



"I will permanently pause migration from all Third World Countries to allow the US system to fully recover."

Trump writes on social media after troop killed

The Daily Star

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5yrs on, no building regulatory body yet

HELEMUL ALAM

Five years after the revised Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) was gazetted, the government has yet to establish the dedicated national authority meant to enforce it, leaving much of the country's urban structures largely unregulated.

The BNBC-2020 mandates the formation of a Bangladesh Building Regulatory Authority (BBRA) to ensure building safety, fire protection, seismic resilience, quality materials, and professional accountability.

But no such body has



materialised.

Instead, the previous government made deputy commissioners heads of district-level building committees -- an arrangement experts say contradicts the code and has proved ineffective.

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- Code mandates design approvals, third-party vetting, construction monitoring
- Previous govt put DCs in charge of district building committees, which experts say violates code, undermines enforcement
- Current govt formed committee to set up regulatory authority
- Experts doubt if authority will be set up within this govt's tenure or if next govt will prioritise it

BNP opens doors to expelled leaders ahead of polls

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

To strengthen unity among grassroots leaders ahead of the national election, the BNP has reopened its doors to leaders it had previously expelled for violating party directives and damaging the party's image.

Over the last month, the party reinstated nearly 240 leaders who had been removed from their posts for joining local government polls during Awami League's tenure, campaigning for AL candidates, or engaging in criminal activities.

Documents show that 70 percent of those reinstated had contested local government polls against party instructions. The rest were removed over criminal offences (7 percent).

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Khaleda's condition 'very critical'

Says Fakhrul; Yunus wishes her speedy recovery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health condition of BNP Chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia is "very critical", said party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday.

He urged the nation to pray for her recovery.

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus has also expressed deep concern over her condition and called for prayers.

Khaleda was admitted to Evercare Hospital on November 23 on the advice of her medical board after being diagnosed with infections in her heart and lungs.

She is also suffering from pneumonia and is currently receiving treatment in the hospital's Coronary Care Unit (CCU) under the supervision of both local and foreign specialists.

Khaleda, 80, has long been suffering from multiple health



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The struggle to cope with rising salinity, depleting sweet water, and diminishing livelihoods continues on the frontlines of climate change in the rural south west. This is the 3rd of a 5-part series.

The salt in their wounds

Women in coastal Bangladesh suffer severe reproductive health problems from rising salinity

WASIM BIN HABIB, back from Satkhira, Khulna

For nearly a decade, 45 year-old Shima Biswas caught shrimp fry to support her family, wading through knee- to waist-deep brackish waters of the Chuna River near the Sundarbans.

During low tide, she would remain in the salty water for hours, gathering fry she could sell for Tk 250-350 on good days.

It was in these long, salt-soaked hours that a small rash first appeared on her body. Shima ignored it.

But within weeks, the itch spread and she also developed persistent vaginal discharge, recurring Urinary Tract Infections and lower abdominal pain, often accompanied by fever at night.

"I was embarrassed to tell anyone," she said, sitting in a corner of her narrow veranda.

A local doctor urged her to stop working in saline water, but she felt she had no choice. "What would we eat? I've done this for years. My husband's income isn't enough."

She continued to work until the



pain became unbearable. Upon being taken to a clinic in Satkhira's Shyamnagar upazila, her tests showed tumours in her ovaries and uterus.

A year ago, her uterus was removed. "I returned to the water for work for a while but now I cannot."

Her neighbour, Shita Rani Mandal, in her late 40s, faced a similar fate. Years of standing in saline water caused repeated infections leading to uterine prolapse.

"I'd tie my saree like a lungi before getting into the river," she said. Her husband has long been

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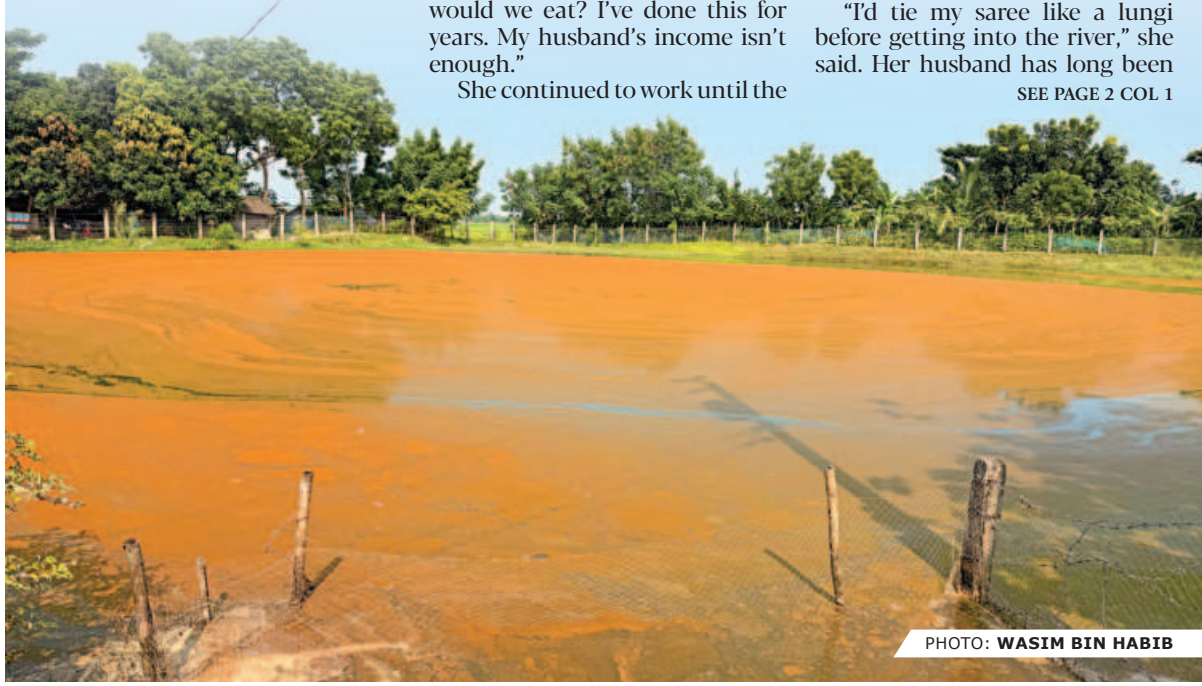


PHOTO: WASIM BIN HABIB

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*Participation is by invitation only.

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