

First monsoon downpour submerges Khulna

Tk 823cr drainage project fails to stop waterlogging

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

The first heavy downpour of this monsoon since Monday has left most areas of Khulna city under knee-deep water, while adjoining low-lying areas were submerged under waist-high water – exposing the inefficacy of the Tk 823 crore drainage improvement project of Khulna City Corporation (KCC).

The rain began overnight on Monday and continued till yesterday noon, triggering widespread waterlogging and causing severe disruption to the daily life of city dwellers, including day labourers, office-goers, and schoolchildren.

"In the 24 hours till 6:00am on Tuesday, 36mm of rain was recorded, while 47mm was recorded between 6:00am and 12:00pm on Tuesday. This pattern of intermittent rainfall is expected to continue until June 20," said Animesh Chandra Dhali, assistant meteorologist at the Khulna office of the Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

City dwellers blamed clogged drains and sewer systems, encroachment, and the lack of renovation of the city's 22 canals, along with the filling up of natural reservoirs and rivers, as the main reasons behind Khulna's longstanding waterlogging woes.

According to KCC's Conservancy Department, the city has a 1,165-kilometre drainage network. Most of the drains constructed under the drainage improvement project are now clogged and require manual cleaning – making regular maintenance difficult and inefficient.

Key areas of the city – including Ahsan Ahmed Road, Royal Intersection, Khan Jahan Ali Road, Bastuhara, Baitipara, Chanmari, Labonchhara, Tutpara, Mistripara, Muigunni Road, and Rupsha Notun Bazar – have been severely affected. The stretch from Dakbangla Intersection to Ferryghat Intersection remained submerged under knee-deep water.

"While heading to work this morning, I found the entire road flooded. My motorcycle was halfway under water. I had to tread through Sabuj Sangha Field and Notun Rasta to reach the main road, facing immense hassle. Apart from the Khulna-Jashore highway, almost all roads became waterlogged amid the rain," said Tushar Kanti Das, a resident of Ward 6.

Locals from wards 6, 7, and 9 said the rainwater is supposed to drain through the Bastuhara and Karigor Para canals into the Mayur river, but without regular maintenance, these canals can no longer function effectively.

After being re-elected in 2018, former KCC mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque made mitigating waterlogging his key campaign promise. A Tk 823 crore project was

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Overnight rain that continued till yesterday noon left Khulna city waterlogged, severely disrupting daily life for day labourers, office-goers, and schoolchildren.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Badruzzaman elected fellow of Academy of Science

CITY DESK

Prof ABM Badruzzaman, vice chancellor of Buett, has been elected as a Fellow of the Bangladesh Academy of Science at its 16th council meeting on May 18, said a press release.

This honour recognises his contributions to engineering and environmental science.

A PhD holder from the University of Virginia, Dr Badruzzaman is renowned for his research on arsenic contamination and water quality. He has received international accolades, including the Prince Sultan Award (2012) and ITEX Gold Medal (2019).

Ninth grader found dead in M'singh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police recovered the decomposed body of a ninth-grade student from a septic tank in Phulpur upazila of Mymensingh early yesterday, three days after he went missing.

The victim, Md Abu Raihan, 17, was the son of Tofazzol Hossain from Merigai village. He was a student at a local high school.

Quoting family and locals, police said Raihan was allegedly in a relationship with a neighbouring girl. Her family had recently assaulted and threatened him over the matter.

Kaun cultivation on the verge of oblivion

Market incentives dry up amid shift to high-yield crops

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Kaun (foxtail millet), a resilient and nutrient-dense grain, used to be a dietary staple in the shoal regions of northern Bangladesh.

Farmers in the remote shoal areas of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat cultivated the grain in an agrarian tradition that has endured for centuries.

However, with cultivation of more commercially viable crops gaining ground in the region, farmers are abandoning kaun cultivation in recent times.

