

## MIRZARCHAR IN NARSINGDI

# 6 years on, flood shelter remains incomplete

JAHIDUL ISLAM, Narsingdi

The long awaited shelter centre for river erosion and flood affected residents in the char areas of Narsingdi's Mirzarchar under Raipura upazila remains incomplete, six years after the work began.

Construction of the Tk 3.5 crore building started in 2019 under the "Flood Shelter Construction Project." It was intended to serve as additional classrooms for Mirzarchar High School and provide shelter for flood victims during natural disasters.

But despite the passage of time, the project remains unfinished.

An on-site visit shows the doorless, windowless structure standing abandoned next to the Mirzarchar High School ground.

"We have tried to find the contractor several times, but he is nowhere to be found. If the work were completed, it would have been a great help to us. Now, it has become a safe haven for drug addicts," said Abdullah Al Mamun, 36, a local resident.



Kabir Hossain, union parishad member of Mirzarchar, said, "Although work started in 2019, it still remains incomplete. If finished, people could take shelter here, and livestock could also be saved."

Md Billal Hossain, headteacher at Mirzarchar High School, said, "Although the roof and walls have been built up to the third floor, many works are still pending. Once completed, the building will be extremely useful for classroom activities as well as for people during disasters."

Md Minhaj Khan, owner of the contracting firm Mamun Enterprise, said, "Since construction workers came from outside the area, local disputes caused problems in continuing the work. However, efforts will be made to complete it very soon."

"The project began in 2019 and was supposed to be completed by 2021. But despite repeated communications, the contractor did not respond. After sending written letters, they assured us that the work would be finished soon," said Jahangir Alam, upazila project implementation officer.

Contacted, Raipura UNO Md Masud Rana said the contractor has been instructed to finish the remaining work as soon as possible.



PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Farmers stack and dry jute sticks after soaking and stripping them of fibre. Once dried, the sticks are sold to middlemen. The photo was taken in the Char Majhardia area of Paba upazila, Rajshahi yesterday.

## KUAKATA'S CHAR GANGAMATI

# Crab, turtle conservation effort falters in 4 years

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A conservation initiative to protect red crabs and sea turtles at Kuakata's Char Gangamati beach has virtually vanished within four years of its launch, owing to poor monitoring and lack of enforcement.

On May 8, 2021, WorldFish established the sanctuary under the Ecofish-II project, declaring half a kilometre of Char Gongamati beach on the east side of Kuakata and another half kilometre at the confluence of three rivers on the west side as "red zones" to protect biodiversity.

The initiative, supported by the Kalapara upazila administration, Tourist Police Kuakata Zone, and the Tour Operators' Association of Kuakata (TOAK), aimed to ensure safe breeding for red crabs and turtle nesting. Motorbikes and tourist movement in the protected zone were restricted, and boundary markers

with signboards were installed to make the area visibly distinct.

However, within a year, the boundary fences disappeared. Without monitoring, motorbikes and tourists soon reclaimed the space.

At the time of the launch, Ecofish-II's assistant researcher in Patuakhali, Sagarika Smriti, said the sanctuary



would allow red crabs and marine turtles to flourish while offering tourists a rare glimpse of nature up close.

Speaking recently about the project's disappearance, Sagarika said, "I am no longer with the project, but we established the sanctuary

to conserve biodiversity. Had the Department of Fisheries taken charge, it could have lasted longer. The main reason it failed was the absence of monitoring."

TOAK president Ruman Imtiaz Tushar said, "No conservation effort survives here due to poor supervision. We need planned and sustainable initiatives."

Kalapara UNO (acting) and member secretary of the Kuakata Beach Management Committee, Yasin Sadek, said, "We will look into the matter and take necessary steps. Action against noise pollution will be taken immediately."

Patuakhali District Fisheries Officer Md Kamrul Islam said, "Ecofish never handed over the project to us. Moreover, sustaining such an initiative on an open beach is very challenging. If the fisheries department had been involved from the beginning, it could have yielded long-term benefits."

## Potato, papaya now only choice

FROM PAGE 3

Her husband does a small job, and most of their income goes to their children's education. "That's why we cannot buy much else."

For families like Kamala's and Munni's, survival now means relying on the cheapest food they can find. "We are just filling stomachs, not eating healthy meals anymore," Munni added with a sigh.

A visit to Shewrapara, Karipara, Mirpur II, Ibrahimpur and Karwan Bazar found many low-income families opting

for potatoes and papaya instead of other vegetables due to the soaring prices.

Mohammad Sabuj, a potato wholesaler at Karwan Bazar, said demand has increased because vegetables are too expensive. Potato prices have gone up slightly in recent days, selling at Tk 16-18 a kg in wholesale.

