

# Woes prolong for damaged dam

People in Satkhira village work round the clock to repair it

WASIM BIN HABIB and  
ABU AHMED, FROM SATKHIRA

Survivors of Cyclone Aila in Shyamnagar upazila, one of the worst-hit areas in Satkhira, have no choice but to fight for survival.

Some scared that the damaged embankment can give away at any point are already leaving the area in search of safer shelter.

Others are working round the clock to safeguard whatever little left spared by the cyclone and water.

A group of 30-35 men were busy yesterday trying to repair the destroyed embankment in Khalishabunia village under Gabura union parishad.

They pleaded with The Daily Star correspondents for help to repair the embankment.

"If the embankment is not repaired, our last belongings will be washed away, our children will die. Please do something," pleaded a tearful Abdul Alim.

"Where can we go, there is no place remaining," he cried.

Maksudul Sheikh, another villager is still in search of shelter.

"Repairing the embankment is very urgent, at least we can live on it then," he said.

The embankment, though broken at many points, is already swarming with people who have sought shelter here. Some families are forced to take shelter in separate places because of the lack of space to be together.

"Everything has been washed away, our clothes, cooking pots -- everything," said the visibly helpless Maksudul.

Not a single house in the 20 villages under Gabura union -- which once housed 37,000 people -- has been spared. The embankment has been damaged at 31 points by the tidal surge. Most of the trees were uprooted and washed away.

Many inhabitants of Padmapur, Burigowalini, Munshiganj, Atulia and Ramzannagar unions under Shyamnagar upazila and some unions of Assashuni have started leaving the area in fear of being inundated by rising water levels.

At least six unions in the upazila were badly

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PHOTO: ANSAR GARMAN

Saline water rushes into villages of Gabura Union in Shyamnagar upazila in Satkhira yesterday through a breach in the embankment during high tide. Inset, people of Kurikaunia of Pratapnagar in Assasuni upazila themselves mend an embankment damaged by Aila to protect their homes in high tide.



## 3 rental plants fail to take off

PDB's final deadline expires today

STAR REPORT

The Power Development Board's (PDB) final deadline for two local companies that repeatedly failed to install three rental power plants totalling 120megawatt (MW) capacity expires today.

This means the contracts for installing 20MW Bogra power plant and 50MW Fenchuganj plant by Energy Prima of Hosaf Group and 50MW Ashuganj power plant by Precision Energy will be cancelled.

These companies signed three-year contracts last year claiming they had the power plant equipment in stock, which was actually not the case.

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## Rauf came to set up Daud's crime network

Says DMP commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian fugitive criminal Abdul Rauf Daud Merchant came to Bangladesh with a mission to expand the illegal empire of Daud Ibrahim, head of a organised crime syndicate in Mumbai.

"Detained Rauf came to Bangladesh to set up a network of Daud Ibrahim," Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner AKM Shahidul Huq said, adding, "We will launch an investigation and dig out their network and their Bangladeshi agents."

But both Rauf and Zahid denied the allegation and their link to the Chittagong arms haul. They said that they came just to get holed up to escape the grips of Indian law enforcers.

Meanwhile, Rauf, his sidekick Zahid Sheikh and their Bangladeshi host Karnal were taken on an eight-day remand yesterday.

At a press briefing at the office of Detective Branch (DB) of police, the DMP Commissioner said they were trying to find out if Rauf had any link to the smuggling of 10 truckloads of illegal arms and ammunition seized in Chittagong.

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A few sample products of unauthorised tobacco companies that are thriving due to poor government monitoring.

PHOTO: STAR

## BNP's BDR re-probe demand rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday rejected the BNP demand for a fresh probe into the BDR carnage by an all-party parliamentary committee while Commerce Minister Faruk Khan said, "If the government wants, it might consider BNP's demands."

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain voiced the BNP demand Friday at a press briefing on the national enquiry

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## Rahim, Sahab tell of ISI link

But blame each other for assisting 10-truck arms smuggling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Arrested former director general of National Security Intelligence (NSI) Brigadier General (retd) Md Abdur Rahim and former director (security) Wing Commander (retd) Sahabuddin Ahmed have given statements quite similar, to the court and the investigation officials.

They were arrested in connection with the case of 10 truck arms seized at Chittagong while being smuggled.