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension's data, kaun cultivation has dropped drastically to just 65 hectares in 2025 in the region – 60 hectares in Kurigram and a mere five hectares in Lalmonirhat – from 420 hectares last year. In contrast, it used to be cultivated on a staggering 20,000 hectares even two decades back. The croplands that once rippled with golden kaun are now being used to cultivate paddy, maize, sweet pumpkin, and other commercially viable crops.

Kaun is a drought-tolerant, low-input crop that has been integral to the food habits of shoal dwellers, especially during times of flood or food scarcity. It requires less water and chemical inputs

than paddy and has traditionally been an alternative to rice, particularly among the poor.

However, for today's farmers, economic viability trumps tradition.

"Decline in kaun cultivation represents more than just a change in cropping patterns – it's the erosion of a rural food heritage. For many char [shoal] communities, growing kaun was not only a livelihood but a part of identity," said Abdullah Al Mamun, deputy director of DAE in Kurigram.

"If the current trend continues, kaun may no longer be cultivated in the shoals within a decade," he warned.

With rising production costs, labour shortages, and changing consumer preferences, kaun's once-central role is fading. Many farmers now see it as a crop of the past, no longer fit for the future.

"Kaun doesn't bring profit," said Nazrul Islam, a farmer from Char Bamandanga in Kurigram's Nageshwari upazila. "Last year I cultivated kaun on five bighas of land, this year on only one bigha. We get 4-6 maunds of grains per bigha, and each maund sells for 1,200-1,300 takas. The cost is about 2,500 takas per bigha. It's simply not worth it," he added.

"In the past, we didn't grow much

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Decline in WASH budget concerning

Says joint budget tracking analysis by PPRC, WaterAid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) and WaterAid Bangladesh have expressed deep concern over the declining budget allocation for the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector in the proposed Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

In a joint budget tracking analysis released yesterday, the two organisations noted that WASH allocations have dropped from Tk 182.28 billion in 2022-23 to a proposed Tk 109.01 billion for the upcoming fiscal year.

Although the proposed allocation marks a slight increase from the current year's revised ADP figure of Tk 91.41 billion, it remains far below what is needed to meet growing sector challenges, they said in a press release.

"This sharp decline undermines efforts to ensure citizens' rights to safe water and sanitation," the statement read.

The policy brief also highlighted stark inequities in budget distribution.

Dhaka Wasa alone is set to receive over Tk 31.4 billion, while allocations for the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) – which is responsible for providing WASH services nationwide – have been reduced, they stated.

Only 7 out of 12 city corporations received WASH allocations, leaving out Rajshahi, Rangpur, Cumilla, and Sylhet, among others.

"Intra-urban disparities continue to persist, with Dhaka North City Corporation and Gazipur receiving the lion's share once again," the analysis noted.

Speaking on the findings, Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of PPRC, said, "Water and sanitation are not merely technical issues. They are fundamental human rights and essential to health, dignity, and resilience. Budgetary priorities must reflect this, especially as climate pressures grow and inequalities deepen."

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Legal Notice

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 996 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

K.M. MOBARAK HOSSAIN PETITIONER

K.M. RAKIB HASAN AND OTHERSRESPONDENTS

Notified that an application under Section 233 of the Companies Act, 1994 read with Rule 8 of the Companies Rule 2009 has been filed by the applicant praying for establishment the right of the minority Shareholders and also prayed for direction to disburse the payments and bills from the Respondents No.4 and 5 Banks which was moved on 16.06.2025 before the Hon'ble Company bench comprising with Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel who after hearing the same was very much pleased to admit the application directing to notify the parties and also directed to publish the notice in the DAILY STAR and the DAILY KALERKONTHA and further directed to file compliance within 04 weeks from date, therefore, if any one interest, requested to appear before the Hon'ble Court within or before 24.07.2025. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary costs.

