

Patenga beach falls victim to encroachment

Illegal structures threatening its natural beauty

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

The Patenga beach in the port city is at risk of losing its natural beauty as illegal structures keep sprouting along the seaside in the absence of effective measures from the authorities concerned.

The illegal activity, which began in 2019 following renovation by Chattogram Development Authority (CDA), has grabbed most of the space on the beach, leaving tourists and locals suffering.

Patenga is a sea beach located 14 kilometres south from the main point of the port city. It is also an estuary of the Karnaphuli.

Every day, hundreds of people visit the beach; the crowd doubles during holidays. But the massive occupation has resulted in a crisis of available space.

However, no authorities have any data regarding the number of these illegal structures.

Both tourists and locals alleged that the illegal activity was going on in broad daylight.

Two syndicates under the name of

“Patenga Beach Hawkers Association” and “Patenga Sea Beach Shop Owner Association” are sheltering this illegal activity by extorting each shop owner daily.

Currently, 197 members are under the Hawkers Association, while 290 shops are under Patenga Beach Shop Owner Association.

This correspondent recently visited the area and observed that at least 500 hundred illegal structures — including restaurants, snack stalls, cloth stalls and souvenir shops have emerged on the beach.

Private job holder Salah Uddin, who visited the beach with his family on Friday, expressed disappointment over the illegal structures. He said there is no space to sit near the beach with family members.

“The beach is now a mess,” he said. At least 10 shop owners admitted that they pay Tk 200 to 400 to collectors of the associations daily.

“We can’t run a shop without paying money to them,” said a shop owner, requesting anonymity.



Illegal structures like restaurants, clothing stalls and souvenir shops keep sprouting along the seaside of Patenga beach in the port city. Syndicates charge these shops Tk 200-400 each day to allow them to continue their operations.

PHOTO: STAR

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

BNP leader sued for attack on student procession

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

A case has been filed against Aminul Islam Ranga, convener of Pargacha unit BNP, over an attack on a victory procession of students and locals in Rangpur’s Pargacha upazila on August 5.

The complaint was lodged on Saturday night by a student named Ekramul Haque with the Pargacha Police Station, a day after Ranga sued 22 students.

The case alleges that Ranga, along with 15 to 20 unidentified individuals, attacked the victory procession, which was celebrating the fall of Hasina.

According to the case statement, Ranga and his associates, armed with sticks and local weapons, fired four rounds of bullets at the procession when it reached the Pargacha Union Parishad office.

In the case, Ekramul Haque claimed that he was hit by a bullet in his left hand as he fell to the ground to avoid the gunfire. Many others were reportedly injured as unidentified individuals threw bricks and stones at the crowd.

The complainant, Ekramul, received medical treatment at the local upazila health complex following the incident.

Ranga had earlier filed a case on Friday night against 22 students who had participated in the anti-discriminatory student movement.

Flood-hit Moulvibazar faces fresh water crisis

9,030 tubewells damaged, local admin working to restore normalcy



MINTU DESHWARA

Over 9,000 deep and shallow tubewells were submerged during three separate floods in Moulvibazar in the past two months, causing a severe shortage of clean drinking water.

The contaminated wells are producing cloudy, foul-smelling water.

Sadekun Begum, a resident of Mierpara village in Kulaura upazila, said, “Our government tubewell was submerged and now produces dirty water. So, we are forced to fetch water from far away.”

Shaidul Hasan Shipon, general secretary of the Kulaura Sangbadik Samitee, said tubewells in low-lying areas such as Hakaluki and Kawadighi haors are prone to contamination during the monsoon season. He pointed out that areas like Kulaura, Juri, and Barlekha are particularly vulnerable.

The floods have left approximately 300,000 people in Kamalganj, Rajnagar, Juri, Barlekha, Kulaura, and Sadar upazilas suffering from a severe water crisis.

Sufian Mia, a resident of Kamalganj, said, “Half of my house was submerged. We returned home only recently, but the floodwater has contaminated the tubewells and the toilets are unusable.”

In Mierpara village, Shamim Mia said his tubewell, which served 15 families,

was completely washed away during the last flood. However, the Upazila Public Health Engineering office has installed a new tubewell, restoring access to clean water for the affected households.

Md Muhsin, sub-assistant engineer of the Kulaura Upazila Public Health Engineering office, said 250 tubewells have been repaired, 350 disinfected, and five new ones installed in response to the crisis.

The Moulvibazar District Public Health Engineering office said 13,050 litres of bottled water, 305,700 water purification tablets, and 3,955 ten-litre jerry cans have been distributed to the affected areas.

Additionally, 30,000 litres of treated water have been supplied through water treatment plants across Kulaura, Juri, Barlekha, Kamalganj, Moulvibazar Sadar, and Rajnagar. Hygiene kits were also provided to 609 women and children.

Khaleduzzaman, executive engineer of the District Public Health Engineering office in Moulvibazar, said, “Repair and purification efforts are ongoing, but the full extent of the damage is yet to be assessed. Several tubewells remain unusable, and it may take another two months to restore normalcy.”

“We have repaired 699 tubewells so far,” he added.



Jashim Uddin new foreign secretary

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has appointed Ambassador Md Jashim Uddin as the 27th foreign secretary of Bangladesh, succeeding Masud Bin Momen.

Immediately before this, he was Bangladesh ambassador to China with concurrent accreditation to Mongolia.

