

# The Coastal Area is Still Isolated

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Bangladesh has shown a good progress in disaster management since our independence. The death rate by natural calamities like cyclone is reduced to a Significant figure due to the improved cyclone warning system, strong cyclone shelters, powerful dams by the sea and river sides and road communications. The after effects of cyclone are being reduced. But threats still prevail. Huge areas in the coastal belt still remain unprotected. The high tides splash them over resulting in submerging nearby houses, cultivated lands and damaging the dams. Moreover, some dams are not built high enough to fight the strong waves. So, the life at the coastal belt IS more vulnerable and the fear haunts those people living there.

The data source from people living in the coast belt says that they are passing their days in panic for natural disasters like cyclone and tsunami. Over-flooding and the increasing signals increase their fear. It is reported that people in Shahpori at Teknaf are passing their days in tremendous sufferings. The normal high tides flood the houses and cultivated land. Salt in water is increasing. The island is getting smaller by being washed away. Many people have migrated to other places. They are changing their professions. Similar things are happening with Dhalghata, Matarbari, sonadia of Maheshkhali community people. Tabal char, Kironpara, Dhurong of Kutubdia are experiencing same problems. Dam building project is in process and

progress at Sandip but Urirchar under this Upazila is flooded with high tides as there are no dams yet.

The famous island Hatia in Noakhali is getting smaller day by day. Nalchira, Shukhchar, Tamaruddi are continuously being washed off. Shukhchar union is almost turning into a dot. Thousands of people living in different chars of Hatia are in serious panic. The dark clouds in the sky strike thunders in their mind. There are huge chars to the west of Hatia, to the north of Ramgati-Alexendria, to the north of Manpura, to the east of Bhola-Daulatkhan in Meghna. They face the same panic all throughout the year. When a small char area is dangerously flooded, the people there leave for another chars. Life has become a kind of gypsy type. They feel helpless to the situation.

People of Bhula island suffer much for the natural calamities. There are many chars like Nizam Kalatoli, Dhalchar etc in this upazilla. A great number of people live here. High tides batter their life. Cyclone shelters in these areas are also limited. All cannot accommodate here. No big trees exist there. They are just exposed to the merciless hands of nature. Dhalchar of Char Fashion is in danger. It is getting smaller too. Similar things are happening with Kukri Mukri, Majher char, Ramdaspur, Chatkimara of Bhola, Madanpur, Hajipur Medua of Daulatkhan, some parts of Jahiruddin of Borhanudin, char Muzzamel of Tajuddin and some parts of Char Jahiruddin, Kachuakhali char of Lalmohon.

Golachipa, Kalapara, Rangabali, Dasmina, Baufal of Patuakhali are badly exposed to natural disasters. Normal high tides shatter their life. In many areas there are no dams. Some parts of dams are washed away. Char Munduj, Chalitabunia unions of Rangabali are in danger. Char kajal, Char Biswas,

Panpotti of Golachipa are facing similar threats. Taltoli, Pathorghata of Barguna, Majherchar of Pirojpur, Bogi of Swarankhola, Tafalbaria, Koira, Dakop of Khulna and Gabura of Satkhira are suffering endlessly. Out of all these, 'sidor' beaten people of Morelganj, Shawrankhola and Ayla beaten people of Koira, Dakop, Shamnagar are more vulnerable.

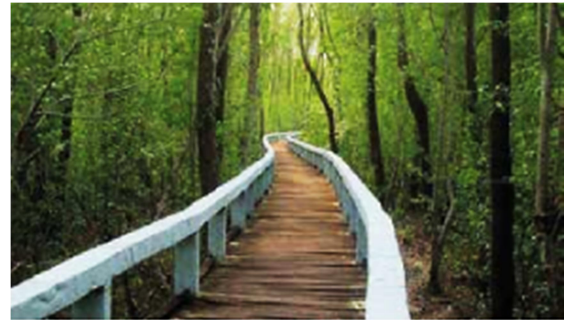
The local people there have been demanding strong and high dams alongside the rivers with a good number of cyclone shelters. They also expect a healthy environment for those shelters. The coastal people urge for the good road communications. Timely warnings, and signals and the awareness of local community people might help fight natural disasters.

