

## FARIDPUR SADAR UPAZILA Four months of waterlogging misery in Pal Para

SUZID DAS, Faridpur

For the past seven years, residents of Pal Para in Deora village under Faridpur Sadar upazila have been suffering from severe waterlogging that lasts from July to October every year, leaving 39 families in perpetual distress.

Located six kilometres south of Faridpur town, on the western side of the Dhaka-Barisal highway in ward-27 of Faridpur municipality, the neighbourhood is home to over 300 people, including children, women, and the elderly, who struggle with stagnant rainwater that inundates their courtyards and homes for months.

Despite repeated appeals to the municipality, no permanent solution has been implemented. Most recently, on August 6, residents submitted a petition to the municipal administrator demanding immediate measures for water drainage.



During a recent visit to the area, this correspondent found homes submerged in ankle-deep water, with bricks and wooden planks laid out across courtyards to move from one house to another. Many households' tube wells were partially underwater, creating an acute shortage of safe drinking water. Families are forced to collect water from higher grounds or buy purified water.

Traditionally, the Pal community here makes a living from pottery, but due to waterlogging, work has been at a standstill. Others employed in sweet-making or as goldsmiths are also facing hardship.

Gopal Chandra Paul, 77, said, "Almost every household here has been suffering from waterlogging for the last seven years. Earlier, the water used to drain out through land near Dhirajuddin's house to the west, but that area has been filled with sand. Now the water has no way to escape."

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## A beach on the verge of fading

Erosion threatens Shuvo Shondha beach,  
Tengragiri forest in Barguna

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Shuvo Shondha beach in Barguna's Taltali upazila, once a popular spot for its natural beauty, is gradually disappearing due to cyclones, tidal surges and unplanned development.

The beach, located at the estuary of the Bay of Bengal in the Nalbania area under the Nishanbaria union, is now facing continuous erosion that threatens both its landscape and the surrounding forest.

On one side of the beach lies the country's second-largest mangrove forest, Tengragiri, also known as Fatora forest, while the Bay of Bengal stretches along the other. But the shoreline has been retreating over the years, posing a serious risk to the forest. In the last eight years alone, nearly 180 hectares of forest land have been washed away.

Along with it, the tourism activities that grew around the beach have also been shrinking, with visitors gradually losing interest.

According to the Taltali range office of the Forest Department, Shuvo Shondha was inaugurated as a tourist spot in 2017 with 250 hectares of forest land. Between 2006 and 2023, casuarina trees were planted across 250 hectares to form a green belt along the coast. But from 2017 to 2025, about 100 hectares of that land have been lost to natural disasters, leaving only 150 hectares intact.

A recent visit to the area showed



waves eating into the soil around tree roots, causing them to collapse. Fallen trees now cover parts of the beach, taking away much of its natural charm. What was once a picturesque attraction is slowly being claimed by the sea.

Miraj, a visitor from Barguna town who came with his two sons, said, "Shuvo Shondha used to be mesmerising once. But now, giant waves are swallowing it day by day. Besides, there is no proper security arrangement for tourists."

Arifur Rahman, a local tourism entrepreneur, added, "The situation of Shuvo Shondha is dire due to erosion. Authorities should take immediate steps to protect the beach; otherwise, tourists will stop coming here. Moreover, there are no proper facilities for food and accommodation."

Matiur Rahman, range officer of Taltali Forest Department, said,

"Storms, floods, cyclones and continuous erosion are causing the gradual disappearance of Shuvo Shondha beach. It needs urgent protection, as the erosion is destroying its beauty and discouraging visitors. The matter has been reported to higher authorities."

Taltali UNO Umme Salma said a project has already been sent to the ministry through the Water Development Board to protect the beach. "Once approved, steps will be taken to save it. If necessary, geo-tubes will also be installed to prevent further erosion," she added.

Tarikul Islam, assistant conservator of forests of the Coastal Forest Department in Patuakhali, said, "Due to climate change and various natural and man-made causes, the forest land on this beach is disappearing. A large-scale afforestation project has been proposed in the coastal districts of Patuakhali and Barguna. If implemented, it will help protect Shuvo Shondha beach and the surrounding forest."



