



Throughout the region, only roads can be found rising above the water, while almost all the establishments and croplands lie under it. As a result, villagers build makeshift solutions, like this line of sandbags, to get to their inundated homes from the main roads.

PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVO

Half a decade under water

1.5 lakh people of Bhabadah region suffer from perennial waterlogging

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, back from Jashore

Around 120 villages in the Bhabadah region in Jashore and Khulna are still under water, even as winter marches. Not only are the croplands belonging to the 1.5 lakh people of this region flooded, even their homesteads are under waist-to-knee deep water. “Our homes have been under water for half a decade. Our lives are just an endless series of misery,” said Shefali Biswas of Dahar Mashihati village under Monirampur upazile of Jashore. She said while water recedes a little bit during winter, it never disappears completely, putting homes like Shefali’s tin-roofed residence, which is under knee deep water even after it’s built at three feet height from the ground. Their cowshed is also built in high to avoid the inundation. “I have no way to cultivate paddy in my three-bigha land, which is under five-to-six feet water,” said Swaran Biswas of Sujatpur village in Monirampur. “I’m forced to lease out the space for fish farming for Tk 140,000 per year, although this is not a satisfactory amount.” “Since we can’t farm our crop lands, nor do we have to money to buy feed, we can only feed our cattle with water hyacinths,” said Khokon Mandol, of Dahar Mashihati village.



Ranojit Bauali, convener of Bhabadah Pani Niskashan Sangram Committee, said the situation worsened this year after the heavy rains of September. “Even my house [at Dumurtola village in Abhaynagar] is still under knee-deep water,” he said. The Bhabadah region comprises of around 52 beels in Jashore Sadar, Abhaynagar, Monirampur, and Keshabpur upazilas of Jashore and Dumuria upazila of Khulna. These areas, especially villages adjacent to the beels, remain largely inundated, especially during the rainy season. The water logged villages in Jashore fall under Kultia, Nehalpur, Haridaskati, Manoharpur and Dhakuria unions of Monirampur upazila; Sundali, Cholisia, Prembag and Payra unions in Abhaynagar upazila; Durbadanga union in Keshabpur upazila; while from Khulna some parts of Dumuria upazila are still under water, said Ranojit.

During a recent visit to Monirampur and Abhaynagar upazilas, this correspondent found that only the roads in these villages were above the water, while almost everything else was inundated. People were seen using small boats or bamboo or coconut tree-made single line bridges to reach their homes from the roads. However, for an area so marooned, heavy activity was seen at large fish farms of the area. According to Anil Biswas, adviser of the Bhabadah Pani Niskashan Sangram Committee, the Mukteshwari, Tekka, Hari, and Sree rivers, which originate mainly from the Bhairab, pass through the Bhabadah region carrying excessive sediment and deposit this on the riverbed during high tide. Once the riverbed rises, so does the water level of the surrounding beels, which blocks drainage in the region, leading to the whole region becoming waterlogged. Experts and local activists say tidal river management (TRM) approach, proven to be the most effective way of relieving waterlogging in similar regions, is ignored by the Water Development Board (WDB). Through this approach, an embankment is built around a beel,

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Port city to get HC circuit bench this year

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said a circuit bench of the High Court will soon be established in the port city this year, as the chief justice has taken the matter into consideration. Circuit benches are established in different regions to deal with cases of those areas, and in the process, help ensure swift legal procedures. “The prime minister also wants a circuit bench in Chattogram city. A formal announcement will be given soon in this regard,” he said. He was speaking virtually as chief guest in the annual get-together of Chattogram District Bar Association. The event was held at the Chattogram court building area. Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel and Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Barrister Sheikh Fazle Nur Taposh also joined the programme virtually as special guests.

