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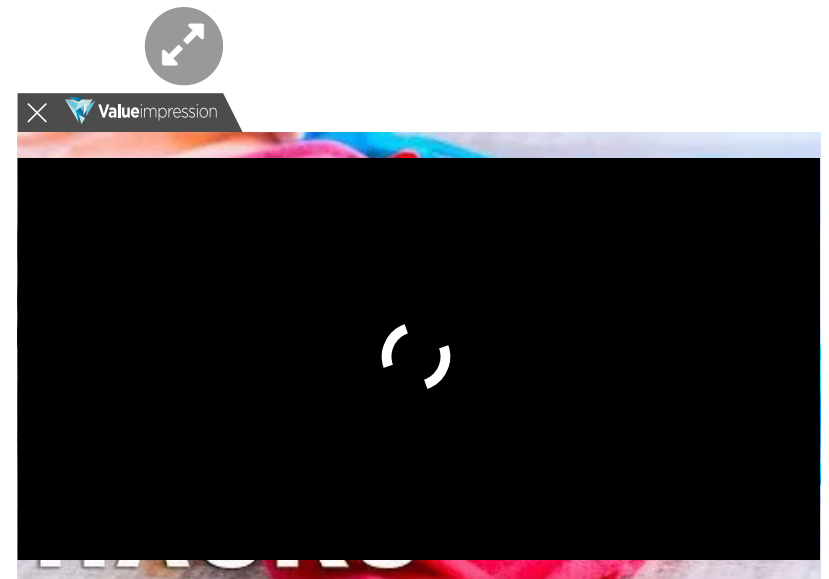
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Concrete chunks fall from ceilings at school

The building of the lone high school in Madhabpur union under Kamalganj upazila was declared risky two months ago





Heavy chunks of concrete fell from the ceiling in this teachers at Madhabpur High School in Moulvibazar's on Saturday evening. Photo: Star

Our Correspondent, Moulvibazar

Students and teachers were unscathed at Madhabpur High School in Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila on Saturday evening when large chunks of concrete and plaster from ceilings in three rooms came off at the school building.

Serious injuries or fatalities could be averted as the school was closed for Durga puja when the incident took place.

This is the only high school in Madhabpur union, inhabited mostly by tea garden workers, and the only centre for PEC and JSC examinations in the union.

The school building had been declared risky by district education engineer two months ago, said Assistant Engineer Mofizul Islam at Department of Education Engineering in Moulvibazar.

One of the three rooms on the building's ground floor, where ceilings sustained damage, was being used as teachers' room while the other two on the same floor were classrooms.

Construction of the two-storey building was completed in 1995 and a number of cracks developed in it four to five years ago, said the school authorities.

Monir Mia, a guardian of a student, said they were worried about the students' safety as they also noticed many cracks on the school building.

Abdus Sobhan, the school's headteacher, said they continued academic activities at the risky building after being unable to find any substitute facility.

Upazila nirbahi officer and upazila secondary education officer have been asked to ensure that test examinations for SSC students, scheduled to start at the school on Saturday, are conducted safely.

Contacted, Kamalganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Ashekul Haque said they will ensure that the examinations are conducted at the school building.

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