NANIARCHAR IN RANGAMATI

Pineapple chips plant shut for five years

RIKORS CHAKMA, *Rangamati*

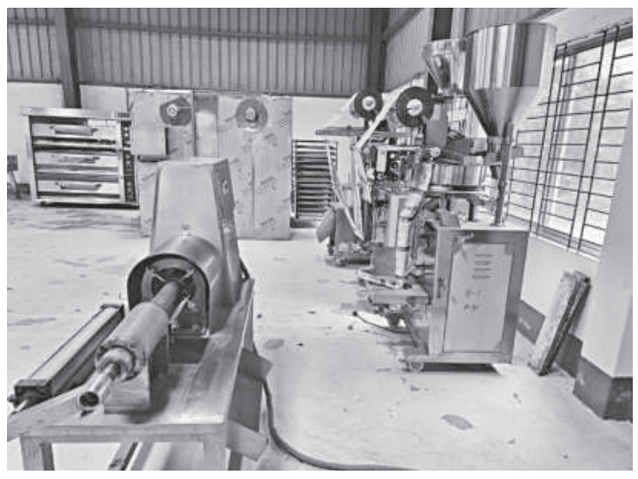
A pineapple chips processing facility in Naniarchar upazila of Rangamati has remained shut since 2021, a year after it was launched.

Naniarchar is widely known as a regional hub for pineapple cultivation, but local farmers often have to sell their produce at low prices due to inadequate marketing and storage facilities.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension, the plant was set up at Naniarchar Horticulture Centre under the "Year-Round Fruit Production for Nutrition Improvement Project" at a cost of Tk 40 lakh to process excess produce into pineapple chips and support local farmers.

After construction was completed in 2020, pineapple chips were produced at the facility on a trial basis until the project expired in June 2021. It has remained closed since then.





The factory was set up at Naniarchar Horticulture Centre at a cost of Tk 40 lakh to process excess produce into pineapple chips and support local farmers. PHOTO: **STAR**

During a recent visit, the facility was found padlocked, with machinery inside covered in a thick layer of dust. Several parts were rusting, electrical wiring was hanging loose, rainwater was entering through holes in the roof, and plaster had peeled off the floor.

Md Ismail Hossain, a pineapple grower from Bogachhari, said wholesalers mostly buy large pineapples, leaving smaller ones to go to waste.

"If the plant were functional, these smaller pineapples could have been processed into chips and marketed, preventing wastage and bringing in some earnings for us," he said.

Another grower, Md Hanif, urged the authorities to resume the plant's operations.

Md Jobaidur Rahman Bhasani, horticulturist at Naniarchar Horticulture Centre, said the plant was run on a trial basis several times in 2020 following its installation.

"However, it could not be kept operational later due to a shortage of technically trained manpower. Prolonged closure left the factory's equipment in a deplorable state," he said.

"Senior officials have inspected the facility, and efforts are underway to explore if operations can be resumed through public or private initiatives," he added.

Md Mahbubur Rashid, deputy director of Rangamati Horticulture Centre, said, "We are consulting with senior officials and stakeholders across various sectors on how to make the plant operational. Several entrepreneurs have contacted us in this regard."

Md Moniruzzaman, DAE deputy director in Rangamati, said reviving the factory through government or private enterprise would benefit local pineapple growers and create employment for youth.

Driver arrested over murder of Cumilla girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Cumilla*

Police have arrested a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver in connection with the murder of Jannatul Tazmin, a class 7 student, in Lalmai upazila of Cumilla.

Sumon was held at his brother's house in Chattogram yesterday, said Lalmai Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mizanur Rahman.

Police launched an investigation after recovering an abandoned CNG-run auto-rickshaw near the spot where Tazmin's body was found on Thursday. Later in the night, they took the vehicle's owner, Abul Hashem, to the police station for questioning.

The victim's father, Abdul Alim, filed a murder case with Lalmai Police Station, accusing unidentified individuals.

During the investigation, police identified Sumon, a resident of Joynagar in Lalmai, as the driver of the auto-rickshaw at the time of the incident.

They also detained his aunt-in-law and brother-in-law for questioning.

Tazmin's body was recovered from a paddy field in Jagatpur village of Lalmai upazila on Thursday morning. A CNG-run auto-rickshaw and a bag were also found near the spot. She was a student at Farida Bidyayatan in Cumilla.

3 more die with measles symptoms

Death toll now 1,147

UNB, *Dhaka*

Three children died with measles-like symptoms in the 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday, bringing the country's combined tally of confirmed and suspected measles-related deaths to 1,147 this year.

