

Erosion hits Marine Drive

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

Heavy rains and high tide during the full moon are causing erosion to Cox's Bazar sea beach, Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Marine Drive, and in Matarbari of Maheshkhali, according to public representatives and government officials.

Among those three places, the erosion in some parts of the Marine Drive has taken a grave turn from Thursday, affecting at least 10 points in Teknaf, they added.

Around half of the 50-metre wide Marine Drive in west Mundardail area was washed away on Thursday morning after geo tubes for protecting the road were torn apart by strong waves, Amir Hossain, a local resident, told The Daily Star.

Due to influence of full moon during high tide, waves become stronger than usual, causing erosion at Baharchhara ghat, Mundardail, Hadurchhara and West Mundardail areas on the Marine Drive, said Kamruzzaman, upazila nirbahi officer of Teknaf.

The engineering corps of Bangladesh Army is working to prevent erosion, he told this correspondent yesterday afternoon.

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PHOTO: STAR



Of friendship lost in time...

An expatriate's quest to reconnect with old friends

SUSHANTA GHOSH

"Want to connect with my old friends", read the title of a newspaper advertisement.

"Alauddin of Pabna, Nurul Islam of Cumilla's Talpukur, Abbas of Rajshahi, Monir of Noakhali, Sucharita of Barishal, Rehena of Tangail and Hannan of Pabna were my dear friends. We were all employed in Libya. My phone number is given below. If any of you recognise me, please reach out," the advert added.

Haji Abdul Majid, 76, recently came to Bangladesh from Australia solely with the goal to rekindle the friendship he once held dear. Memories of his friends echoed in the corners of his soul as he yearned to reunite with them, whom he had befriended while toiling together in a distant land -- Libya.

They made memories of a lifetime together. Now, separated by time and circumstances, Majid sought to bridge the gap and reconnect with the friends who had once been like family to him.

However, he bids farewell to Bangladesh today with a void in his heart. Despite his efforts, the advertisements he published on two national newspapers have yielded no response.

"But I'll return again. I'm not giving up on my friends so easily," he added.

Earlier, The Daily Star met with him in person at his residence in Barishal's Banglabazar area, where he shared stories about his long lost friends.

Born on February 10, 1947, in Kathipara village of Jhalakathi's Nalchiti, Majid completed his primary education at Shatapika Primary School in Nalchiti, higher education at Nalchiti Merchant Institute and college education at Govt BM College.

He later completed his diploma from Swedish Pakistani Institute of Technologies in Kaptai, Chattogram.

Majid then joined the Power Development Board (PDB) for a while. Later, in pursuit of greater opportunities, he embraced a new chapter in Libya's power development sector, where he found not only professional growth but also deep and enduring friendship.

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Every time my phone rings, I feel a surge of hope, believing that it might be one of my friends who saw the advertisement. However, this optimism is often followed by disappointment when the calls do not turn out to be from them.

ABDUL MAJID

Mango exports increase to 2,700 tonnes

Says agriculture ministry



Year	Tonnes
2017-18	232
2018-19	310
2019-20	283
2020-21	1,632
2021-22	1,757
2022-23	2,700

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 2,700 tonnes of mangoes have been exported as of this year, which is one thousand tonnes higher compared to last year.

The export was 1,757 tonnes in the last fiscal year.

This year, mangoes were exported to 34 countries while the number was 28 last year, according to a press release issued by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The major export destinations and quantities include 1,256 tonnes to the United Kingdom, 296 tonnes to Italy, 260 tonnes to Saudi Arabia, 137 tonnes to the United Arab Emirates, 111 tonnes to Qatar, 55 tonnes to Singapore, 14 tonnes to Switzerland, 70 tonnes to Germany, 85 tonnes to France, 65 tonnes to Sweden, 218 tonnes to Kuwait, and 40 tonnes to Canada.

Annually, the country produces about 25 lakh tonnes of mangoes, but the export volume has been much less than the production in previous years.

In 2017-18, only 232 tonnes were exported, followed by 310 tonnes in 2018-19, 283 tonnes in 2019-20, 1,632

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Man detained with 2,400 yaba pills at Dhaka airport

UNB, Dhaka

Airport Armed Police Battalion (APBn) and DNC detained a man with 2,400 yaba pills at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

The arrestee is Drub Das, 25, a resident of Teknaf in Cox's Bazar.

