



The damaged guide walls of link road between Barguna's Shubho Sandhya beach and Taltali town. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Sand lifting catalyses erosion of Shubho Sandhya beach

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, back from Barguna

Evening arrives on the crest of waves at Shubho Sandhya beach as the jhau trees planted along the shore whispers melodies to the breeze. This beautiful scene, however, may not last long. This serene beach in Barguna's Taltali upazila, recently gaining popularity among nature-lovers, is under serious threat of erosion. To protect the coastline from eroding, forest department had undertaken afforestation programme on 125 acres of land adjacent to the beach, but illegal sand-lifting activity aggravated the erosion, forest officials claimed. Samir Ranjon Mistree, Nalbania forest bit officer, said, this year heavy tidal surge from the Bay of Bengal washed away at least 30 acres of forestland, and around 30,000 trees of the reserve forest have been uprooted due to soil erosion. During 2017 and 2018, the total loss due to erosion was around 50 acres of forestland and

50,000 trees, he said. Compared to 2018, this year the landmass of the beach has subsided by five feet, he added. Located at the point where Baleshwar, Bishkhali and Payra rivers meet the Bay of Bengal, the 6-km long beach is naturally prone to soil erosion. But the sand lifting activity by the authorities of a private power plant last year aggravated the natural occurrence, according to Debdas Mukharjee, assistant conservator for forest of Patuakhali forest division. "Last year, an under-construction private power plant near Taltali used heavy dredgers to lift sand from the estuary of the three rivers adjacent to the beach. Due to this, the erosion has intensified," he said. "When we informed Taltali upazila administration and Barguna district administration about the matter, the sand-lifting activity was stopped," Debdas added. The Daily Star had published a news on December 6, 2018 about the effects of the

sand-lifting activity for construction of the 307-megawatt coal-fired ISO Tech power plant near Nishanbaria area, three kilometres east from Shuvo Sandhya beach. Apprehension about increased intensity of soil erosion was reported in that news. "I used to have a tea stall on the seashore, but when the erosion intensified, I had to move it further inside the mainland," said Abdul Khalek Dewan, a local resident. To make the beach more accessible to tourists, upazila administration has been building a 4-km link road from Taltali town. Visiting the beach, this correspondent found that even the guide walls, erected to carpet the road, have fallen apart due to the soil erosion. Araf Hasan, a student of Patuakhali Science and Technology University, visiting the beach, said, it is sad that such a nice beach is losing its beauty because of erosion. He hoped that the government would take immediate steps to protect the beach.

MURDERS, SERIOUS INJURIES

12 get life term in 3 districts

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Twelve people have been sentenced to life term imprisonment in cases for murder and causing serious injuries in Kishoreganj, Mymensingh and Dinajpur. Our Mymensingh Correspondent reports: A Kishoreganj court yesterday sentenced ten persons to life term imprisonment for killing a farmer in 2011. The convicts are Badal Mia, 43, Nayan Mia, 33, Sujon, 28, Manik Mia, 38, Lokman, 58, Rahmat, 48, Mamun Mia, 28, Alamgir, 33, Md Giasuddin, 45, Maizan, 28, of Paikandi village in Karimganj upazila of Kishoreganj. Mohammad Abdur Rahim, judge of First Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court in Kishoreganj, handed down the verdict, said Chowdhury Mizanuzzaman, court inspector of Kishoreganj. According to the case statement, the convicts hacked to death Manik Mia, 32, of Paikandi

village in Karimganj, on August 6 in 2011. In Mymensingh, Mohammad Nurul Amin Biplob, Second Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for causing serious injuries to Reza Hasan Tokey, then a fourth year student of Mymensingh Medical College, on June 14 in 2014. The convict is Abu Sayed Limon, son of Abdul Jobber of Mymensingh city's Bhatikashor Alia Madrasa area. Our Dinajpur Correspondent reports: Judge Md Anwarul Haque of Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court in Dinajpur on Sunday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for killing his 11-year-old daughter in Nawabganj upazila of Dinajpur on April 8 in 2010. The convict is Nur Islam, 50, of Deor village under Nawabganj upazila, said Public Prosecutor Ataur Rahman.