The total number of suspected measles deaths has reached 1,043, while confirmed deaths from measles have remained the same at 104.

A total of 1,268 new suspected measles cases were reported during the 24-hour period, taking the cumulative number of suspected cases nationwide to 2,02,893.

Meanwhile, 81 new confirmed measles cases were recorded, pushing laboratory-confirmed infections to 22,197.



PHOTO: **STAR**

As Padma closes in, school braces for worst

At least 100 students have left; teachers prepare for possible relocation

JAHID HASAN

Around 17 years ago, a char (shoal land) emerged in Purba Naodoba union of Shariatpur's Zajira upazila. A village called Alam Kha Kandi grew on it, and in 2017, the No 122 Altaf Hossain Khan Government Primary School was built there on 33 decimals of land.

At the time, the Padma river was nearly two kilometres away, out of sight from the school gate. But successive bouts of erosion over the past two years have brought the river to within just 50 metres of the school building.

Teachers, students and residents now fear the school could meet the same fate as neighbouring Painpara Government Primary School and Rizia Amin Government Primary School, which were swallowed by the river in 2024 and 2025 respectively.

During a recent visit, the edge of the school field and several trees were seen crumbling into the river. Nearby, the roof of a building already claimed by the river lay tilted against the shore.

Inside the school, tin fencing had been dismantled to allow for quick relocation if needed. Classroom partitions had been removed and ceiling fans taken down.

"Our school could be taken by the river at any time. If it happens, we won't be able to study here anymore. It feels very scary. Where will we study then? We want measures to protect our school," said Borna Akter, a fourth-grader.

Teacher Naimur Rahman Khan said fear of erosion had already driven at least 100 students away.

"We also always have to remain alert, because the school is at risk," he said.

Altaf Hossain Khan, the school's founder and union parishad chairman, said the area had been facing erosion for years. "We have repeatedly requested the Bangladesh Water Development Board to take action, but nothing has been done," he said over the phone.

Md Milton Hossain, executive engineer of the BWDB in Shariatpur, said the erosion at Alam Kha Kandi had been reported to higher authorities, but the Ministry of Water Resources was not currently taking emergency measures in char areas.

He said no NOC had been sought from the BWDB before the school was built on the char. Neither the district nor the upazila education department had informed his office that the school was at risk, he added.

"Even so, I will visit the area and take the necessary measures, subject to permission from higher authorities," he said.

Zajira Upazila Primary Education Officer Bazlur Rahman said preparations were underway to relocate the school before further erosion.

Idol makers race against time as Durga Puja nears

FROM PAGE 3

However, artisan Shubho Mondal said prices of traditional dhaks had fallen from Tk 10,000-15,000 last year to Tk 9,000-12,000 this year.

Joy Saha, a local resident shopping for puja, said rising prices had forced him to buy only essential items.

Chandan Dey, president of Tantibazar Puja Committee, said 22 mandaps across Shankharibazar and Tantibazar would host Durga Puja this year. "We are making every effort to complete the preparations in time, including security measures," he said.



PHOTO: **COURTESY**

Participants at the closing ceremony of a two-day BCDP Knowledge Conference 2026 in Dhaka on October 8. Mohammad Navid Safiullah, additional secretary (climate change), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, chaired the event. Also present were Dr Md Habibur Rahman, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank; Akira Matsunaga, deputy country director of the Asian Development Bank's Bangladesh Resident Mission; Dr Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, former member of the Independent Technical Advisory Panel of the Green Climate Fund; and AKM Sohel, additional secretary and UN wing chief at the Economic Relations Division. The conference called for coordinated efforts to mobilise climate investments and turn policy commitments into bankable projects.

Mahalaya today

FROM PAGE 3

Til-tarpan offering seeking eternal peace of departed souls of ancestors will be held at 7:30am while Mahalaya ghat installation and special prayers will be offered at 9:00am on the premises of the national temple, he added.

Besides, Ramna Kali Mandir will also host a large-scale Mahalaya celebration in at dawn, said Mintu Basu, a joint secretary of the temple management committee.

Dhaka University Jagannath Hall Upashanalaya chief priest Sadhan Chakrabarty said Goddess Durga will arrive on a horse and depart by boat this year. Her departure by boat traditionally signifies abundant crops and rainfall.

The most popular attraction of Mahalaya is recitation from the Sree Sree Chandi and singing devotional songs, highlighting the power and supremacy of Goddess Durga over all evil forces.

The sonorous recorded voice of legendary narrator and radio broadcaster Birendra Krishna Bhadra from Akashbani was once the main attraction of the day. Now similar programmes are aired on many broadcasting media.