The accused was arrested in the parking lot in front of Terminal 1 of the airport in the morning, said police.

Based on a tip-off, a joint operation team of Airport APBn and DNC was sent to the terminal, Airport APBn Additional Superintendent of Police Mohammad Ziaul Haque told journalists at a briefing.

At around 11:00am, sensing the presence of the police, Drub tried to flee the spot.

He was detained by the team, the official told journalists.

During the primary interrogation, he denied carrying any kind of drugs, he added.

However, Drub admitted that he had yaba pills in his possession after he was brought to the Airport Armed Police Battalion office for detailed interrogation, said the police official.

The market value of the recovered yaba pills is Tk 7.20 lakh, according to Additional SP Ziaul.

Preparations are on to register a case against the accused with the Airport Police Station, he further said.

DEADLY JHALAKATHI CRASH Probe blames bus driver



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

An investigation committee of Jhalakathi district administration has found clear evidence of the driver's negligence in connection with the death of 17 people when a passenger bus fell into a pond on July 22.

Muhammad Mamun Shibli, additional district magistrate of Jhalakathi who led the five-member investigation committee, said the investigation report was submitted to the deputy commissioner on August 1.

The investigation found bus driver Mohan Khan was turning to the passengers behind and talking to them and also received calls on his mobile phone while driving, the report revealed.

Also, Mohan had a driving license for light vehicles but not for a heavy vehicle like bus, according to the report.

The bus owner was also found running the vehicle in unfit condition with only motive to earn higher revenue without adhering to passengers' safety.

The Roads and Highways Department also lacks sufficient resources to maintain regional highways properly. The number of deaths has gone up as land owners are digging ponds beside roads after changing the land category, it added.

"In this regard, we have recommended that the permission of the authorities should be taken for digging ponds on roadside. Also, all these places should be strongly fenced," Shibli added.

Jhalakathi Sadar Police Station OC Md Nasiruddin said the bus driver and his helper were arrested over the incident. Efforts are on to arrest other accused, he added.

Three killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Three people -- including a journalist -- died in separate road accidents in Gazipur yesterday morning.

In Konabari on the Dhaka-Tangail highway, two died and eight were injured as their microbus, heading for a trip to Nikli Haor, hit a lorry and hit a road divider.

The deceased were identified as Shah Alam and Jewel Rana.

The accident took place around 8:00am when some friends from Kashimpur were heading towards Nikli Haor in Kishoreganj, said KM Ashraf Uddin, officer-in-charge of Konabari Police Station.

The driver of the microbus lost control over the steering after one of its tyres burst. The vehicle then hit a lorry and ploughed into the divider, leaving nine passengers and the driver injured, he said.

They were rushed to hospitals, where two of the passengers died. The rest are receiving treatment at a hospital, said Assistant Sub-Inspector Swapan, duty officer of the police station.

Meanwhile, a local journalist was killed after a dump truck hit his motorcycle as he was heading to his village home at Kapasia upazila from Gazipur city around 10:00am.

The deceased, identified as Monjur Hossain Milon, 50, was the editor of local newspaper "Gazipur Darpon", said Kapasia Police Station OC HM Lutful Kabir.

Tk 5,617cr project fails to prevent waterlogging

Low lying areas, even mayor's residence get inundated in Ctg

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Every monsoon, Chattogram residents brace themselves for the annual ordeal of ankle- to knee-deep water flooding the low-lying areas following rainfall.

Sometimes, water even reaches waist-length. Ironically, even the ground floor and yard of the current mayor's residence succumbed to the same waterlogging issue he vowed to solve during his tenure, exposing the failure of his mandate and washing away the tall claims of monsoon preparedness.

The situation has been no different this year, as the port city witnessed hours of waterlogging

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Once again all the low-lying areas of the port city got inundated following heavy spells of rainfall between Thursday night and yesterday morning, further exacerbating the plight of its long-suffering dwellers. Inset, the ground floor of the mayor's residence, "Mayor Bhaban," in Bahaddarhat area also got submerged.

PHOTO: STAR