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# Oyster the protector

Study finds oyster farming can save southeast coastline from erosion

MD ABBAS with ANDREW EAGLE

Despite the construction of embankments and barriers in some areas, storms, strong currents and tides regularly wreak havoc on the Bangladeshi coastline.

In the struggle to combat erosion it now seems that a new force may be enlisted: the power of oysters. A recent study has found that along with providing a potential new food source, oyster farming can protect the coast.

"For many years Bangladesh has relied on conventional means of erosion prevention and protection from tidal floods. No sustainable, permanent method has been pursued," explains Associate Professor Shah Nawaz Chowdhury from the Marine Science and Fisheries Institute at Chittagong University.

"We found that the reef structure of oyster beds can offer direct physical protection for embankments from high tides and waves, as well as promoting marine biodiversity. Once installed there would be no maintenance costs," he said.

The study, which was jointly carried out by the university and a team from the Institute of Marine Resources and Ecosystem Studies at Wageningen University in the Netherlands, involved conducting trials at eight locations from the Feni River estuary in the north to Saint Martin's Island to determine where conditions most favoured oyster colonies.

Subsequently a field experiment was completed at Boroghop jetty on Kutubdia Island in Cox's Bazar. There, the team divided a stretch of coastline into five twenty-metre test zones and proceeded to install concrete-ring oyster beds in three of the zones, with two left undisturbed to enable comparison.

Oyster colonies on the concrete rings flourished while the wave-dampening effect of the artificial reefs allowed for helpful sediment accretion behind the reefs. The team found that the oyster beds reduced damage to the coastal embankment by 56 percent over the period.

Moreover, the reef grew in height by two centimetres, suggesting that the

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

These concrete rings installed at Boroghop jetty in Kutubdia of Cox's Bazar can help protect the coastline and produce oysters, a seafood source, at the same time. A trial study shows such artificial oyster beds can offer direct protection against erosion and promote biodiversity. The study was conducted by Marine Science and Fisheries Institute at Chittagong University and Institute of Marine Resources and Ecosystem Studies at Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

## India moves to block entry of Rohingyas

BSF troops ordered to use chilli sprays, stun grenades

REUTERS, New Delhi

India has stepped up security along its largely porous eastern border with Bangladesh and is using "chilli and stun grenades" to block the entry of Rohingya Muslims fleeing from violence in their homeland of Myanmar, officials said yesterday.

Border forces in Hindu-majority India, which wants to deport around 40,000 Rohingya already living in the country, citing security risks, have been authorised to use "rude and crude" methods to stop any infiltration attempts.

"We don't want to cause any serious injury or arrest them, but we won't tolerate Rohingya on Indian soil," said a senior official with the Border Security Force (BSF) in New Delhi.

"We're using grenades containing chilli spray to stop hundreds of Rohingyas trying

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## Fresh fires, blast hit Rakhine

Says Myanmar govt

AFP, Sittwe

Twenty homes caught fire and a bomb was detonated near a mosque in Myanmar's Rakhine state, the government said yesterday, the latest unrest in a region that has seen hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas flee in under a month.

The violence comes days after Myanmar's civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi declared that the military had ceased its "clearance operations" in the border area.

The army claims it is trying to flush out Rohingya militants who attacked police posts on August 25.

But civilian refugees streaming into Bangladesh say they were terrorised by soldiers and vigilante Buddhist mobs who torched their villages to the ground.

The testimony, alongside satellite images of some 200 villages reduced to ash, have fuelled accusations that Myanmar's army is systematically purging a Muslim minority haunted by years of persecution.

The UN has described the military campaign as "ethnic cleansing".

The latest violence saw 20 homes catch fire in Maungdaw's Kyain Chaung village on Thursday night, according to a statement posted by the government's Information Committee.

"Security members went and checked the fire and are investigating its cause," said the statement, adding that the flames burned through a community previously hit by fire.

The following morning a bomb detonated outside of a mosque in Mi

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## Puja Udjapan Parishad Festival cost to be curtailed to help refugees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad has decided to curtail expenses during the Durga Puja, the largest Hindu religious festival of the country, to provide assistance to the Rohingya refugees on behalf of the Hindu community.

"We will curtail the expenses of the festival across the country and donate the money to help the Rohingya refugees," said Tapas Kumar Pal, general secretary of the Parishad, at a views-exchange meeting yesterday.

The Parishad organised the meeting at Dhakeshwari National Temple Auditorium on the eve of the Durga Puja.

The Puja is going to be

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## China re-launches 'fastest bullet train'



MAIL ONLINE

China on Thursday raised the maximum speed of its bullet trains to 217 mph (350 kmh) - six years after a fatal high-speed railway crash had shocked the world.

The new bullet trains, called 'Fuxing', are said to be the fastest commercially used trains in the world.

The super-fast locomotives cut down the travel time between Shanghai and Beijing, the two main cities in China, from five hours to four hours and 28 minutes. In the 1990s, the same journey could take a day and a night.

In 2011, China ordered all bullet trains to lower its maximum speed from 217 mph to 186 mph (300 mph) after a collision involving two bullet trains near the city of Wenzhou had killed 40 people and injured 191.

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## Recognise March 25 as Genocide Day

PM urges global community

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reiterated her call to the international community to recognise the barbaric atrocities committed by the Pakistani occupation force in 1971 against the Bangalees as "genocide" and March 25 as the "International Genocide Day".

"Collective actions are needed to prevent recurrence of any such heinous crime in anywhere and anytime in the world," she said.

The PM was addressing the UN General Assembly in New York on Thursday, reports BSS.

She reminded the international community that the Bangalees had endured

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## 'Unfit' Uber banned in London

REUTERS, London

London deemed Uber unfit to run a taxi service yesterday and stripped it of its licence to operate from the end of next week in a major blow to the US firm and 3.5 million users in one of the world's wealthiest cities.

The capital's transport regulator said the Silicon Valley technology giant's approach and conduct was not fit and proper to hold a private vehicle hire licence and it would not be renewed when it expires on Sept 30.

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With an abundant supply, people are getting hilsa at quite reasonable prices. As the sale is high, both traders and fishermen are reportedly happy. The photo was taken at Fishery Ghat in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## N Korea issues H-bomb threat

Trump vows to test 'madman' Kim after he slams US president as 'mentally deranged'

REUTERS, Seoul

North Korea said yesterday it might test a hydrogen bomb over the Pacific Ocean after President Donald Trump vowed to destroy the reclusive country, with leader Kim Jong Un promising to make Trump pay dearly for his threats.

Kim did not specify what action he would take against the United States or Trump, whom he called a "mentally deranged US dotard" in the latest bout of insults the two leaders have traded in recent weeks.

South Korea said it was the first direct statement of its kind by a North Korean leader. However, Kim's foreign minister, Ri Yong Ho, said North Korea could consider a hydrogen bomb test of an unprecedented scale over the Pacific Ocean. Ri told reporters in New York he did not know Kim's exact thoughts.

Japan, the only country ever to suffer an atomic attack, described the threat as "totally unacceptable".

The US president, who has not shrunk from fighting fire with fire in his rhetoric on North Korea, sent another message yesterday on Twitter.

"Kim Jong Un of North Korea, who is obviously a madman who doesn't mind starving or killing his people, will be tested like never before," Trump said, a day after announcing additional sanctions on Pyongyang.

Trump said in his first address to the United Nations on Tuesday he would "totally destroy" North Korea, a country of 26 million people, if it threatened the United States and

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**SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center**

PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 23  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30  
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION