

# Flood turns vast arable land sandy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Vast tracts of fertile arable land in the villages of the Brahmaputra, Teesta, Dharla, Dudhkumar and Gangadhar river basin areas in Kurigram and Lalmonirhat have been covered with sand carried by floodwater.

According to Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) officials, about 10,000 bighas of arable land at around 90 villages in the two northern districts have been covered by sand, much to the worry of around 3,000 families mostly dependent on the land.

Sixty-three-year-old farmer Abdul Quader of Sardob village in Holokhana union of Kurigram Sadar upazila, said that he was very worried about the livelihood of his six-member family as his three bighas of arable land have been covered by sand carried by the floodwaters.

Due to the situation, many are trying to find alternative sources of income to maintain their families, he said, adding

that Sardob is a remote area where agriculture is the lone source of income.

‘Huge sand deposit has turned over 300 bighas of arable land in the village unfit for cultivation,’ he also said.

Farmer Nazer Ali, 65, of Bogurapara village in Garialdanga union of Rajarhat upazila in Kurigram said that more than 1500 farmer families of Garialdanga union have been affected as 3,000 bighas of arable land lie fallow because of sand deposit.

Different types of crops mainly paddy used to be cultivated on the land but now lying barren, he said.

‘We don’t know how we will manage our livelihood,’ he said.

Saher Ali, 58, a farmer from Falimari village in Mogholhat union of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said that he has no choice but to idle away his time as his four bighas of arable land are under the sand.

‘Sands carried by floodwaters from the upstream covered my arable lands, and I don’t know how to remove the

sand from my fields,’ he said.

‘It is not possible to remove sand manually,’ he said adding that it is not possible to grow any crops on the sand filled land.

‘I have no alternative to farming crops for my livelihood. I’m trying to remove the sand from the land manually but it needs huge labour and time,’ said Mobarak Hossain, 60, a farmer from Begumganj village in Kurigram’s Ulipur upazila.

Manjurul Haque, deputy director (DD) of DAE in Kurigram, said that a vast tract of arable land in different areas has become sandy because of the prolonged flood this year. The farmers cannot cultivate any crops until the sand is removed from the lands, he also said.

Farmers are being advised to cultivate pumpkin and groundnut on the sand-covered lands,’ the DD said adding that some farmers were trying to remove the deposit of sand manually but the majority of them kept their land fallow.



This year's prolonged flood has covered vast farmlands with sand, worrying farmers. The photo was taken from Sardob village in Kurigram Sadar upazila recently.

PHOTO: STAR

## NEWS

### Elephant

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Since 2001, the country has lost 138 elephants for various reasons, mostly electrocution and shooting.

Monirul H Khan, wildlife biologist and a professor of Zoology at Jahangirnagar University, told The Daily Star that elephants can recognise threat and the source of threat from odour within a short time and can “avenge the killing of their mates”.

### Argentina

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ethnic cleansing.

The International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court are separately investigating the genocide case.

The case in the Argentine court includes the particular situation of six women who were raped, tortured and in many cases their husbands and children killed during that genocidal campaign in Rakhine.

“This is a day of hope not just for us Rohingya but for oppressed people everywhere. The decision in Argentina shows that there is nowhere to hide for those who commit genocide -- the world stands firmly united against these abhorrent crimes,” said Tun Khin, president of BROUK.

“This is not just about accountability for Rohingya but for everyone who has suffered under the Myanmar military’s brutal reign. This includes the thousands killed, injured, tortured or disappeared since the coup in February this year.”

The case in Argentina will cover the full range of crimes committed against the Rohingya in Myanmar, unlike the ICC case, which is limited to only crimes that have at least partially been committed on Bangladeshi territory.

Investigations by BROUK’s legal team will begin immediately. If those responsible refuse to heed summons to attend Court hearings in Argentina, BROUK will reach out to international criminal justice bodies such as Interpol for issuing arrest warrants.