REMOVAL OF HALL PROVOST

Protests rage on at Sust

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Students of a female dormitory at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) in Sylhet continued their protests yesterday, demanding removal of the hall’s provost. Students of Begum Sirajunnesa Hall started demonstrating on Thursday night after the provost Zafrin Ahmed Liza allegedly “misbehaved” with a student when she approached the provost with some problems. Besides her removal, the students said they also demand a student-friendly hall provost committee and resolving mismanagement at the dormitory. After beginning the demonstrations on Thursday, the students returned to their rooms that night, as the VC assured them of meeting their demands the next morning. However, the authorities are yet to meet all three demands, said the students, adding that they will continue protests until they are met. On Friday, a representative of the students met the VC. After the meeting, protesters claimed that the authorities have not fulfilled their conditions and as such, they gave a 24-hour ultimatum. Sust VC Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed claimed that they have resolved some problems relating to mismanagement on Friday. Meanwhile, as provost Zafrin Ahmed is on leave due to illness, Prof Zubaida Kanak Khan has been assigned as temporary provost of the hall, said the VC. The VC also said, “I’ve assured students of resolving their problems soon. But some are trying to blow it out of proportions for unknown reasons.” Zafrin did not respond to the phone calls made by this correspondent.

PRAYER
TIMING
JAN 16



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5:30	12:45	4:00	5:36	7:00
Jamaat	6:05	1:15	4:15	5:40	7:30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

Two brothers killed in road accident

UNB, Feni

Two brothers were killed and two people were injured when a private car hit a tree beside Dhaka-Chattogram highway near BSCIC Industrial area in Feni yesterday. The deceased are Biplob (32), an assistant teacher of Mirsarai Sasarat Government Primary School, and his brother Tushar (40), an expatriate. Police said the car carrying the brothers rammed a tree when its driver lost control over the steering, leaving them dead on the spot. The driver and another passenger sustained injuries. Tushar had gone to Dhaka for treatment. The accident occurred while they were returning from there. Meanwhile, four people were killed in road accidents in Mymensingh and Rajshahi on Friday. In Mymensingh, three bikers were killed and another injured when a truck hit their motorcycle on China intersection in Shambhuganj. Babu Mia (25), Yasin Ali (18), and Ripon Mia (20) died on the spot, said police. In Rajshahi, biker Firoz Hossain (16) was killed after his bike collided with a pick-up van around 11am.



For some time, construction work has been going on at Khulna city’s KDA Road area. While that’s a burden by itself, that the work is underway occupying the footpath is spelling additional misery for pedestrians on a busy street. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

COVID CURBS

Mobile courts slap fines, but many still apathetic

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram District Administration yesterday conducted mobile courts in the port city to enforce health guidelines to curb Covid-19 transmission. At Pahartoli Bazar and Alankar intersection, 12 people were fined a total of Tk 4,400 for violating health guidelines, said Executive Magistrate Subal Chakma, who conducted the drive. Meanwhile, people were still seen showing apathy towards following health rules. Many were seen without face-masks in different areas. Public vehicles were carrying passengers beyond their seat capacity, defying the government instruction. Besides, public vehicles were sparse at Anderkillah, Jamal Khan, Sholashahar Gate-2, Muradpur, Bahaddarhat, Oxygen, Laldighir Par, New Market and Chawkbazar areas. Many office goers said they faced difficulties while going to workplaces, as number of vehicles on the road was not enough. DC Mominur Rahman said they will continue the drives.

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Khark Road, Jashore-7400
E-mail: principal.mmc.jessore@gmail.com



Corrigendum of Invitation for Tender e-Tender Notice 03/2021-22

Memo No. CEDP/GMMC/2021-2022/W-02/100 Date: 16/01/2022

The undersigned has to inform that due to unavoidable circumstances Memo No. CEDP/GMMC/2021-2022/W-02/079, Date: 10/01/2022 of e-Tender (**Package-W-02** & package name: Renovation of Classrooms, office room, washrooms, library and Laboratory) are revised as follows:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of goods	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	646791	Renovation of Classrooms, office room, washrooms, library and Laboratory Package-W-02	26-01-2022 1:00pm	26-01-2022 2:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 25/01/2022, 4:00pm. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). All other things of published IFT (Reference No. CEDP/PMU/P/IDG-1020/75/2019-1611, date: 27.12.2021) will remain unchanged.

Prof. Morzina Akter
Principal (In charge)
Govt. Michael Madhusudan College, Jashore
Phone: 0421-68554/68564

GD-91