Fröbel Academy, a STEM-accredited Cambridge Associate inclusive school, hosted University Fair 2025 at its Ananya Residential Area campus in Chattogram yesterday, bringing together seven leading universities from Chattogram and Dhaka and 14 education consultancy firms to offer students insights into local and international academic pathways.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## Case filed over four deaths in Cumilla accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A case has been filed against the drivers of a Hanif Paribahan bus and a cement-laden lorry over the deaths of four members of a family in a road accident at Paduar Bazar in Cumilla.

The case was lodged by Abul Kalam, brother of victim Mohammad Omar Ali, with Cumilla Sadar South Police Station on Friday night, said Sub-Inspector Md Anisur Rahman of Mainamati Highway Crossing Police Station.

Following the accident, authorities have decided to close the U-turn in front of Paduar Bazar Palli Bidyut Samiti based on a joint recommendation from the army, highway police, and the Roads and Highways Department (RHD).

Until further notice, vehicles are instructed to use the Doyapur U-turn in Sadar South upazila.

Adnan Bin Hasan, sub-divisional engineer of the RHD, Cumilla, said, "On Sunday [today], a coordination meeting on road and communication issues will be held at the Deputy Commissioner's office, where a final decision will be made. For now, this U-turn will remain closed."

Four members of a family were killed on Friday when a container-laden lorry overturned onto their private car on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway in Cumilla's Paduar Bazar Bishwa Road area.

A Hanif Paribahan bus was seen coming from the wrong side of the road in the CCTV footage, Adnan said.

## Bihuranjan's autopsy Regional growth key to easing

FROM PAGE 3

Bihuranjan's younger brother, Chiroranjana Sarker, told The Daily Star, "We will wait for the final postmortem report. After completing all formalities here, we will take the body to Dhaka. It will first be kept at his Siddheshwari residence for some time and then cremated at Borodeshwari Kali Temple in Sabujbagh."

Asked about legal action, he said, "We have not yet made any decision. We will sit with all family members before deciding the next step."

Inspector Mohammad Saleh Ahmed Pathan of Kolagachia Naval Police Outpost said the body

would now be handed over to the family. "After that, further legal measures will be discussed with them."

Bihuranjan had left his Siddheshwari residence in Dhaka on Thursday morning. His body was recovered from the Meghna River the following day, around 3:45pm, at Balakir Char in Gazaria upazila of Munshiganj.

The 71-year-old journalist was serving as senior assistant editor at the daily Ajker Patrika. He went missing around 10:00am on Thursday after leaving his residence, and his family filed a general diary (GD) with Ramna Police Station later that night.

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safety measures, such as ensuring functional Central Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) and replacing old buses.

"Without concerted efforts, we cannot improve Dhaka's air quality," she warned.

Md Reazul Islam, chairman of Rajuk, said building a sustainable Dhaka is impossible without sustainable national development.

He called for an integrated development authority to oversee all urban development projects under a single framework for accountability.

In his keynote presentation, architect Iqbal Habib, founder partner of Vitti Sthapati Brindo Ltd, highlighted that 32 percent of

Bangladesh's urban population lives in Dhaka, but the city faces serious challenges including lack of greenery, heat stress, flooding, and waste mismanagement.

He recommended empowering the River Commission, ensuring balanced urbanisation, and completing proposed ring roads around Dhaka as key decentralisation measures.

He also noted that over-centralisation has contributed to problems such as flooding, waterlogging, poor waste management, urban pollution, and public health crises.

He further stressed the need for improved rural livelihoods to promote Dhaka's decentralisation. Adil Mohammed Khan, president of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, called

for extending Dhaka's development initiatives beyond the metropolitan area.

Md Shamsul Hoque, professor of civil engineering at Buet, criticised excessive focus on mega projects rather than effective public transport solutions.

Speakers also emphasised the urgent need for structural reforms, planned satellite cities, improved public transport, and rural development to reduce the influx of people to the capital.

Md Ashrafur Islam, chief town planner of Rajuk; Md Zahirul Islam, director of the Department of Environment (DoE); Liakat Ali Bhuiyan, senior vice president of the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB); M Abu Horaira, former vice president of DCCI; Dilbahar Ahmed, geographer and urban planner at DNCC; and Kazi Golam Nasir, former chief architect of the Department of Architecture at the Ministry of Housing and Public Affairs, also spoke at the event.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sub-Office in Cox's Bazar hereby announces the launch of the following tender:

TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION
BGD-UNHCR RFP 1649	FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FRAME AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF CUSTOMS CLEARANCE AND FREIGHT FORWARDING/TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR UNHCR OPERATIONS IN BANGLADESH

Interested and bona fide vendors are invited to participate in this Request for Proposal (RFP) by accessing and downloading the tender documents from **UNHCR Cloud ERP Supplier Portal**.

