

PM Calls for Eco-Friendly Solutions to Tackle Riverbank Erosion

Vetiver grass adopted as a nature-based solution to protect rivers, canals and infrastructure

SOURCES INCLUDED

- The Daily Star — thedailystar.net
- The Business Standard — tbsnews.net
- Bangladesh Post — bangladeshpost.net
- The Daily Ittefaq — en.ittefaq.com.bd
- RTV News — rtvonline.com
- Daily Times of Bangladesh — tob.news

PM Chairs Meeting on Vetiver Grass Initiative



Prime Minister Tarique Rahman chairs a meeting at the Cabinet Division, Secretariat, on the use of vetiver grass to protect riverbanks and canal embankments.

ENVIRONMENT

*Directs authorities to expand use of vetiver grass to protect rivers,
canals and transport infrastructure*

PRESENTATION BY

Prof. Muhammad Shariful Islam

Pro-Vice Chancellor, BUET

UNB, Dhaka

6 August 2026, 15:35 PM | Updated 15:35 PM

PM calls for eco-friendly solutions to tackle riverbank erosion

www.thedailystar.net

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today stressed the need to adopt innovative and environmentally sustainable solutions to tackle riverbank erosion and directed the authorities to move forward with the use of vetiver grass to protect rivers, canals, embankments and transport infrastructure.

He gave the directive while chairing a meeting at the Cabinet Division in the Secretariat on the use of vetiver grass for protecting riverbanks and canal embankments, Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Shahadat Shadhin said.

At the meeting, Muhammad Shariful Islam, pro-vice chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) and a professor in the university's Department of Civil Engineering, gave a presentation on the use of vetiver grass as an environmentally friendly and sustainable alternative to concrete blocks and geo-blocks.

He highlighted its potential to prevent erosion of riverbanks and canal embankments, protect coastal dykes, stabilise roads in char and haor areas, and safeguard roadsides and railway embankments.

The presentation said vetiver grass could provide an effective, durable and eco-friendly solution to erosion. It also noted that the grass has already been used experimentally at several locations across the country with encouraging results.

The meeting also discussed implementing the initiative on a larger scale through dedicated projects.

The prime minister appreciated the innovative and environment-friendly initiative and instructed the relevant ministries and agencies to take the necessary steps for its implementation.

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Commerce Minister Khandaker Abdul Muqtadir, Water Resources Minister Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam, State Minister for Water Resources Farhad Hossain Azad, State Minister for Railways Habibur Rashid, Prime Minister's Principal Secretary ABM Abdus Sattar, Additional Press

Secretary Atikur Rahman Rumon, and senior officials from the relevant ministries and divisions attended the meeting.

ENVIRONMENT

To protect the environment, the use of vetiver grass should be implemented to combat riverbank erosion

PRESENTATION BY

Dr Muhammad Shariful Islam

Pro-Vice Chancellor, BUET

UNB

6 August 2026, 15:15 PM | Updated 17:10 PM

PM calls for eco-friendly riverbank erosion solutions, warns against river pollution

www.tbsnews.net

Highlights:

- *PM directs strict action to curb pollution in the Buriganga and other rivers surrounding Dhaka.*
- *Authorities asked to adopt vetiver grass as an eco-friendly solution to prevent riverbank erosion.*
- *Meeting identifies untreated industrial effluents, poor sewerage, and solid waste as key pollution sources.*
- *BUET expert says vetiver grass has shown encouraging results in pilot projects across Bangladesh.*

Warning that river pollution has reached an alarming level, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today (6 August) instructed the authorities to take strict and coordinated measures to protect the Buriganga and other rivers around the capital.

He also directed the implementation of innovative and environmentally sustainable solutions to tackle riverbank erosion.

Describing the situation as alarming, he said, "If we fail to take effective measures now, we will have to answer to future generations."

He made the remarks while chairing a meeting on the "Improvement of Water and Environment of the Buriganga River" at the Cabinet Division conference room in the Secretariat.