Through,
Md. Rezaul Islam 17.06.2025
Md. Rezaul Islam Advocate for the Petitioner
Membership No. 2101, Room No.113, S.C. Bar main Building, Dhaka-1000, Mobile: No.8801711977428 email:rezaulislam808@gmail.com

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- Forge strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders of the Company to win support for the Company's growth initiatives. Ensure global standards and best practices in all spheres of the Company's activities within the budgets as set forth by the Company's Board of Directors.
- Develop and lead strategic directions for improving the business of the Company through ensuring supply of its major raw materials, viz. natural gas, water, local and imported chemicals for continued high level efficiency/productivity/performance of its existing plant, while strongly pursuing its further expansion/diversification efforts.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduation or post-graduation degree in Technical, Business or any other relevant field from reputed universities. Outstanding academic achievements or professional qualifications will be treated as added qualifications. Having experience of at least 15 years in case of a post graduate candidate and at least 20 years in case of a graduate candidate, in a head of businesses / Senior Management / MD / CEO position in private or Government sector / MNC, exposures in strategic management system with renowned global firm and managing large scale production and sales volume in an industrial plant can apply. Expertise in IT will be considered as an advantage.

PERSONALITY ATTRIBUTES:

- Unquestionable integrity, good communication skills at all levels and proficiency/fluency in English language, fair judgmental capability and strong common sense, motivational skills at all levels, high morale, having a good understanding of local culture and business.

Interested candidates, who meet the above criteria are invited to apply quoting 'Application for KAFCO CEO' along with their detailed resume, current salary details with necessary supporting documents and a passport-size photograph by 31 July 2025 to both the addresses, as mentioned below. Only short listed candidates will be contacted. KAFCO reserves the right to cancel the recruitment process at any stage.

Chairman, Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited (KAFCO) & Secretary, Ministry of Industries (MOI), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB), 91 Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
E-mail: indsecy@moind.gov.bd

Company Secretary & CCO, Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited (KAFCO) IDB Bhaban (13th Floor), E/8-A Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.
Email: khwaja.s.rahman@kafcobd.com
Phone: +8802223374660-64

OBITUARY



Dr. Zaglur Rahman Khan, PhD, M/No. 00001 (FCC, 2nd Batch) Honourable Founder (Donor) Member of Cadet College Club Ltd and an Ex-Cadet of Faujdharhat Cadet College has breathed his last around 04:00 pm on Monday, 16th June 2025 (Innah Lillahi Wainna Ilaihi Rajiun). He was 81.

He left behind his 02 sons, 01 daughter, relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death. He was Founder President of Cadet College Club Ltd, Former Chairman of Old Faujians Association OFA and Member of Dhaka Club Ltd., Member of Gulshan Club Ltd., Member of Uttara Club Ltd., Baridhara Cosmopolitan Club Ltd and many more. He was double MA in Economics and Political Science from University of Dhaka and then his PhD from USA too. He was a Businessman and Chairman of Amban Group.

May his departed soul rest in eternal peace. AMEEN.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

National Head Quarter (NHQ)

684-686, Red Crescent Sarak, Bara Moghbazar, Dhaka 1217.

PABX: +88-02-48310188-9, Ext: 222, 258, Direct: +88-02-8333430, web: www.bdrccs.org

Pro. (Log.) 209/2025, Tender ID: 37/2025 Date: 17/06/2025.

Tender Cancellation Notice

Tender No. Pro-Log171/2025, Tender ID: 32/2025, dated 15 June 2025 for the procurement of Constructing a central warehouse and the necessary civil works of three Lots, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

Dr. Kabir M. Ashraf Alam ndc

For more queries please contact: +8801810-156007.

Secretary General



Asian Development Bank
Bangladesh Resident Mission
Plot E-31, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka 1207 Tel: 02-55667000

Sale Notice

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), Bangladesh Resident Mission (BRM), Plot E-31, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka intends to sell some used furniture, IT and Office Equipment on as-is-where-is basis. Interested parties may inspect the items at the ADB-BRM premises and collect the Bid Form during 10AM to 4PM from 18 June to 26 June 2025 except holidays and weekend (Friday & Saturday). Sealed bids must be dropped in the Bid Box at the ADB-BRM office within 2PM on 29 June 2025. The bids will be opened at 3PM on the same day.