The recorded version of Mahishasura Mardini (destruction of the demon king Mahishasura) is customarily played at predawn on Mahalaya day in every Bangalee Hindu residence everywhere.

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e-Tender Notice No: 44/2026-27
(Limited Tendering Method)

Memo No: EE/EED/Ctg/e-Tender/2026-27/44 Date: 08.10.2026

This is to notify all concerned that e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of following works. Details are given below:

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01	1345153	7016-SHED/2026-27/SL-06	SHED-7016/LOT-06: CONSTRUCTION OF VERTICAL EXTENSION OF EXISTING ACADEMIC BUILDING (1ST & 2ND FLOOR) IN/C. SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT RAHMATPUR HIGH SCHOOL, SANDWIP, CHATTOGRAM. (2025-26) (VE-0203-CS-BRICKS CHIPS) RMS ID-1053534	25-Oct-2026 16:00	26-Oct-2026 12:00
02	1345154	7016-SHED/2026-27/SL-07	SHED-7016/LOT-07: CONSTRUCTION OF VERTICAL EXTENSION OF EXISTING ACADEMIC BUILDING (3RD FLOOR) IN/C. SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT BIJOY SMARANI COLLEGE. SITAKUNDA, CHATTOGRAM. (2025-26) (VE-04-CS-BRICKS CHIPS) RMS ID-1053751	25-Oct-2026 16:00	26-Oct-2026 12:00
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The interested persons/firms may visit website (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) to get the details of the Tender. 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 portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information & guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP Helpdesk; (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-2456

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Cumilla
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Memo No. 46.02.1900.000.07.427.26.7062 Date: 08-10-2026

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1	LGED/GOBM/CUM/26-27/RW-36	Periodic Maintenance of Shantirbazar-Pipodda Rd. from Ch 1000m - Ch 1720m (Road ID: 419874130) under NANGALKOT Upazila, District: Cumilla.	1347480	27-Oct-2026	28-Oct-2026	LTM
2	LGED/GOBM/CUM/26-27/RW-34	LGED/GOBM/CUM/26-27/RW-34 Periodic Maintenance of Kolomiya (RHD) to Jadoppur Amin Master House -Mataincoat Road from Ch 00m - Ch 1120m (Road ID: 419925071) under LALMAI Upazila, District: Cumilla.	1347482	27-Oct-2026	28-Oct-2026	LTM
3	LGED/GOBM/CUM/26-27/RW-33	Periodic Maintenance of Nurpur bazar (R&H) - Changahata R&H road from Ch 2000m - Ch 3050m (Road ID: 419924010) under LALMAI Upazila, District: Cumilla.	1347483	27-Oct-2026	28-Oct-2026	LTM
4	LGED/GOBM/CUM/26-27/RW-32	Periodic Maintenance of Nurpur bazar (R&H) - Changahata R&H road from Ch 00m - Ch 2000m (Road ID: 419924010) under LALMAI Upazila, District: Cumilla.	1347484	27-Oct-2026	28-Oct-2026	LTM
5	LGED/GOBM/CUM/26-27/RW-29	Periodic Maintenance of Badhanathpur Baythurnoor Zama Mosque - Shibnagar GPS via Battola Bazar from Ch 0m - 1100m and Ch 00m - 645m (Road ID: 419885044) under MEGHNA Upazila, District: Cumilla.	1347487	27-Oct-2026	28-Oct-2026	LTM
6	LGED/GOBM/CUM/26-27/RW-27	Periodic Maintenance of Shibnagar-Baidanathpur Bazar Road. from Ch 00m - Ch 225m (Road ID: 419885015) under MEGHNA Upazila, District: Cumilla.	1347489	27-Oct-2026	28-Oct-2026	LTM
7	LGED/GOBM/CUM/26-27/RW-25	Periodic Maintenance of Simpur Uzir Digir Parchimpar to Comilla-Rasulpur Road via Shimpur Mosque. from Ch 00m - Ch 727m (Road ID: 419675228) under CUMILLA-S Upazila, District: Cumilla.	1347491	27-Oct-2026	28-Oct-2026	LTM
8	LGED/GOBM/CUM/26-27/RW-24	Periodic Maintenance of Rasulpur High School to Jariyanagar rail crossing Road. from Ch 00m - Ch 935m (Road ID: 419675106) under CUMILLA-S Upazila, District: Cumilla.	1347492	27-Oct-2026	28-Oct-2026	LTM

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The Tender Notice will be available on the website: www.lged.gov.bd and www.lged.comilla.gov.bd

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