The meeting reviewed the environmental condition of the Buriganga, Turag, Balu, Shitalakkhya and other rivers surrounding Dhaka. It also discussed the major sources of pollution, existing challenges and long-term solutions, identifying untreated industrial effluents, inadequate sewerage and drainage systems, declining canal navigability, and poor solid waste management as key concerns.

Tarique Rahman also instructed the officials concerned to move forward with the use of vetiver grass to protect rivers, canals, embankments and transport infrastructure while

chairing another meeting at the Cabinet Division in the Secretariat on the use of vetiver grass for protecting riverbanks and canal embankments, according to the PM's Deputy Press Secretary, Shahadat Shadhin.

At the meeting, Dr Muhammad Shariful Islam, pro-vice chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) and a professor in the university's civil engineering department, presented the use of vetiver grass as an environmentally friendly and sustainable alternative to concrete blocks and geo-blocks.

He also highlighted its potential to prevent erosion of riverbanks and canal embankments, protect coastal dykes, stabilise roads in char and haor areas, and safeguard roadsides and railway embankments, noting that the grass has already been used experimentally at several locations across the country with encouraging results.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURE

*PM directs authorities to adopt vetiver grass to protect rivers, canals,
embankments and transport infrastructure*

PRESENTATION BY

Dr Muhammad Shariful Islam

Pro-Vice Chancellor, BUET

Bangladesh Post Report

6 August 2026, 4:30 PM | Updated 4:30 PM

PM calls for green solutions to prevent river erosion

bangladeshpost.net

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Thursday directed the authorities to adopt innovative and environmentally sustainable measures to tackle riverbank erosion, with a particular focus on using vetiver grass to protect rivers, canals, embankments and transport infrastructure.

He gave the directive while chairing a meeting at the Cabinet Division in the Bangladesh Secretariat on the use of vetiver grass for erosion control, according to Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Shahadat Shadhin.

Arabs & Middle Easterners

During the meeting, Dr Muhammad Shariful Islam, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and a professor of the Civil Engineering Department, presented the potential of vetiver grass as an eco-friendly alternative to concrete blocks and geo-blocks.

He said the grass could help prevent erosion along riverbanks and canal embankments, strengthen coastal dykes, stabilise roads in char and haor areas, and protect roadside and railway embankments.

Online newspaper subscription

The presentation noted that vetiver grass offers a durable, cost-effective and environmentally friendly solution to erosion and has already produced encouraging results in pilot projects carried out at several locations across the country.

The meeting also discussed expanding the initiative through dedicated projects.

Appreciating the innovative approach, the Prime Minister instructed the relevant ministries and agencies to take the necessary steps for its wider implementation.

The meeting was attended by Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Commerce Minister Khandaker Abdul Muqtadir, Water Resources Minister Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam, State Minister for Water Resources Farhad Hossain Azad, State Minister for Railways Habibur Rashid, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister ABM Abdus

Sattar, Additional Press Secretary Atikur Rahman Rumon and senior officials from the relevant ministries.

BANGLADESH

*PM asks authorities to move forward with vetiver grass to protect rivers,
canals and embankments*

PRESENTATION BY

Dr Muhammad Shariful Islam

Pro-Vice Chancellor, BUET

UNB

6 August 2026, 16:54 PM | Updated 16:54 PM

PM calls for eco-friendly solutions to tackle riverbank erosion

en.ittefaq.com.bd

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Thursday stressed the need for adopting innovative and environmentally sustainable solutions to tackle riverbank erosion and asked the authorities to move forward with the use of vetiver grass to protect rivers, canals, embankments and transport infrastructure.

He gave the directive while chairing a meeting at the Cabinet Division in the Secretariat on the use of vetiver grass for protecting riverbanks and canal embankments, said PM's Deputy Press Secretary Shahadat Shadhin.