Abducted schoolboy yet to be rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Over a month into his abduction, police are yet to rescue a schoolboy in Manikganj Sadar upazila. The only son of Saudi expatriate Mohammed Ali of Dhalla-Kaftia village, victim Ashraf Islam is a Class X student of Kafataia High School in the upazila. Relatives and family members blamed police's negligence for not rescuing Ashraf, 40 days into the incident. The victim's mother Fatema Begum said Ashraf went out of house with a motorcycle for private tuition on August 6 and since then he did not return home. Ashraf's father Mohammad Ali said he had been working in Saudi Arabia since 2001. A few days after abduction, a gang demanded Tk 5 lakh as ransom from him for his son's release over phone, he said, adding that after the incident, he returned Bangladesh and informed law enforcers about the matter. A general diary was filed with Manikganj Sadar Police Station in this connection, he said. Officer-in-Charge of the police station Rakibuzzaman said they are trying their best to rescue the boy.

Clogged drain poses health hazard in Tangail town

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The 'central drain' in Tangail municipality, now clogged with various waste materials including polythene, poses serious health hazards for the townspeople. Stagnant water of the drain serves as a breeding ground of mosquitoes. A three-kilometre-long canal was dug from the Louhajang river at Paradisepara to Burai Beel (a large waterbody) at Biswas Betka through Victoria Road during the British period to ease drainage of water in the town. The municipality authorities in 1996 constructed a two-metre-wide concrete drain in two-kilometre area of the canal. But they constructed markets (shops) over the drain at different places, making it hard to clean. The municipality authorities arranged cleaning the drain last in 2014. It will take Tk 40 lakh to Tk 50 lakh to clean the drain, said Mirza Arif, executive

engineer of Tangail municipality. Visiting the drain area from its mouth near the Louhajang river to Godown Bridge of Dhaka Road, this correspondent found bad odour spreading as dumping of waste into the canal continued from Park Market and different hotels and restaurants in Nirala Intersection and Old Bus Stand areas. The drain has become a nuisance for the townspeople, said Mir Mehedi, member secretary of Nagorik Committee in Tangail. The dirty drain causes spread of different diseases and so, the authorities should take early steps to clean it, said Shahidul Islam, shopkeeper in Victoria Road. Tangail municipality Mayor Jamilur Rahman Miron said steps will be taken to clean the drain as soon as possible and awareness campaign will be launched so that people do not dump waste materials into the drain.



A student participant at the spelling competition held on East Kalaiya Hasan Siddique High School premises in Patuakhali's Bauphal upazila on Monday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

15 students win in Bauphal spelling competition

230 students from three schools participated

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Rights and Sight for Children (RSC), implementing partner of Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI), in partnership with Ashraf & Nasren Islam Memorial Fund (ANIMF), yesterday organised a spelling competition in Bauphal upazila of Patuakhali. The programme, under Sun Child Sponsorship Program (SCSP), was held at East Kalaiya Hasan Siddique High School. Out of 230 primary participants from sixth to eighth grade students from three schools, 29 were selected according to their mathematics, English and spelling aptitude. A total of 15 students were adjudged winners, who received handsome prize money. Consolation prizes were given to 14 others. Four teachers also received awards for their outstanding contribution in teaching profession. The purpose of the competition was to enrich their domain of spelling knowledge and develop their competitive mentality of participating in any competition and financial support of destitute children. Pijus Chandra Dey, Bauphal upazila nirbahi officer, attended the programme as chief guest. Among others, headteachers of participant high schools, Sohulul Islam, Bauphal upazila education officer; Wahid Rahman, representative of ANIMF; Kazi Hasanuzzaman, area manager of RSC; and distinguished members from local communities were present.

Oushodhi Gram: village of herbs

KM REZAUL HOQUE, Gaibandha

Petbhata village in Rangpur is now known as Oushodhi Gram (village of herbs) as hundreds of families there are gaining solvency by planting herbs. Recently, this correspondent visited the village in Pirgachha upazila when he saw almost all homesteads covered in greenery as the residents had planted different kinds of herbs there. Ashok, Chirata, Korpur, Punorbhaba, Tejbal, Nageshwar, Arshgandha, Jyoti Pushpa, Gorakh Chakulia, Kutraj, Bashak, Kalomegh, Olat Kambal, Haritaki, Bahera, Arjun, Swarnalata, Tejmeta are some of the herbs. Seventeen years ago, a local herbal medicine practitioner (locally known as kobiraj) Abdul Jabbar planted herbs on his homestead for making medicines. He took the initiative after getting training from different local NGOs. Abdul said he had a vision of making the villagers self-reliant. To materialise that, he started campaigning door to door to inspire the villagers plant herbs on their homesteads. He initially trained 12 poor farmers of the village and explained the medicinal benefits of herbs to them. "I myself gathered the herb saplings and planted them on their homesteads. Over the next five years, many villagers became interested and took up herb farming," said Abdul. "Now you cannot find a single home that has no herb plant. The villagers are enjoying the additional earnings as well."



