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"Online classes will continue through December 4, and official notices regarding schedules and instructions will be issued accordingly. All on-campus examinations will remain halted during this period."

To facilitate students leaving Dhaka, the university administration arranged buses to seven divisional cities. The buses were scheduled to leave Dhaka this morning.

Irene Akhter, principal assistant at the Dhaka Medical College office, told The Daily Star that while the administrative office remains open, all classes and examinations are suspended. She added that instructions have been given for students to vacate the residential halls.

Notably, academic activities at DMC were previously suspended for 20 days in June-July this year following student protests demanding the construction of new buildings and the abandonment of risky academic buildings and hostels.

Meanwhile, following Saturday's closure announcement, Dhaka University students were ordered to vacate their halls by yesterday evening.

Visiting the campus yesterday morning, correspondents saw many female students leaving for their homes. Students were also seen leaving the male dormitories. However, those who had not yet left appeared to be in a dilemma.

Some students expressed frustration, citing difficulties due to the sudden instruction to vacate. Many mentioned tuition responsibilities and part-time jobs, questioning where they would stay during the closure.

The DU administration announced on Saturday that all classes and examinations would remain suspended until December 6, and all residential halls must be vacated for a comprehensive post-earthquake inspection, risk assessment, and renovation.

According to BBC Bangla, several schools in the capital, including Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, National Ideal School and College, Ideal School and College, Abdur Razzaque School and College, and Cordova International School & College, also suspended classes and exams yesterday.

Three earthquakes were felt in the country in the last three days. A powerful quake on Friday killed 10 people in several parts of the country, including Dhaka. At least 10 DU students were injured during the tremor.

PRAYER  
TIMING

NOVEMBER 24

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-05 12-45 3-45 5-21 7-00

JAMAT 5-40 1-15 4-00 5-24 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Bachchu Majumdar, 50, trims and cleans a date palm tree in preparation for winter. In a few weeks, he will begin collecting sap that will be sold for making molasses, jaggery, and various pithas. The photo was taken at Pattinibhangha village in Hija upazila, Barishal yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## CHAR MONTOLA IN KURIGRAM

# A village entirely devoured by the Brahmaputra

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Once a vibrant and self-reliant agrarian village with around 350 families, Char Montola, a shoal in Kurigram's Chilmari upazila, has disappeared from the map as the Brahmaputra devoured it entirely following two years of intensified river erosion.

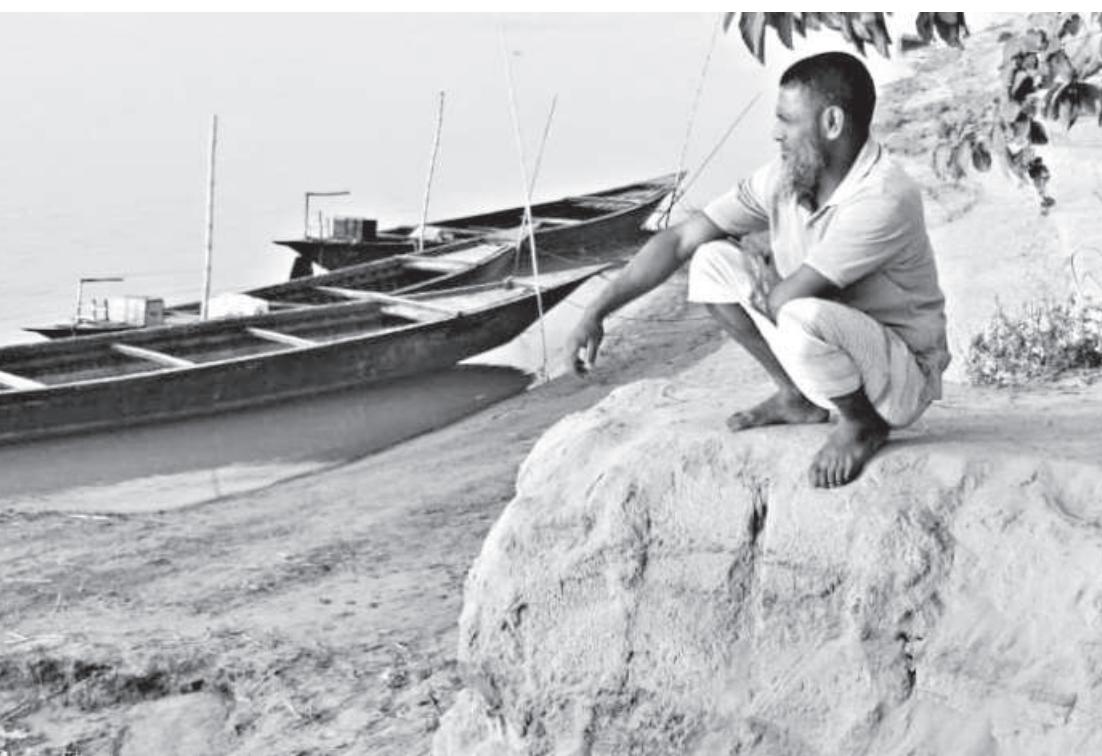
All homesteads, croplands, schools, and places of worship in the village now lies beneath the river's swirling currents, while over a thousand residents of the village have all become homeless, displaced and destitute.

