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# Living in fear of flooding

People of 2 unions of Moheshkhali island exposed to tidal surges due to absence of permanent embankment

**MOHAMMAD ALI ZINNAT with ANDREW EAGLE**

In order to survive the harsh conditions of the intertidal zone, mangrove trees developed a complex root system to survive salt-water and waves. Mudskippers can breathe through the skin, unusual in fish, which allows them to traverse the foreshore. A myriad of species of plants and animals have adapted to intertidal life. Humans are not among them. Yet in Cox's Bazar district an increasing number of coastal dwellers are finding that the intertidal zone is precisely where they live.

In Dalghata and Matarbari, two unions of Moheshkhali Island, not only tidal surges caused by storms and cyclones but regular high tides inundate the homes of several thousand people. The situation is especially intolerable during the monsoon.

"Locally, the 1991 cyclone caused thousands of deaths due to the lack of embankment protection," says Matarbari's newly-elected Chairman Mohammad Ullah.

"Still now, more than two decades later, no sustainable, permanent embankment exists. Tides inundate low-lying areas every day."

Neighbouring Dhalgata's Chairman Ahsan Ullah says 40,000 people in his union spend anxious days due to the lack of functional embankments.

"Planned, high embankments are urgently needed. The whole union risks being devoured by the sea."

According to Ahsan Ullah, written appeals for permanent embankments were made to the upazila nirbahi officer, Water Development Board (WDB) and the district deputy commissioner, to no avail.

While technically there are 20 kilometres of WDB embankment in the two unions, a 17-kilometre stretch has been in a damaged



**A makeshift structure under construction on a dam at Char Dhurun at Kutubdia in Cox's Bazar. The dam in this intertidal zone is in a very bad shape and that's why local fishermen, who are displaced during high tides, make homes like this. Inset, the other end of the dam protecting the offshore area. The photos were taken a couple of months back.**

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## UP POLLS VIOLENCE

# One killed, scores hurt in several districts

Supporters of defeated UP candidate attack 50 Hindu houses, businesses and temple in Cox's Bazar

STAR REPORT

A ward-level Awami League leader has been killed in Pabna and scores have been injured in several districts in violence over union parishad polls.

In Pabna, Ripon Hossain, 30, AL's secretary of ward-9 in Goyeshpur union of Pabna Sadar upazila, was hacked to death in front of his house in

Horinarayanpur village yesterday.

Sheikh Russell Ali Masud, organising secretary of Pabna Sadar upazila AL, told The Daily Star that Ripon, a supporter of AL chairman candidate in Goyeshpur union, which goes to the polls on June 4, could have been killed over election rivalry.

However, Abdullah Al Hasan, officer-in-charge

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## BOAT CAPSIZE

# Five female Ansar die

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Five female Ansar members drowned as a boat capsized in the Ghorautra river of Kishoreganj's Mithamoin upazila early yesterday.

The dead are Asma Begum, 45, Beauty Begum, 38, Sabina Akhtar, 45, Momena Khatun, 40, and Ambia Khatun, 35, of Dampara of Nikli upazila.

They were returning home in Dampara after their duty in the fifth phase of union parishad polls held in the upazila on

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# Alimony paid with pizza



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

An Italian court has allowed a man to pay his alimony to his ex-wife "in kind" with pizza due to his inability to pay with money.

The 50-year-old pizza baker from a small village outside Padua in Northern Italy was acquitted of criminal charges of failing to pay child support.

Nicola Toso and Nicoletta Zuin divorced in 2002 after having a daughter together, Il Gazzettino reports.

Court records state the monthly alimony payment of €400 (£303) was paid according to the divorce settlement.

However, after the economic crisis of 2008, Toso struggled to pay the figure after remarrying and having three further children.

As a result, from 2008 to 2010, he offered Zuin free pizza, calzone and other meals produced from

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# Zia's death anniv today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The crisis-riddled BNP today observes the 35th death anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman, the founder of the BNP, with party Chairperson Khaleida Zia and dozens of senior leaders facing corruption and other cases.

The BNP and its associate bodies have taken up a 15-day programme to mark the anniversary.

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Children being treated at the pediatrics department of the Chittagong Medical College Hospital yesterday. In the scorching summer heat, many children in the port city are being affected by diseases like influenza, parainfluenza, pneumonia and diarrhoea.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

# Joy says he never met Safadi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sajeb Wazed Joy, son of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has trashed Israeli politician Mendi N Safadi's claim that the two had a meeting in Washington last year.