Meanwhile, papaya is becoming cheaper thanks to a good supply from Jashore and Manikganj, with wholesale prices now at Tk 13-17 a kg.

But while potatoes and papaya are still affordable, the prices of

other vegetables and daily essentials are shooting up.

Local onions rose to Tk 80-90 a kg after Indian imports stopped. Most vegetables, except potatoes and papaya, now cost Tk 70-120 a kg.

Protein sources remain out of reach for many. Beef sells at Tk 750-800 a kg, Sonali chicken at Tk 320-330, broiler chicken at Tk 170-190, and eggs at Tk 130-150 a dozen.

Fish prices are also high, with small indigenous varieties selling at Tk 800-1,200 a kg. Even in peak season, hilsa costs Tk 2,200-2,400 a kg.

## Disband Rab, ensure justice

FROM PAGE 3

there is a provision for the death penalty. As a human rights activist, I believe capital punishment is not a solution. It should be removed. Justice must be ensured, and perpetrators should instead face life imprisonment," she said.

Nabila Idris, a member of the inquiry commission on

enforced disappearances, said the commission has received over 1,800 complaints and found strong evidence in 250 cases in its second interim report, which has already been submitted.

She said disappearances occur due to systemic flaws and political use of law enforcement, and unless

these are addressed, the problem will persist.

Odhikar Director ASM Nasiruddin Elan,

International Crimes Tribunal Prosecutor SM Tasmirul Islam, Amar Desh Executive Editor Syed Abdal Ahmed, and family members of victims were also present at the event.

## Kurigram

FROM PAGE 3

Locals said despite its historical significance, no official steps have been taken to protect the site. Repeated appeals to the Department of Archaeology have gone unanswered.

"If preserved, this palace could be a major heritage tourism site," said Hrishikesh Roy, a teacher at Naodanga School and College. "It would give our youth a sense of history."

Visitor Meher Jamal from Rangpur added, "We travel to Mahasthangarh and Puthia for heritage. Naodanga is equally rich in story. If it vanishes, we lose memory itself."

Since the abolition of the zamindari system, influential locals have grabbed parts of the estate, further hastening its decline, he said.

Contacted, Kurigram Deputy Commissioner Nusrat Sultana said, "A letter has been sent to the Department of Archaeology seeking preservation of the zamindar palace."

## Waiting for a country

FROM PAGE 3

rights. Since a path has now been opened to establish that right, we must not put any obstacles in it."

"Now that the election roadmap has been announced, we believe the nation's expectations have been fulfilled. At this point, instead of welcoming it, showing any doubt about it will not be right," he continued.

"If there is any doubt, it should be resolved through discussion so the democratic journey becomes smoother and stronger," he said.

At the programme, Barrister Sara Hossain said, "A new law is being drafted regarding enforced disappearances. Hopefully, victims will now be able to seek justice under the law. This is an opportunity to expose injustices and crimes against humanity committed through enforced disappearances."

On the inclusion of the death penalty in the draft law, she urged the authorities to reconsider.

"Our experience with capital punishment has been very difficult. Many times, we have failed to

ensure sufficient legal grounds for awarding the death penalty. People often cannot rely on the system or be confident that the accused received adequate legal assistance. At times, the highest punishment was applied unjustly, leading to further injustice. That is why I urge the authorities to rethink its inclusion," she said.

Nur Khan Liton, a member of the inquiry commission, said, "We want to speak without disclosing the names of the perpetrators behind enforced disappearances. Meanwhile, over 300 victims have still not returned."

"We have found specific clues about who abducted the victims. There are indications of where the victims were kept. But after being kept there, who took them away remains unclear," he said.

"We hope that by this December we can deliver a full report on some of the victims of enforced disappearance. We will be able to show who abducted them, when and why they were abducted, and where they were taken," he added.

## RAJNAGAR IN MOULVIBAZAR

# Bamboo trade thrives at Kalarbazar

MINTU DESHWARA

Nestled on the edge of Kawadighi Haor in Rajnagar upazila of Moulvibazar, the Kalarbazar bamboo market has carried on a centuries-old tradition that continues to shape the region's rural economy and cultural identity.

Like any typical haat, the market offers a variety of goods, but bamboo remains its undisputed specialty, drawing traders, craftsmen, and contractors from across Moulvibazar and the greater Sylhet region.

On a recent visit, this correspondent found rows of long, medium, and short bamboo poles laid out on lowlands beside the Chandnighat-Haldigul road.

Abu Taher, a contractor from Moulvibazar town, said the market dates back over a hundred years, originally established to capitalise on waterborne trade along the Kushiara River and Kawadighi Haor.