Where lush paddy fields once spanned across 3,000 bighas, there is now only the unending rush of waves.

Many of the displaced families later took shelter on a newly emerged sandbar locally known as 'Manushmara Char', while others moved to relatives' homes or settled on different other shoals in the region.

"About 45 years ago, Char Montola emerged from the Brahmaputra. Nearly every family owned 6-10 bighas of land and lived well through farming. Erosion began two years ago, and on November 10, the last eight families in the village became homeless after the river devoured the last remaining portion of the shoal," said Sabidur Rahman, 85, an elderly resident of the village who had to move elsewhere.

Abdus Samad, 60, who lost all his 12 bighas of land, later relocated to Manushmara Char. "There are seven members in my



Char Montola was once host to over 350 families but has now disappeared completely, consumed by the Brahmaputra after two years of intense river erosion. More than 1,000 residents of the village have all become homeless, displaced, and destitute as a result. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

family, but there is no work here. The land is still not ready for cultivation. I don't know when we can return to a normal life," he said.

For many, the loss is not only material but deeply emotional.

"In Char Montola, everyone lived like family," said Rahima Bewa. "Now we don't even know where others have gone."

According to Chilmari Union Parishad Chairman Aminul Islam,

the village had a government primary school, three madrasas, and two mosques – all lost to the river's womb. While the school has been relocated, the religious institutions could not be rebuilt.

Prof Shafiqul Islam Bebu, convener of the Kurigram Char Development Committee, reiterated the longstanding demand for a separate ministry dedicated to development in shoal areas and reducing the

endless sufferings of shoal dwellers.

Rakibul Hasan, executive engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board in Kurigram, said there is no permanent allocation for protecting mid-river shoal lands.

"During emergencies, we place geo sand-bags to slow down erosion. The same was done for Char Montola, but it could not be saved," he added.

## Verdict of graft cases against Hasina on Nov 27

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people, including Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana, Rehana's son Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby, Rehana's daughters Azmina Siddiq and British MP Tulip Siddiq, is pending at the Special Judge's Court-4 of Dhaka, according to the prosecution.

The anti-graft body -- between January 12 to 14 -- lodged a total of six separate cases with its Dhaka Integrated District Office-1 over alleged irregularities in the allocation of plots under the Purbachal New Town project.

The ACC alleged that Hasina, in collusion with senior Rajuk officials, unlawfully secured six plots -- each measuring 10 katha, in the diplomatic zone of Sector 27 of the

Purbachal New Town project for herself, Joy and Putul; Sheikh Rehana, her son Radwan Mujib, and daughter Azmina despite their ineligibility under existing regulations.

On March 25, the ACC filed six charge sheets with the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka where Hasina was named as a common accused in all six cases.

## Honourarium for imams

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and muazzins, are "extremely logical".

He said BNP has never compromised on the core principles of Islam and would not do so in the future.

Tarique said BNP has always supported Islamic culture and remained vocal against activities that go against the

interests of Islam and Muslims.

He cited the vast network of religious institutions across the country, saying there are over 5,000 madrasas of different categories, including Qawmi, Alia, public, private and unregistered institutions, with millions of students studying there.

He also said around 3.5 lakh mosques employ 1 lakh imams, khatibs and muazzins who perform religious duties.

He said achieving sustainable development is impossible if millions involved in mosques and madrasas remain excluded from development initiatives, and BNP has adopted specific action plans accordingly.

## MORRELGANJ, SHARANKHOLA

## Delayed bridge work worsens sufferings

PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY, Bagerhat

Prolonged delay in construction of the Panguchi Bridge has been causing immense sufferings to around four lakh residents of Morrelganj and Sharankhola areas of Bagerhat.

A project to construct the bridge to connect both banks of the Panguchi river to the Signboard-Morrelganj-Rayenda-Sharankhola road was approved around three years back, but the project has yet to see implementation.

At present, only a handful of ferries and small engine boats are available for thousands of locals, including schoolchildren, workers, officegoers and patients to cross the river daily at much risk, especially during monsoon.