"I have never met Safadi, either in Washington or anywhere else. He is lying," Joy wrote in a Facebook post.

"That he [Safadi] is willing to lie for the BNP also proves that he is involved in a conspiracy with the BNP. Otherwise, why would he lie on their behalf?"

Joy, ICT adviser to the PM, uploaded the post early yesterday, two days after Israel's Likud Party leader Safadi in an interview with BBC Bangla

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# Saudis 'blocking path to Allah'

Tehran says Iranians will not attend hajj this year as talks fail to end rift

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday said its pilgrims will miss the pilgrimage this year because Saudi Arabia, custodian of Islam's holiest sites, was raising obstacles and "blocking the path to Allah" for its faithful.

The Iranian Hajj Organisation said: "Saudi Arabia is opposing the absolute right of Iranians to go on the hajj and is blocking the path leading to Allah."

The Saudi side had failed to respond to Iranian demands over "the security and respect" of its pilgrims to Makkah, of whom 60,000 took part in last year's hajj, the organisation said.

In the latest dispute between regional rivals Tehran and Riyadh, "after two series of negotiations without any results because of obstacles raised by the Saudis, Iranian pilgrims will unfortunately not be able to take part in the hajj" in September, Iran's Culture Minister Ali Jannati said.

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**রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ**  
রাজউক ভবন, ঢাকা।

**গণশুনানি গ্রহণ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, রাজউকের নিকট সেবা প্রত্যাশী জনগণের অভিযোগ ও বিভিন্ন সমস্যাবলী নিষ্পত্তির লক্ষ্যে রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ গণশুনানি গ্রহণ করে আসছে। চেয়ারম্যান, রাজউক প্রতি সপ্তাহের বুধবার সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকায় সেবা প্রত্যাশীদের শুনানি গ্রহণ করেন। রাজউক-এর সেবা প্রত্যাশীদের লিখিত অভিযোগ প্রতিদিন সচিব, রাজউক-এর দপ্তরে জমা নেয়া হয়।

সুশান্ত চাকমা  
সচিব  
রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ, ঢাকা

জিডি-১১৭১

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
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তারিখঃ ২৫/০৫/২০১৬খ্রিঃ

**গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ভিক্ষাবৃত্তি একটি অভিশপ্ত পেশা যা সমাজ ও রাষ্ট্রীয় ব্যবস্থাকে কলুষিত করে। সাম্প্রতিক সময়ে ঢাকা শহরে ভিক্ষকের সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি পাওয়ায় নানাবিধ সমস্যার মাত্রা বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে। সমাজের একটি দুঃখজনক মাদক ব্যবসায় বিভিন্নভাবে ভিক্ষকদের ব্যবহার করে তাদের উদ্দেশ্য হাসিল করে চলেছে। এছাড়া বাংলাদেশে আগত বিদেশীদের আগমন ও চলাচলের পথে ভিক্ষুকগণ বিভিন্ন উপায়ে ভিক্ষা আদায়ে সচেতন থাকায় দেশের ভাবমূর্ত্তিও ক্ষুন্ন হচ্ছে। এসব বিষয় বিবেচনা করে ঢাকা শহরের কয়েকটি এলাকাকে তটি জোনে বিভক্ত করে ঢাকা উত্তর ও দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন কর্তৃক ভিক্ষুকমুক্ত এলাকা হিসেবে ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে। এলাকাসমূহ হলো জোন-১ বিমান বন্দর এলাকা, হোটেল রেডিসান (ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন); জোন-২ কুটনৈতিক জোন ও দূতাবাস এলাকা (ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন); জোন-৩ হোটেল সোনারগাঁও, হোটেল রূপসী বাংলা, বেইলী রোড (ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন)। ভিক্ষুকমুক্ত ঘোষিত এলাকায় সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক অবিলম্বে ভ্রাম্যমান আদালত পরিচালনা করা হবে।

২। এমতাবস্থায়, ভিক্ষুকমুক্ত ঘোষিত এলাকায় ভ্রাম্যমান আদালত পরিচালনাকালে ভিক্ষারত অবস্থায় কাউকে পাওয়া গেলে তাদেরকে সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্রে পুনর্বাসনের জন্য নিয়ে যাওয়া হবে। এ বিষয়ে সর্বসাধারণের আন্তরিক সহযোগিতা কামনা করা হলো।

কর্তৃপক্ষ  
সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর  
সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়

জিডি-১১৬৭