A key part of the process will be to ensure that Rohingya victims themselves can testify in Argentina.

Archaeologists

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the State University of San Marcos.

The remains are of a person who lived in the high Andean region of the country, he said.

“Radiocarbon dating will give a more precise chronology.”

The mummy was found inside an underground structure found on the outskirts of the city of Lima. In the tomb were also offerings including ceramics, vegetable remains and stone tools, he said.

Peru is home to hundreds of archaeological sites from cultures that developed before and after the Inca Empire, which dominated the southern part of South America 500 years ago, from southern Ecuador and Colombia to central Chile.

### Ex-MP Papul’s sentence final

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh Ambassador to Kuwait Maj Gen Md Ashikuzzaman said he was yet to receive any official communication from Kuwait authorities on the court ruling.

Asked if such a verdict affected the relationship between Kuwait and Bangladesh, he responded in the negative.

“Yes, an individual case can create bad impression, but this is not going to affect our bilateral relationship.”

In January this year, a Kuwaiti criminal court sentenced Kazi Papul, former independent lawmaker from Lakshmipur-2, to four years in prison and ordered him to pay a fine of KD 1.9 million, prompting the Jatiya Sangsad to revoke his membership.

The defendants then went to the appeal court, which increased the fine to Kuwaiti Dinar 2.7 million (Tk 76 crore) and the imprisonment to seven years. They then sought a review and the appeals court gave the final verdict yesterday.

Papul was charged with receiving money from thousands of Bangladeshi workers in return for sending them to Kuwait through

a company -- Marafie Kuwaitia Group -- he managed with illegal assistance from Kuwaiti officials.

He was also accused of labour exploitation and violation of the residence law.

He has reportedly amassed KD 5 million (Tk 141 crore) worth of assets in the Gulf country, reported Gulf News.

The Kuwaiti public prosecution contested the rulings handed down to the prime defendant and convicted accomplices and demanded tougher penalties.

Papul went to Kuwait in 1989 as a worker and eventually started working as a recruitment broker and later established multiple overseas recruitment agencies.

He had no involvement in politics at home before 2016.

He became an MP in 2018. His wife Selina Islam became an MP from the reserved seats for women.

The Anti-Corruption Commission of Bangladesh earlier this year opened an enquiry into an allegation that Papul amassed Tk 1,400 crore by illegal means.

### Bangladesh will stand by India

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the international boundary.

CHINA CRITICISES INDIA

Chinese Vice-Premier Li Hsien-Nien today criticised India and said, “India is carrying out subversive activities and military provocations against East Pakistan, the tension in the Subcontinent has been aggravated.

He added, “It is all the more impermissible for a country, under any pretext, to employ large numbers of armed troops to willfully cross its own border and invade and occupy another country’s territory. The Chinese government and people resolutely support the Pakistan government and people in their just struggle against foreign aggression and

in defense of their state sovereignty and national independence.”

He called upon India to pay serious consideration to President Yahya Khan’s proposal for withdrawal of forces from border.

ON THE WAR FRONT

Mukti Bahini killed 12 Pakistani soldiers today when they repulsed an enemy attack in Barkhai area of Mymensingh district. During this operation two freedom fighters were martyred. Mukti Bahini raided the Police Station in Netrakona town and killed six West Pakistani Police personnel.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com.

### Khaleda has liver cirrhosis

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She has had heart failure, low haemoglobin, diabetes, chronic kidney disease and some other complications.

“That’s why we are suggesting that she be taken abroad [for treatment]. There might come a time when moving her will be difficult or impossible.”

Responding to a question, he said, “If she could have gone abroad four months ago, she would not have to face life-threatening bleeding.”

Siddiqui said Khaleda’s condition is now stable but might deteriorate anytime in case of more blood being passed.

He said they now feel very helpless over Khaleda’s current condition due to the lack of technology to treat her.

Siddiqui said when she was admitted to the hospital, she went into shock as her blood pressure and pulse dropped abnormally.