As reported in a few Bengali newspapers, they informed that Dubai-based business firm ARY Group and Pakistan's army

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Country falls far short of minimum forestland  
PM opens tree plantation campaign today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five lakh hectares of forestland in the country has been denuded of trees, said State Minister for Environment and Forests Mostafizur Rahman on the eve of this year's National Afforestation Movement and Tree Fair.

Replies to a query at a press conference yesterday at Public Information Department, the minister admitted that the country lags far behind the minimum required forest coverage despite afforestation and tree

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Prayer Timing		
	May 31	
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-43	6-47
Esha	8-05	8-35

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Leaf-rolled bidi factories emerge under lax watch

AMENA KHATUN

A good number of unauthorised 'patar bidi' (leaf-rolled tobacco) factories are operating on the outskirts of the capital and elsewhere in the country taking advantage of lax monitoring by the authorities concerned and poor enforcement of Tobacco Control Act, 2005.

The Bidi Manufacture (Prohibition) Ordinance 1975 doesn't allow bidi manufacturers using 'khumbi' leaf, 'tendu' leaf or leaf of any other plants. Whoever contravenes any provisions of this ordinance shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to one thousand taka or both, the ordinance reads.

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A few sample products of unauthorised tobacco companies that are thriving due to poor government monitoring.

## Govt investigating 'crossfire' killings

Says home minister

STAR REPORT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday said the government is investigating the allegations of extrajudicial killings by the law enforcers.

"As always, we are against extrajudicial killings. But one thing you must admit that if we [law enforcers] are attacked, we'll have to act in self defence," private TV channel ATN Bangla quoted her as saying.

She made the remarks to reporters after opening a fire service

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## WE MOURN

The members of the Board of Directors and all Executives, Officers and Staff of United Commercial Bank Ltd are deeply shocked at the sad demise of Mrs. Rasheda Hoque, wife of Mr. Kazi Enamul Hoque Stalin, Sponsor Director of United Commercial Bank Ltd. and daughter of Mr. S. A. Khaleque, Former MP, who breathed her last at Square Hospital, Dhaka on Friday, May 29, 2009, at an early age (Innalillahi wa inna ilaihi rajeun).

She left behind three children; Shezeen (12), Samirul (10), Armina (03) and many relatives and well wishers.

We express our profound grief and sympathy to the bereaved family and pray to the Almighty Allah for salvation and eternal peace of the departed soul.

From UCB family

United we achieve

UCB

## SEARCHING FOR CONSULTANT FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY OF FIVE STAR HOTEL AND HOSPITAL

As the plan of continuous expansion of business, Jamuna Group has now planned to set up a Five Star chain hotel with all kinds of most modern facilities of that kind inside Jamuna Future Park Complex. An international standard multi-specialty hospital. Both of these establishments will be equipped with the latest technology to make those benchmark in hospitality and healthcare in Bangladesh and the neighborhood. Before starting construction works, we want to have detailed feasibility report of Five Star Hotel and Hospital.

The Feasibility Study should be addressed the following issues:

### 1. Detailed Strategic Feasibility Study on

- The Industry
- Current Market & Potential Competition
- Business Model & Business Dynamics
- The City, Demographics & Location
- SWOT and Need Gap Analysis
- Service Mix and Statutory Requirements etc.

### 2. Detailed Financial Feasibility Study on

- Capital Expenditure Estimation
- Estimated Revenues
- Operating Cost Estimation
- Profitability etc.

Interested local and international consultant firms are requested to submit their Proposal with Financial Cost for conducting the study within 07.06.2009 to:

Managing Director

JAMUNA GROUP

Jamuna Future Park Complex, Ka-244, Kuril, Progoti Sharani, Baridhara, Dhaka.

## 56 killed in Afghanistan

Kunduz governor injured in bomb attack

AP, AFP, Kabul

A battle in a militant-controlled region of western Afghanistan killed 30 insurgents and nine Afghan soldiers, while a roadside bomb in the country's north wounded an Afghan governor, officials said yesterday.

Violence elsewhere in the country killed 17 others, part of a spate of attacks that killed 56 people over all.

The battle in Badghis province began Friday and continued into Saturday. Afghan troops supported by international forces

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### Online Poll

BNP has formally rejected the probe report on BDR mutiny and demanded formation of an all-party parliamentary inquiry committee to identify the masterminds behind the incident. Do you support it?

Yes (50.28%)  No (47.79%)

No Comments (1.93%)

Total votes: 883

TODAY'S POLL

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said the government can not put an end to the culture of 'crossfire killings' overnight. Do you agree?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)