Kobiraj Abdul Jabbar's wife Saleha Begum with a herb plant at their home in Pirgachha upazila's Petbhata village. PHOTO: STAR

The rates for leaves are Tk 60 per kg for Shatmol, Tk 50 for Tulsi, Tk 40 for Bashak, Tk 120 for a kg of Kalomegh and Tk 400 for a maund of Olat Kambol and Haritaki. Prices of Bahera, Arjun, Swarnalata, Tejmeta, Bosh usually fluctuate, according to Abdul. "My house stands on five decimals land. Instead of keeping some parts bare and unused, I planted various herbs there. I now earn Tk 3,000 to 4,000 every month from my garden," said Ayesha Begum, a homemaker. Solaiman Ali grows herbs alongside

cultivating paddy and other crops. "It generates extra income for me. Unlike other crops, it hardly requires any cost for production. Moreover, herbs can be grown round the year." Pirgachha Upazila Agriculture Officer Shaminur Rahman said herbs are in great demand as those are crucial ingredients for production of medicines. The people of Petbhata village have now become solvent by herb farming as they are getting supplementary income and more people should follow suit, he also said.

মাওলানা ভাসানী বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
সন্ধ্যা, টাঙ্গাইল-১৯০২।
ওয়েবসাইট: www.mbstu.ac.bd

তারিখ: ০১ আশ্বিন ১৪২৬
১৬ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৯

২০১৯-২০২০ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ১ম বর্ষ স্নাতক (ইঞ্জি/সম্মান), বি.বি.এ. ও বি.ফার্ম. প্রফেশনাল প্রোগ্রামে

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মাওলানা ভাসানী বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে ২০১৯-২০২০ শিক্ষাবর্ষে A, B, C ও D ইউনিটসমূহে অন্তর্ভুক্ত বিভাগগুলোতে ৪ (চার) বছর মেয়াদি স্নাতক (ইঞ্জি/সম্মান), বি.বি.এ. ও ৫ (পাঁচ) বছর মেয়াদি বি.ফার্ম. প্রফেশনাল প্রোগ্রামে ১ম বর্ষ ১ম সেমিস্টারে ভর্তি হতে ইচ্ছুক ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের নিকট থেকে অনলাইনে আবেদন আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে। ভর্তির আবেদন mbstu-admission.org ওয়েবসাইটের মাধ্যমে এবং আবেদন ফি বিকাশ (bKash)/রকেট (বৈকল্পিক)/শিওরক্যাশ (SureCash) মোবাইল ব্যাংকিং এর মাধ্যমে গ্রহণ করা হবে।

- ❖ ভর্তি পরীক্ষা MCQ পদ্ধতিতে হবে।
- ❖ ভর্তি পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময়সূচি:

তারিখ ও বার	সময়	ইউনিট
২২ নভেম্বর ২০১৯, শুক্রবার	সকাল ১০:৩০ হতে দুপুর ১২:০০ পর্যন্ত	A
	বিকাল ০৩:০০ হতে ০৪:৩০ পর্যন্ত	B
২৩ নভেম্বর ২০১৯, শনিবার	সকাল ১০:৩০ হতে দুপুর ১২:০০ পর্যন্ত	C
	বিকাল ০৩:০০ হতে ০৪:৩০ পর্যন্ত	D

* আবেদনের সময়সীমা: ২১ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৯ সকাল ১০:০০ হতে ৩১ অক্টোবর ২০১৯ রাত ১১:৫৯ পর্যন্ত (যেকোনো দিন যেকোনো সময়)।

* প্রবেশপত্র (Admit Card) ডাউনলোড করা যাবে ০৭ নভেম্বর ২০১৯ তারিখ রাত ১১:৫৯ পর্যন্ত।

* ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্যাবলী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট (www.mbstu.ac.bd) এ পাওয়া যাবে।

(মোঃ মাকসুদুর রহমান)
ডেপুটি রেজিস্ট্রার (একাডেমিক) ও সদস্য-সচিব
কেন্দ্রীয় ভর্তি পরীক্ষা কমিটি ২০১৯-২০২০
মাজাবিগ্রবি, ফোন: ০৯২১-৬২১২৮ (অফিস)

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