Khaleda passed blood on November 13, 17, and 23 and but now there is no bleeding.

“The chances of re-bleeding in next week is 50 percent and 70 percent within next six

weeks.”

She has long been suffering from arthritis, diabetes, as well as dental and eye problems. The 76-year-old former premier was admitted to Evercare Hospital on November 13 and moved to the CCU the following day, nearly a week after she was discharged from the same healthcare facility.

The BNP chief was sent to jail on February 8, 2018, in a corruption case. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, she was given temporary release on certain conditions on March 25 last year. The term of her release has been extended four times so far.

Meanwhile, Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday told parliament that Khaleda was now free as she was not in the government’s custody.

“She [Khaleda] is free. She is not in our or the government’s custody. She, staying here, can definitely receive treatment anywhere according to her will. And she is doing so.”

He said this while responding to BNP MP Rumeen Farhana after she said Khaleda was still in the government’s custody.

### Demo for

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announced the nine-point demand on behalf of students at Dhanmondi-27 on Saturday, was interrogated at Mohammadpur Police Station.

She was accompanied by her father during the interrogation as she was still under the age of 18, the student told The Daily Star. The police had asked her to go to the station to verify some information. They were allowed to leave at 7:00pm.

A man named Hafiz, 30, was providing water to the protesting students and had asked the Holy Cross student for her mobile financial services account number, claimed Abdul Latif, the officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station.

She told police that Hafiz had only asked for her phone number and not her MFS number, Latif said, adding that Hafiz was picked up for interrogation to check his involvement in the movement.

Hafiz is still in custody. The police move did not go down well with the agitating students, who have taken to the streets following the death of Notre Dame College Nayeem Hasan. Nayeem was run over by a Dhaka South City Corporation garbage truck on Wednesday.

Anyone can help the students if they express solidarity with the movement for safer roads and discounted fares for those still studying, they said.

### 2 dead, 4 missing as 81 migrants saved off Canary Isles

AFP, Madrid

Two migrants died and another four went missing off the Canary Islands on Saturday as Spanish rescuers came across a boat in trouble while returning from an earlier rescue, the coastguard said.

After a long night at sea in bad weather, the Salvamento Marítimo lifeboat returned to Arguineguin port in Gran Canaria just after sunrise carrying 81 survivors and one body, while its rescue helicopter brought back another body.

A Salvamento spokesman said the alert came in on Friday about a boat in trouble about 150 nautical miles south of Gran Canaria, with the Guardamar Polimnia rescuing 46 sub-Saharan Africans, all of them men.

“When it was on its way back to Arguineguin, it found another and as it was approaching to help, the boat overturned and people fell into the water,” he told AFP.

The lifeboat crew managed to pull 35 people to safety, all of them North Africans but also found the body of a person who had died, while a Salvamento rescue helicopter found another, he said.

### Slap travel ban, limit gatherings

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Botswana, Israel, Australia and Hong Kong.

Among these, Bangladesh has direct flights with only the UK.

Countries across Europe, Asia and the Americas have imposed curbs on people’s movement and issued travel bans on southern African countries.

“It is a matter of great concern. Transmission will definitely rise if we do not adhere to the health rules,” Mohammad Shahidullah, president of the National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) told reporters after yesterday’s meeting.

The NTAC also recommended free Covid tests to encourage more people to get tested.

The government currently charges Tk100 for each PCR test while the private laboratories charge Tk 3,000.

After the NTAC meeting, Prof Meerjady Sabrina Flora, additional director general (planning and development), said, “We will inform you of our decision soon. We are watching the global situation. The information we received indicates that the variant spreads faster, but its severity is not that high.”

She said screening procedures at airports, land ports and seaports have been strengthened.

About preparedness at hospitals, she said, “Oxygen supply is an important issue. We have been working on it.”

The spread of the Delta variant in May caused the number of new cases and deaths to soar until the end of July, forcing the government to impose strict restrictions. The government lifted those on August 19.