At the meeting, Dr Muhammad Shariful Islam, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) and a professor of the university's Civil Engineering Department, made a presentation on the use of vetiver grass as an environmentally friendly and sustainable alternative to concrete blocks and geo-blocks.

He highlighted its potential to prevent erosion of riverbanks and canal embankments, protect coastal dykes, stabilise roads in char and haor areas, and safeguard roadsides and railway embankments.

The presentation said vetiver grass could provide an effective, durable and eco-friendly solution to erosion. It also noted that the grass has already been used experimentally at several locations in the country with encouraging results.

The meeting also discussed implementing the initiative on a larger scale through dedicated projects.

The Prime Minister appreciated such innovative and environment-friendly initiatives and instructed the relevant ministries and agencies to take the necessary steps for their implementation.

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Commerce Minister Khandaker Abdul Muqtadir, Water Resources Minister Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam, State Minister for Water Resources Farhad Hossain Azad, State Minister for Railways Habibur Rashid, PM's Principal Secretary ABM Abdus Sattar, Additional Press Secretary

Atikur Rahman Rumon, and senior officials from the relevant ministries and divisions attended the meeting.

BANGLADESH

Formal directive issued to reinforce rivers, canals, embankments and transport infrastructure

PRESENTATION BY

Prof. Muhammad Shariful Islam

Pro-Vice Chancellor, BUET

RTV Online Report

Thursday, 6 August 2026, 03:49 PM

PM Directs Nationwide Use of Vetiver Grass to Combat Riverbank Erosion

rtvonline.com

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has issued a formal directive to prioritize innovative, environmentally sustainable methods for mitigating riverbank erosion, specifically endorsing the use of vetiver grass to reinforce rivers, canals, embankments and transportation infrastructure.

This mandate was delivered during a high-level meeting held at the Secretariat's Cabinet Division on Thursday, as confirmed by the Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Shahadat Shadhin.

The core of the discussion featured a technical presentation by Dr. Muhammad Shariful Islam, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and a professor in the Department of Civil Engineering.

Dr. Shariful Islam demonstrated how vetiver grass serves as a viable, green alternative to traditional structural reinforcements like concrete blocks and geo-blocks.

His analysis underscored the plant's multifaceted utility in preventing the degradation of riverbanks and canal slopes, fortifying coastal dykes, stabilizing roadways in char (shoal) and haor (wetland) regions, and providing essential protection for railway embankments.

According to the findings presented, vetiver grass offers a durable and ecologically sound defense against soil erosion.

The presentation further highlighted that pilot projects utilizing this botanical solution at various sites across the country have already yielded highly encouraging results.

Building on this success, the meeting attendees deliberated on strategies to scale up the initiative through the launch of dedicated national projects.

Expressing strong support for such forward-thinking, eco-conscious interventions, the Prime Minister instructed all relevant ministries and government agencies to immediately commence the necessary administrative steps for nationwide implementation.

The meeting was attended by a broad delegation of government leadership, including Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Commerce Minister Khandaker Abdul Muqtadir, Water Resources Minister Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee, and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam.

Also present were State Minister for Water Resources Farhad Hossain Azad, State Minister for Railways Habibur Rashid, Prime Minister's Principal Secretary ABM Abdus Sattar, Additional Press Secretary Atikur Rahman Rumon, and various senior officials representing key administrative divisions.

BANGLADESH

PM chairs meeting on eco-friendly riverbank protection

PRESENTATION BY

Prof. Muhammad Shariful Islam

Pro-Vice Chancellor, BUET

TIMES Report

6 August 2026, 6:26 PM

PM Directs Nationwide Use of Vetiver Grass to Combat Riverbank Erosion

rtvonline.com

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has issued a formal directive to prioritize innovative, environmentally sustainable methods for mitigating riverbank erosion, specifically endorsing the use of vetiver grass to reinforce rivers, canals, embankments and transportation infrastructure.

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