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Buildings in dilapidated condition

Primary schools housed in 56 cyclone shelters may collapse

PATUAKHALI, Aug. 3:—Primary schools housed in the 56 cyclone shelters have been posing threats for the young learners due to lack of maintenance and repair, reports UNB.

Local guardians said these cyclone shelters in a dilapidated condition and some of them may collapse at any moment causing fatal accidents.

About 20 years ago 80 cyclone shelters were built in Patuakhali region to save the people from cyclone and flash flood of the Bay.

Of the total shelters, four each were built in Sadar and Bauphal thanas, one in Mirzaganj thana; nine in Dashmina thana, 22 in Kalapara thana and the rest 40 in Galachipa thana.

Of them, seven were built by Red Crescent Society, two by Karitus and 71 by World Bank. Of these shelters, 56 were used as schools for primary education.

It is alleged that since the construction of these buildings, no repair work was undertaken. As a result, the roofs, doors, windows and plasters of the schools are in a bad shape.

Salinity in water

Salinity of water has increased to a great extent in southern part of the country causing great inconveniences to the farmers.

Local people said over the last two and a half years salinity water has affected the crop and afforestation in Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali, Jhalakathi and Pirojpur districts.

According to a report, in 1984 salinity in water in this part of the country was about 18,000 microsus centimetre which increased to 42,000 microsus centimetre in 1992. The percentage of water salinity in the region has increased by about 45 per cent over the past five years.

It is reported that increased salinity in water affected the crop production and afforestation in various places of the region.

According to experts, salinity of water has increased due to the poor discharge of water at the Farakka which has worried the general people and farmers in particular of the region.