Though roads have replaced much of the waterway traffic, water transport is still used, especially for larger hauls of bamboo.

Currently, around 25 to 30 bamboo traders operate in Kalarbazar year-round, with numbers

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

## Youth dies from electrocution in Demra

UNB, Dhaka

An 18-year-old youth died after being electrocuted while performing electrical work at a house in the Sarulia area of Demra in the capital yesterday afternoon.

The deceased -- Emon Hossain, son of Jahangir Alam -- was from the Lakaid area under Sadar Police Station in Sylhet.

He was found unconscious around 1:30pm and was taken to the emergency department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where doctors declared him dead.

Emon's wife, Shilpi Akhter, said her husband had gone to a house in Sarulia around noon to carry out electrical repairs. He was electrocuted and lost consciousness while connecting the electrical lines.

"We rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital after hearing the news, but the doctor told us that he was no longer alive," she said.

Inspector Md Faruk, in-charge of the DMCH police camp, said the body was kept in the hospital's morgue. "We have informed the local police station for further procedures," he added.

## July uprising paved

FROM PAGE 3

Mazhar praised the youths for their role in the uprising, saying they must now understand that no one can diminish or tarnish their achievements.

Moderating the discussion, Bangla Academy Director

General Prof Mohammad Azam said post-uprising Bangladesh stands at a historical juncture, with an opportunity to reshape the country as a welfare state.

He said the July uprising was different from previous revolutions in Bangladesh because it underwent "an intellectual journey" and carries greater potential for a "new Bangladesh".

Press Institute Bangladesh Director

General Faruk Wasif said the July uprising highlighted the aspiration to build a "new historic bloc" against regional hegemony.

He noted that the youths who led the uprising now find themselves cornered in "the politics of election".

However, he said, those who endured pellets in their bodies need to reorganise, transform themselves, and continue the struggle against regional hegemony and "remnants of internal fascism".

"Until it is done, there will be no victory of the force of the July uprising," he added.

Iftekhar Iqbal, associate professor at Universiti Brunei Darussalam, also spoke.

**প্রেস ইনস্টিটিউট বাংলাদেশ (পিআইবি)**  
৩ সার্কিট হাউস রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০

**গবেষণা প্রস্তাব আধ্বান**

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## Expanded dengue syndrome

FROM PAGE 3

kidney damage. Then he was admitted here and diagnosed with dengue."

Some patients, however, showed signs of recovery. Hasanuzzaman Antu, 25, of Mirpur-I, said, "I was admitted in critical condition with vomiting and bloody stools. But after three days of treatment, I am feeling better."

Similarly, Nabir Hossain said his fever had gone after five days in hospital, though he still felt weak. His wife, however, had just developed a fever on Wednesday. "I don't have fever anymore, but I feel very weak," he said.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 30,376 dengue cases and 23,102 hospitalisations

have been recorded across the country till August 28 this year.

Suhrawardy hospital alone has treated 231 patients, with two deaths reported.

Dr HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Suhrawardy, said while the total number of dengue patients in Dhaka is lower this year, the death rate is higher.

He linked this to a rise in expanded dengue syndrome (EDS), a severe form of the disease that damages vital organs such as the liver, kidneys, lungs, heart, brain, and central nervous system.

"These patients can deteriorate rapidly and die suddenly due to severe complications," Dr Ahsan warned, noting that

people with hypertension, diabetes, or chronic lung and kidney disease are especially at risk.

He said many patients fail to recognise early warning signs -- such as severe abdominal pain, breathing difficulty, bleeding, extreme weakness, or a sharp drop in urination and platelet count -- and only seek hospital care when it is too late.

Dr Ahsan recommended immediate hospitalisation for anyone with these symptoms, and early admission for vulnerable groups such as the elderly, pregnant women, and those with underlying health conditions.

"Patients with kidney or lung complications can recover in a few weeks if treated early," he said.

**Khulna University, Khulna**  
**Office of the Project Director**  
"Further Infrastructural Development of Khulna University (2<sup>nd</sup> Revised)" Project

Memo No : KU/FIDP-117/2024-176 Date : 28.08.2025

**e-Tender Notice No. 04/2025-2026**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of the Works	Online Tender Closing and Opening date
1137583	KU/FIDP-117/2025	Decorative Works with Landscaping at Central Mosque of Khulna University	15.09.2025 12:30

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 through any registered bank branches upto banking hours on e-GP system. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Signed  
(Dr. Md. Hasanuzzaman)  
Project Director  
"KU/FID (2<sup>nd</sup> Revised)" Project

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