basabari canal, Khamkata Phultala canal, Dhuppasa canal, Mondalpara canal, Shikarpur canal, and Royerkathi Police Lines canal. None of the 43 canals within Pirojpur town is currently usable, as they have been filled up and occupied.

"People living beside the canals randomly throw garbage and waste into them, and there is no monitoring to prevent it. So, the canals are being filled up and gradually dying," said Mizanur Rahman, another local.

Mainul Ahsan Munna, a development worker in the town, said there is no alternative to canals. "But the canals flowing through Pirojpur town are being killed and filled up before the eyes of the municipal authorities," he said, adding that no steps have been taken to save them.

He said due to the destruction of the canals, water from the river can no longer

enter the town. Even during floods, water gets trapped in the town area.

Contacted, Dhruba Lal Datta Banik, executive engineer of Pirojpur municipality, said they will free the grabbed canals with the help of the district administration.

He acknowledged that almost all of the 43 canals are barely surviving at present.

"We have sent a proposal to the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) under the Improvement of Ponds, Canals Across the Country Project (IPCP) for the re-excavation of the canals," he said.

"If our proposal is passed, then we will be able to bring around 30 kilometres of canals and four ponds back to life," he added.

Contacted, Mohammad Ashraf Alam Khan, deputy commissioner of Pirojpur, said the Pirojpur district administration has a plan for excavating the dying canals.

"We have primarily begun cleaning and re-excavating the two-kilometre-long Bharani canal flowing through the town. Others will be re-excavated in phase," the DC said.

One held for assaulting two girls on launch

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Munshiganj

Police yesterday arrested a man allegedly for assaulting two girls and vandalising a Dhaka-bound launch at Munshiganj Launch Terminal on Friday night.

The suspect, identified as Nehal Ahmed Jihad, 25, was arrested around 2:00pm following the incident.

Md. Firoy Kabir, additional superintendent of police (crime and operations), confirmed the arrest, saying that legal action will be taken against all those involved upon completion of a full investigation.

Saiful Alam, officer-in-charge of Munshiganj Sadar Police Station, said a group of passengers had travelled by launch for picnic from South Keraniganj, Dhaka, to Mohanpur, Chandpur. During their return trip, the launch stopped at Munshiganj terminal for shopping, where an altercation reportedly broke out with a group of local youths.

Accusing the passengers of immoral behaviour, the locals allegedly vandalised the vessel around 8:00pm. A viral footage circulating on social media shows

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| PRAYER TIMING MAY 11 | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|------|---------|------|--|
| Fajr | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha | |
| 4:10 | 12:45 | 5:00 | 6:36 | 8:00 | |
| JAMAAT 4:45 | 1:15 | 5:15 | 6:40 | 8:30 | |
| SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION | | | | | |

Prioritise environment while taking up dev projects

Says Rizwana

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmental protection must be prioritised in large-scale development projects, said Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan yesterday.

She was addressing the 4th International Conference on Urban and Regional Planning (ICURP) 2025 at Dhaka University.

Urging policymakers not to view objections from the environment ministry as obstacles, she said, "These are essential safeguards."

She emphasised that every inch of land must be brought under proper planning, adding, "There is no alternative to it."

The two-day conference, organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP), focused on "Spatial Planning for Just Transition in Bangladesh".

Rizwana stressed that laws alone are not enough; a shift in mindset is also vital. "Every ministry must act responsibly. Like the agriculture ministry's input in housing approvals, all sectors' environmental impacts must be assessed."

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GHATAIL UPAZILA IN TANGAIL

People suffer due to stalled road work

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Renovation of the 5-km road from Palima in Kalihati upazila to Lokerpara in Ghatail upazila of Tangail has not been completed, even after a year and a half beyond the scheduled deadline.

As a result, residents of at least 25 nearby villages are enduring extreme hardship.

The road serves as a crucial communication link between Gopalpur, Bhuiyanpur, Kalihati, and Ghatail upazilas. Thousands of people and hundreds of vehicles rely on this route daily.

According to the Office of the Upazila Engineer (LGED) in Ghatail, the contractor firm "M/S Islam Brothers Limited" was given the project to renovate the 4.98-kilometre-long road at a cost of Tk 2.98 crore.

According to the tender, the work was supposed to be completed by July 31, 2023, but that deadline passed over 1 year and 8 months ago.



During a recent visit, it was observed that the road has turned into a dust-covered stretch with bricks and sand scattered around. When vehicles pass, the dust is blown around, creating a red layer on cropland, houses, and trees. Pedestrians also face great difficulty in navigating the muddy and dusty road.

Shafiur Rahman, a teacher at Jogihati Khandakernagar Adarsha High School, said, "Students from 12 educational institutions and local residents use this road. We demand that the development and renovation work be started immediately."

Autrickshaw driver Sona Miah said driving on this road is very challenging. Minor and major accidents frequently occur, and vehicles often sustain damage to various parts.

"It's really difficult to travel on this road amid numerous potholes," said Abul Hossain, an official of a local NGO.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Mirzapur, District: Tangail.
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: 46.02.9366.000.14.002.21-386 Date: 08/05/2025

Tender Notice No: 09/2024-2025
Open Tendering Method (OTM)

e-GP tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following package below:

| Sl No | Tender ID No | Name of Works & Package No | Tender Security (Tk) | Tender document last selling (Date & Time) | Tender Security Submission last Date & Time | Tender Opening (Date & Time) |
|-------|--------------|---|----------------------|--|---|------------------------------|
| 1 | 110R245 | 1. Maintenance work of Mirzapur Upazila Parishad Dormitory (2-Unit, Building-1) 2. Maintenance work of Mirzapur Upazila Parishad Dormitory (2-Unit, Building-2) 3. Maintenance work of Mirzapur Upazila Parishad Dormitory (4-Unit, Building-1) 4. Maintenance work of Mirzapur Upazila Parishad Dormitory, Mirzapur (4-Unit, Building-2) 5. Repair Works of Officers Quarter the name of "Gaz" under Mirzapur Upazila Parishad, District: Tangail. e-Tender ID: Main/Mir/Tan/2024-25/W-01 | 60000/- | 25-May-2025 01:00 PM | 25-May-2025 02:00 PM | 25-May-2025 03:00 PM |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System, Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-tender documents from the national e-GP system portal have to be deposited online and **Tender Security money should be submitted through any registered Bank Branch before 25-05-2025, Time 02:00 PM**. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Signed) Upazila Engineer (A.C.)
Mirzapur, Tangail.
Mobile: 01708-161471
Email: us.mirzapur@lged.gov.bd

GD-1128

SHERPUR'S JHENAIGATI UPAZILA

18 years after collapse, bridge still unrepaired

Locals endure long detours and risky crossings on makeshift platform

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A bridge in Sherpur's Jhenaigati upazila that collapsed 18 years ago has yet to be repaired or replaced, forcing thousands of residents in 15 villages to endure daily hardships.

The bridge over Kabirajpara canal, constructed in 2007, collapsed during a flash flood in the same year. Since then, locals have built a makeshift wooden bridge to cross the canal.

Residents alleged that the original structure collapsed due to



the use of substandard materials by the contractor, and no effective steps have been taken since to construct a new bridge.

Thousands of people, including a large number of students, rely on the bridge on Kabirajpara and Putulpara roads, especially during the dry season. Though the upazila headquarters is only a few kilometres away, the absence of a concrete bridge has forced locals to travel double the distance, causing suffering and increasing travel costs and time.

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