**UNGM Notice Link:** <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/276011>

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT:**

Please confirm your participation for **BGD-UNHCR RFP 1649** by using the "Acknowledge Participation" functionality in **Cloud ERP Supplier portal**. Please indicate whether:

- You are interested in participating in this RFP, or
- You are not interested in participating.

**Sending your confirmation above will enable to receive automatic email notifications from UNHCR with information on any changes related to this negotiation.**

**Pre-bid conference:**  
UNHCR will organize an online supplier pre-bid conference on **31/08/2025 at 10:00 hrs BST via Microsoft teams**. Name, organization name, email address and phone numbers of the company's representatives must be provided during Pre-Bid session.

**For Meeting link please visit:** <https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/unhcr/unhcr534.htm>

**Instruction to Bidders:**  
To register as a potential supplier, please refer to link as follows: <https://www.unhcr.org/media/guidelines-unhcr-suppliers-how-use-supplier-portal>

Existing suppliers use this link: <https://supplier-portal.unhcr.org/> to Log in with your email address and Password. Do not create a new profile if you already registered. Kindly Use the forgotten password feature in case you do not know/remember your password or username from previous registration.

**Bid submission deadline: Sunday, 21 September 2025 - 23:59 hrs. Bangladesh time.**

**Kindly note that no hard copy is acceptable. The offer to be submitted only through Cloud ERP portal.**

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ক্রমিক নং	বিবরণ	বিবরণ
১	দরপত্রের নাম	সেনা ক্রীড়া নিয়ন্ত্রণ বোর্ড (এএসসিবি), সেনাসদর, জেনারেল স্টাফ শাখা, সামরিক প্রশিক্ষণ পরিদপ্তর, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস।
২	কাজের নাম	ক। সেনা ক্রীড়া দলের খেলোয়াড়দের জন্য খাদ্য সামগ্রী ক্রয় (সিডিউলে বিস্তারিত বর্ণনা করা হবে)।
৩	দরপত্র বিক্রয় মূল্য	প্রয়োজনীয় ন্যূনতম অর্থ প্রদানপূর্বক সিডিউল সেনা ক্রীড়া নিয়ন্ত্রণ বোর্ড, সেনাসদর, জেনারেল স্টাফ শাখা, সামরিক প্রশিক্ষণ পরিদপ্তর এর অফিস হতে ক্রয় করা যাবে।
৪	জামানতের পরিমাণ	দরপত্র প্রদানকালে মোট টাকার ২.৫% টেন্ডার নিরাপত্তা জামানত হিসাবে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের তফসিলভুক্ত যে কোন বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক হতে ইস্যুকৃত অর্থনৈতিক ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/সে-অর্ডার সচিব আর্মি স্পোর্টস কম্প্লেক্স বোর্ড এর অনুমোদন জমা করতে হবে।
৫	দরপত্র ক্রয়ের আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে দাখিলযোগ্য সনদপত্রাদি (সুতরাং আন্তর্জাতিক সংস্থার নিয়মিত তালিকাভুক্ত সরবরাহকারীগণ উক্ত দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবে)	ক। সিডিউলে বর্ণিত প্রবন্ধের একক মূল্য, মোট মূল্য ও নিজ প্যাকেট আধিকারিত দরপত্র প্রদান করতে হবে। (সকল মূল্য বাংলাদেশী টাকায় উল্লেখ আশ্রয়কৃত)। খ। হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স এর ফটোকপি (সত্যায়িত)। গ। বৈধ টিআইএন সনদপত্র (ফর্মের হালনাগাদ ট্যাক্স প্রদানের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি)। ঘ। প্রস্তুতকারী কর্তৃক অর্থায়নপ্রাপ্ত পত্র (প্রমাণ ফর্ম)। ঙ। করিপরী তথ্য (প্রমাণ ফর্ম)। চ। সরবরাহকারী কর্তৃক পাত ০২ বঙ্গের একই ধরনের প্রবন্ধ সামগ্রী কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে সরবরাহ করে থাকলে সে বিষয়ে সনদপত্র।
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