Since then, the health safety guidelines have been largely ignored.

The health directorate yesterday reported 205 new cases and three deaths across the country.

“The way to prevent the virus is to maintain health safety rules irrespective of the variant. But the number of mass gatherings and people going outdoors without masks have increased,” Prof Flora told reporters.

The government has so far inoculated only 20.81 percent of the population with two shots, and 33.46 percent got the first shot.

DGHS CIRCULAR

The health directorate has requested everyone concerned to implement precautionary measures in response to the spread of new Omicron variant in different countries.

In a circular issued last night, the DGHS asked for strengthening the health checkups and screening at the ports for the passengers coming from Omicron-affected countries, including South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Eswatini, and Lesotho.

“All types of mass gathering [social, political, religious and others] has to be discouraged,” read the circular signed by Prof Nazmul Islam, director (disease control) at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

It said restaurants and recreation places should be at half capacity.

The DGHS also urged people to maintain health safety guidelines at all places, including educational, religious establishments, and offices.

### Chattogram Test on knife-edge

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Bangladesh will surely look to post as big of a target as possible. However, it will be a tough task against a world-class pace bowling attack of Pakistan.

Much like in the first innings, where Bangladesh was 49 for 4, Bangladesh top-order once again failed miserably as the Tigers were reeling on 25 for 4. Left-arm seamer Shaheen Afridi once again tested the skills of the Bangladesh top-order and dismissed Shadman Islam (1), Najmul Hossain Shanto (0) and Saif Hasan (18) who were intimidated by some quality fast bowling. Skipper Mominul Haque also failed to soak the pressure and played a loose shot to get dismissed by another seamer Hasan Ali on duck.

Earlier, resuming the day on 144 without loss, Pakistan was all-out for 246 on their

first innings inside the first two sessions. Taijul, who picked up his ninth five-wicket haul in Tests, ended up with figures of seven for 116, which became the best figures by a Bangladeshi against Pakistan. Pacer Ebadot Hossain also bowled well to bag two wickets and provide good support to Taijul from the other end.

Taijul started off the day by breaking the 146-run opening stand, dismissing opener Abdullah Shafique on 52 and was on a hat-trick after he trapped Azahar Ali for a leg-before on a duck, to revive hope for the hosts.

Opener Abid Ali went on to smash his fourth Test hundred and was dismissed on 133 while Faheem Ashraf’s 38 runs was the other significant contribution for the visitors with the bat on a day dominated by bowlers from both teams.

### Gazipur mayor Zahangir sued

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the plaintiff alleged that Zahangir was not respectful to law, despite being a mayor. He made derogatory comments on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Liberation War martyrs on September 13.

The comments went viral on Facebook. It has jeopardised the image of the country and countrymen in the international arena. Being aggrieved by the incident, the plaintiff has filed the case, according to the case statement.

Taking the case into cognizance, the court directed Gazipur’s Gacha Police

Station to investigate the allegations and submit a report by January 30 next year.

On November 25, the Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Ministry suspended Zahangir from the mayoral post following several allegations that include illegal land grabbing, not compensating people after taking over land for development and working against the public interest.

On November 19, Zahangir was expelled from Awami League for his controversial comments on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Liberation War martyrs.



**Corrigendum Notice**

Ref: 30.34.0000.073.28.000.21/75Date: 28/11/2021

It is notified for all concerned that, the following amendments are hereby made in the Career Opportunity as well as vacancy for the post of Captain Boeing 777 and First Officer Boeing-777 & 737 of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. floated vide office memo no. 30.34.0000.073.28.000.21.69, 70 & 71 Date: 22/11/2021:

Name of the Post	Existing No.	Amended No.
Captain Boeing 777	06	05
First Officer Boeing-777	15	10
First Officer Boeing 737	04	02

All other terms and conditions of the advertisement shall remain unchanged. This corrigendum shall be deemed as integral part of the advertisement.

Manager Recruitment & Staffing.