

## 20 Patuakhali schools, madrasas under river erosion threat

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, *Patuakhali*

Around 20 educational institutions in the district are in danger of being washed away as the rivers are eroding large areas during the rainy season.

Twelve of the institutions are in Mirzaganj upazila; three in Sadar upazila, two in Dashmina, and one each in Baufal, Kalapara and Dumki upazilas.

Piprakhali Government Primary School, Sundra Kalikapur Government Primary School, Charkhali Government Primary School, Charkhali Somobay High School, Islamabad Dakkhil School, Rampur Siddiqia Fazil Madrasa in Mirzaganj upazila are

under threat of erosion.

Rampur Siddiqia Fazil Madrasa

has already been shifted three times to escape erosion.

Around four months ago, the authorities concerned auctioned

Sundra Kalikapur High School and

Purbo Rampur Government Primary School in Mirzaganj upazila as sections of the school

buildings collapsed into the Payra

river. The schools have been shifted

to other places.

Headmaster of Piprakhali

Government Primary School

Gosnarea Begum said the school

building is only 10 to 15 feet away

from the Payra river and is in dan-

ger of being devoured by the river.

Guardians and teachers are

worried about the situation, and

Rampur Siddiqia Fazil Madrasa

attendance of students has

Auliapur Government Primary

School in Dashmina upazila, and

Upazila Assistant Education

Ranirhat Government Primary

Officer Marium Parvin said they

have requested the school commit-

tee to shift the school to a safe place

as soon as possible.

"We also sent a letter last week to

the Local Government Engineering

Department, seeking immediate

steps over the matter," she added.

Nimdi Government Primary

School in Baufal upazila is only 10

to 15 feet away from the Tenuila

river, while Hatemia Dakkhil

Madrasa, Fultala Government

Primary School and Vajna

Government Primary School in

Hasanuzzaman said they have sent a draft project proposal of Tk 331

to the higher authorities for

Madrasa, Fultala Government

building a 4.50-km-long dyke to

protect the area from erosion. Work

will start in the next dry season after

getting approval, he added.