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw long queues were formed on both banks of the river while a single government ferry was operating to manage the surge of passengers, motorcycles, and goods. Nearby, small boats, many without life jackets or basic safety measures, were carrying schoolchildren, elderly passengers, and families across the river.



Shamim Ahsan, manager of Rupali Bank's Nager Bazar branch and a former resident of Morrelganj, recalled surviving a trawler accident on the river in 2017. "I narrowly survived the fatal tragedy," he said.

"Morrelganj remains cut off from the district headquarters largely due to absence of a permanent bridge on the river. After dark, crossing Panguchi becomes perilous. Patients often suffer due to delays in reaching the main hospital across the river," Ahsan added.

Masirul Rahaman Masum, a local journalist, said the prompt construction of the bridge is critical not just for connectivity but for overall development of the region.

"Sharankhola has enormous tourism potential as a gateway to the Sundarbans, and Morrelganj is a major agricultural zone. The bridge could transform the local economy by allowing quicker access," he noted.

Contacted, Md Asraful Islam Prang, executive engineer of Roads and Highways in Bagerhat, said the 1.44-kilometre Panguchi Bridge project was likely approved between 2021 or 2022.

"The project's estimated cost is Tk 912 crore, jointly funded by the government and the Kuwait Fund. The project's international tender, which drew bidders from China, Japan and other countries, is in its final stages with appointment of contractor expected soon," he added.

## We need a climate

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holistic, integrated climate solution for intra-migrants has been accepted."

"You cannot fight climate change with one or two isolated projects. If you don't start holistically from the beginning, you cannot simply add it later," she said.

She said several countries had expressed interest in the model. A landlocked African nation has already approached Friendship to replicate its hospital system and integrated development approach. Sharing their tools with national governments would bring greater impact than organisational expansion, she said.

Regarding the use of the prize money, Runa said Friendship had identified areas where its integrated model needed strengthening. The immediate priority was restoring mangroves in the southern coastal belt, which remains Bangladesh's first and strongest line of defence.

"We are not building massive dykes. We don't have that kind of money, and no one gives us that much," she said.

She said mangroves protect biodiversity, create income for local communities and, above all, save lives. With much of Bangladesh only a few metres above sea level, even a one-metre rise poses severe risks without natural protection. The funds will support reforestation and community-led protection work along the coastline.

Asked about global attention and scaling, Runa said Friendship had never believed in expanding for numbers alone. "We work, we expand, then we stop. We strengthen our roots, and only then do we move

forward again. Our vision is not on growth but on depth and quality. That is what ensures sustainability," she said.

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Calling young people the "real population" of the country, Runa urged them to safeguard their energy and purpose. "They have courage and hope, but they are often used by others. Do not let yourselves be used. Be careful. You must come first."

"If they could lead a movement like they did last year, they can take it upon themselves to save the world. My hope and my pride are with them," she added.

Earlier yesterday, Friendship organised an event titled Pride for Bangladesh, a Celebration with the Media.

Friendship Chairman Salauddin Ahmed, Senior Director and Head of Climate Action Kazi Amdadul Hoque, and Director and Head of Communications Tanjina Sharmin spoke at the event alongside Runa Khan.

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স্মারক নং- ২৭, ২১, ১৯৩০, ৬৯১৮, ০৫২২, ২৫, ৮৮

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার শ্রিন্মতি, কুমিল্লা দ্বারা আওতাধীন নিয়ন্ত্রিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টেলে প্রকাশিত  
হয়েছে।

| ID      | Package No                     | Title of Works  | Last date & time of document selling | Last date & time of security submission |
|---------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1163918 | eT:gmd/cum/ Cumilla N/25-26/01 | Various tower leg maintenance and tower leg painting work of 132 KV Daudkandi Line of 230/132/33 KV Cumilla (N) Grid Substation under GMD, Power Grid, Cumilla. | 17 Dec 2025<br>at 15:00              | 18 Dec 2025<br>at 11:30                 |

|         |                                |   |                         |                         |
|---------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1163927 | eT:gmd/cum/ Cumilla N/25-26/02 | Store Building roof Corrugated CI sheet Replacement at Cumilla (N) Grid Substation, GMD, Power Grid, Cumilla. | 17 Dec 2025<br>at 15:00 | 18 Dec 2025<br>at 11:30 |
|---------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|

|         |                                |  |                         |                         |
|---------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1166850 | eT:gmd/cum/ Cumilla N/25-26/04 | Installation of a new IP camera set for the 230/132/33 KV Cumilla (N) Grid Substation under GMD Cumilla. | 03 Dec 2025<br>at 15:00 | 04 Dec 2025<br>at 11:30 |
|---------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|

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অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোঃ জসিম উদ্দিন

নির্বাচী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, কুমিল্লা