Jashim Uddin joined Bangladesh Foreign Service in 1994. He belongs to the 13th batch of BCS (Foreign Affairs) Cadre.

Jashim also served as ambassador to Qatar from 2020 to 2022 and to Greece with concurrent accreditation to Malta and Armenia from 2015 to 2020.



ACC to probe graft allegations against ex-chief whip

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday decided to launch a formal inquiry into the alleged corruption of Abdus Shahid, former chief whip of the Jatiya Sangsad, after it found evidence against the former Awami League lawmaker.

According to ACC, evidence of corruption against Shahid that he occupied Forest Department land to set up a tea garden has been found in initial probe. The allegation that he installed streetlights and a deep tube well in the tea garden with government

expenses is also found to be true.

ACC’s preliminary intelligence investigation also revealed information about the acquisition of houses and flats in Dhaka and various parts of the country in the names of his wife and children, as well as assets worth millions of taka.

Furthermore, evidence has surfaced regarding the purchase of a house by his wife in the “Begum Para” neighbourhood in Canada, and the accumulation of vast amounts of illegal assets both at home and abroad.

Based on this information, the ACC has decided to initiate a formal inquiry into Abdus Shahid.

Six die as microbus hits autorickshaw

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A total of six people were killed when a microbus hit a CNG-run autorickshaw in the Kutirchar area of Kamarkhand upazila in Sirajganj yesterday.

Five of the victims hailed from the same village and were related to each other. They were returning home on the CNG-run autorickshaw from Sirajganj town, said police and locals.

The deceased are autorickshaw’s driver Rashidul Islam, along with its passengers, Md Nuruzzaman, 22, Tarek Rahman, 55, Jahangir Alom, 56, Abdul Mazid, 50, and his brother Rejaul Karim of Tarash upazila.

Md Abdur Rob, sub-inspector of Kamarkhand Police Station, said the accident occurred in the Kutirchar area when a microbus from the opposite direction hit the autorickshaw around 12:00pm.

Three of them, including Rashidul, died on the spot.



Three others were admitted to Sirajganj Medical College Hospital, where they died within a few hours.

The driver of the microbus fled after the incident, said SI Rob, also the case’s investigation officer.

Vehicle movement remained halted for some time on the Sirajganj-Nalka road following the accident.

Family members of the victims received their bodies.



AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-BANGLADESH

ADMISSION FALL 2024-25

PROGRAMS WE OFFER

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS	GRADUATE PROGRAMS
<p>Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Arts in English • Bachelor of Arts in Media and Mass Communication • Mass Communication and Journalism • Television Production and Animation • Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) • Bachelor of Social Science (BSS) in Economics <p>Faculty of Business Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounting Business Analytics Finance Business Economics International Business Human Resource Management Management Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Investment Management Marketing Management Information Systems Operations and Supply Chain Management Tourism and Hospitality Management <p>Faculty of Engineering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Architecture (BArch) • Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering (CoE) • Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) • Bachelor of Science in Industrial and Production Engineering (IPE) <p>Faculty of Science and Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Science in Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) • Bachelor of Science in Data Science • Bachelor of Science in Computer Network & Cyber Security 	<p>Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masters in Development Studies (MDS) • Masters in Public Health (MPH) • Master of Laws (LL.M) <p>Faculty of Business Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Business Administration (MBA) in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounting Agri-business Economics Finance General Management Human Resource Management Management Information Systems Marketing Operations and Supply Chain Management Tourism and Hospitality Management • Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) <p>Faculty of Engineering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Engineering in Telecommunications (MTel) • Master in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (MEEE) <p>Faculty of Science and Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Science in Computer Science (MSCS)
<p>AIUB Institute of Continuing Education (AICE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cisco Networking Academy (ITC/ASC) • Microsoft IT Academy and MSDNAA • EC-Council Academia • SAP University Alliance • Juniper Networks Academic Alliance <p>Courses Offered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITE, CCNA, CCNA Security, CCNP Boot camp • MCITP, MCSD, PHP, Java, Linux, Android, CEH • SAP Graphic Design Services • Interior Designing & Decoration Training • JUNOS, JNCIA <p>Contacts: Phone: 5503 4160, 5503 4180, Ext 500; Hotline: 015 1166 5500; E-mail: ce@aiub.edu</p>	
<p>Accreditations</p>  <p>Members</p>  <p>Rankings</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Internationally Accredited University in Bangladesh by PAASCU in 2012. • AJSE is the only occupant indexed journal in the field of science and engineering from Bangladesh. • In SDG 8, ranked top in Bangladesh and 73rd in the World (2023), 101-200 in the World (2024). • Globally ranked 3rd in Generative AI Application, 16th in Infrastructure/Technology and 35th in Industrial Application. Worldwide ranked 121 among Global Innovative Universities (2024). • Accredited by IAB • Accredited by BAETE, IEB • Member of ACBSP, AACSB, AMDISA, ACCA, ICAB, IAA 	
 <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Bangladesh's first QS 4-Star university</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Apply online: admission.aiub.edu</p> </div> </div> <p style="font-size: x-small;">408/1 (Old KA 66/1), Kuratoli, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh Admission Office: 841 4050, 841 4046-9, Ext: 201, 202 Mobile: 018 4411 5000; 018 8656 6666; 018 4451 5912 Email: admission@aiub.edu</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.aiub.edu</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Application deadline: September 17, 2024 Admission exam: September 19, 2024</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: x-small;">where leaders are created </p>	