

Students suffer due to incomplete building

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Around 160 students of Narendrapur Government Primary School in remote Narendrapur village under Mymensingh's Nandail upazila have long been suffering, as construction of the school's new building has remained incomplete for the past two years.

The construction of the school building was started in December 2022 by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and was scheduled to be handed over in December 2023, said school sources.

As a result, the students are compelled to continue their classes in four classrooms of the old tin-shed building amid many inconveniences. None of the classrooms have ceiling fans, as the ceilings are too low for installation, leaving the students to endure sweltering heat during classes.

The school, established in 2011 and nationalised in 2013, is the only primary school for children from Narendrapur and Phulbaria villages, said locals.

They alleged that the contractor and the LGED authorities have been negligent in completing the construction work on time.

"Academic activities are being hampered due to the lack of classrooms in the tin-shed building while the new building lies incomplete. Students are suffering a lot, attending classes amid the heat in small classrooms with no ceiling fans," said Sultana Razia, headteacher of the school.

"We contacted the officials concerned on numerous occasions, but no steps have yet been taken to expedite the construction work," she added.

Elma Akanda, a fifth-grader, urged that the construction work be completed and the new building handed over as soon as possible.

Fazilatun Nesa, upazila primary education officer in Nandail, said, "We have contacted the officials concerned, including the LGED upazila engineer in Nandail, and urged them to complete the construction work soon, but no specific reasons behind the delay have been provided yet."

Denying any negligence, Md Abdul Malek Biswas, LGED engineer in Nandail upazila, said they have recently asked the contractor concerned to complete the school building and hand it over within a month to mitigate the sufferings of the students and teachers.

Sarmina Sattar, upazila nirbahi officer of Nandail, said necessary steps will be taken in this regard soon.