

# Students at risk

## *Galachipa Girls' High School building is in very bad shape*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Students at Galachipa Girls' High School in Galachipa town of the district are attending classes amid risk as the school building is in a very bad shape.

The plaster has fallen-off from many places and iron rods are sticking out from the walls. Rainwater enters inside the building that has become unfit for use due to lack of renovation for long.

The school was set up in 1961, while its one-storey academic building was built in 1965. The first floor was built in the 1980s as the number of students increased. Now, there are around 650 students and 22 teachers in the institution.

Raisa Amin, a Class X student, said chunks of plaster often fall from the ceiling, so they cannot pay attention to their studies, adding that rainwater enters the building and they are afraid that it might collapse any time.

Ani Kawsar, a Class VII student, said their education is being greatly hampered due to the awful condition of the building, adding that the school authority should take immediate steps to renovate the building considering the interest of the students.

Md Kawsar, a guardian, said he remains worried until his daughter returns from school.

There are eight classrooms and a computer lab in the school, and all are under risk of breaking down, said, Salma Sultana, a teacher. Along with the students, teachers are also afraid due to the risky building, she added.

Patuakhali Education Engineering Department (EED) sent a letter to the school authorities on April 2, asking them not to use the schoolhouse due to its bad condition. They asked the school authorities to continue academic activities at another place and also to demolish the school building.

A team from Galachipa municipality also visited the school on April 18, and they too requested the school authorities not to use the building.

Headmaster Abdul Halim said they are constructing a tin-shed schoolhouse to continue their activities on a temporary basis.

EED Executive Engineer Md Asaduzzaman said they have asked the authorities concerned not to use the building, adding that they are planning to construct a new building.

Construction of the new building will start after getting allocation, he added.