### **'Karamjal' of the Sundarbans: The Center of Eco-Tourism and Wildlife Breeding**

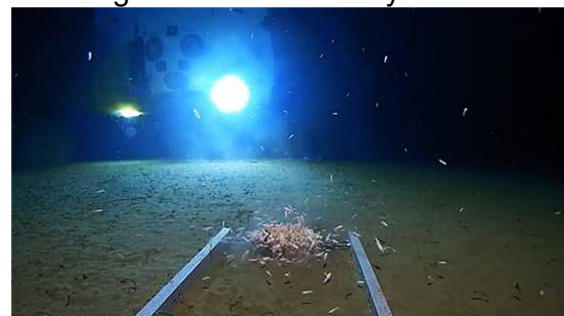
The Karamjal Tourist Center under the Chandpai Range of the Sundarban's Eastern Forest is a fascinating tourist spot. Apart from the eco-tourism center, there are also deer and crocodile breeding and rearing centers in this area. It takes only an hour to reach Karamjal location by boat from Mongla Upazila Sadar or Mongla port of Bagerhat. Distance from Mongla on the riverway is about 8 km and about 60 km from Khulna. The huge map lying on the ground there serves as an instrument to provide direction and fair idea to the tourists about the Sundarbans. Behind the map there is a walkway made of wood which would show the path to the southern part of the forest. Entry fee of the Karamjol Tourist spot has been determined and classified into different categories.

Dense jungle is visible on the both sides of the wooden trail. On both sides of the wooden walkway, there are rows of trees named bine, sundari and keura. However, the number of 'bain' trees is

huge. After some distance, at the left side of the walkway there is a path to the river named "Pashur". There are benches at the bank of the river to enjoy the beautiful scenario of the nature. The main trail goes about half a kilometer further south and stops near a canal. There are shed and sitting arrangement near the canal to enjoy the calm atmosphere of the forest.



High watch tower in Karamjal is one of the most interesting attractions. One can watch the whole Karamjal from the high peak of the tower. There is Crocodile breeding center at the very end of the



trail of this Karamjal Tourist Spot. From that spot, on the west side, there is breeding center of deer. These only government-owned crocodile breeding center was established in 2002 under the Sundarbans Biodiversity Conservation Project, covering an area of 8 acres of land at Karamjal Tourism Center of the East Sundarbans.

### **Plastic Waste Down the Ocean**

It is evident from the study that the Human explored 3 km down in the Mariana Trench, the deepest part of the Pacific Ocean. Through an expedition, Veskovo, a 53-years-old US investor, set a unique record for the deepest

ocean. Surprisingly, plastic waste was found even at such depths of the ocean.

About his own expedition, Veskovo said that it was possible because of the strong interest in the unknown to the people. Because of this instinct, we are often attracted to such expeditions. On this voyage, Veskovo has discovered four new marine species. In an interview, Veskovo said it was disappointing to see a clear sample of human-caused pollution at the deepest points in the ocean.

Sailing inside a submarine with an underwater pressure submarine, Veskovo went around 11 km deep in the Mariana trench, which is a record itself. Veskovo went at 10927 meters deep in the Mariana Trench. On this journey, he had explored 16 meters (52 feet) deeper than the three explorers, who explored deep in the ocean in the 1960. Veskovo spent four hours on the bed of the

Mariana Trench, sitting in his submarine. But at this depth of ocean, he was greatly disappointed to see the man-made waste. Along with the marine animals, he found plastic bags and packets of chocolate there.

This is the third time when human explored the deep bottom of the ocean. In 1960, for the first time, US Navy Lt. Dawn Walls and Swiss engineer Jack Picard explored the bottom of the Mariana Trench in a special marine jet. Then in 2002, film director James Cameron went alone with a green submarine to the bottom of the Mariana Trench.

According to a UN report, so far 10 million tons of plastic waste has been deposited in the world's oceans. Scientists have found plastic particles in the stomach of mammals like whales deep in the ocean.