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EMBANKMENTS IN HAORS

# Projects turn into plights

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, back from Sunamganj

Ashik Miah, a 45-year-old farmer of Jaladhartupi village, was staring helplessly at his inundated paddy field as he sat beside Dekhar Haor at Dakshin Sunamganj upazila.

"I cultivated Boro on around one hectare of land taking loans from a local lender. But the flash flood washed away all my investment. How will I repay the loan and where will I stand with my family now?" lamented Ashik.

He was talking about his miseries when he threw a desperate glance at this correspondent and asked, "Who is responsible for the loss?"

Like Ashik Miah, 70-year-old farmer Rashid Miah, Rahim Uddin, Abdul Khalik and many others of Sunamganj experienced the same fate. Most of them had borrowed money either from local lenders or from different non-government organisations.

As they have lost their lone crop, their annual earning, the farmers can now see only a bleak future ahead.

Some of them have tried in vain to harvest the underwater crops dipping into waist-deep water. Most of them eventually found that the water level was much deeper than what they had anticipated.

Boro, the only crop of the haor areas in Sunamganj, has submerged due to untimely heavy rain followed by the flash flood that hit the areas on March 27, around 15 to 20 days before the harvest.

Though the government has taken an initiative to implement several projects of re-sectioning submersible embankments and repairing the damaged ones through the Water Development Board (WDB), the contractors who got the work allegedly did not deliver.

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PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



Water is receding in *Sonir Haor* in Sunamganj's Dharmapasha upazila after three weeks of inundation, but boro, the only crop in the haor, have been damaged. Untimely rain and onrush of water from upstream rivers in India caused the flash floods in the district. The photo was taken last week. *Inset*, water flows through an under-construction sluice gate on an embankment in *Dekhar Haor* of Dakshin Sunamganj upazila late last month.



## Vogue model's body to be exhumed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi court yesterday ordered the Criminal Investigation Department to exhume the body of Raudha Athif for a second autopsy.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mahbubur Rahman passed the order to exhume the body in presence of an additional district magistrate after hearing a petition filed by CID Inspector Asmaul Hoque on Monday.

"We will fix a date for exhuming the body after we can arrange the formation of a medical board and ensure presence of the magistrate," Asmaul, also the investigation officer of the case, told The Daily Star.

The CID would apply to the Rajshahi Medical College for the formation of

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# Cruel twist of fate

Man from Gazipur dies near Petrapole border while bringing back son's body from Indian hospital; shell-shocked wife returns home with son's body, now waits for husband's body

SUBBRATA ACHARJEE from Kolkata and MOHSIN MILON from Benapole

In a tragic turn of events, a father died on Monday, failing to bear the pain of his only son's premature demise in a Kolkata hospital the day before.

Twelve-year-old Asad Mondal, son of Mohammad Rafiq, 45, and Asma Bibi, 35, of Gobindabari village in Kashimpur union of Gazipur, had been suffering from blood cancer for about five months.

After primary investigations, he was admitted to the National Institute of Chest Diseases and Hospital (NIDCH) in Dhaka where he underwent treatment for nearly two months.

With no progress, his parents decided to take him to India and they reached Kolkata on April 15. He was admitted to Renaissance Hospital in Tectoria there.

"Shockingly, he [Asad] died the next day [Sunday],"



Asma Bibi

Asad's uncle Amirul Islam told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

However, they arranged all documents from the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata to take Asad's body home.

On Monday, Rafiq and Asma were bringing back the body of their son in a microbus. As they were approaching Petrapole border, Rafiq fell unconscious several times, relatives said.

By the time the microbus reached the Petrapole immigration check point, Rafiq became seriously ill. Asad's body was kept at Petrapole, and Rafiq was moved to Bangaon State General Hospital in 24 Parganas district of West Bengal.

"Doctors at the hospital declared him dead," Asma Bibi told local reporters.

Debashish Mukherjee, the hospital's doctor-in-charge, said they primarily thought that Rafiq died of cardiac arrest.

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The coffin of Asad Mondal, 12, lies on a rickshaw-van at Petrapole border checkpoint in West Bengal yesterday. Asad along with his parents went to Kolkata on April 15 for cancer treatment, but the teenager died the following day. His father Mohammad Rafiq passed away Monday.

PHOTO: STAR

## ROADMAP TO JS POLLS EC to open talks with parties in July

RASHIDUL HASAN

Election Commission will hold dialogues with political parties from July in order to make the next parliamentary polls a participatory one, according to a draft roadmap prepared by the EC Secretariat.

The draft roadmap stipulates amendment to electoral laws and rules and demarcation of the constituencies between August and December this year, EC sources said.

"We submitted the draft roadmap to the EC on April 8 for a review," EC Secretary Muhammad Abdullah told The Daily Star.

New political parties will be able to register with the commission between November this year and March next year, EC officials said.

The EC will issue public notifications seeking application for registration of new political parties.

The draft roadmap has 22 major points regarding the next parliamentary polls scheduled for early 2019, Muhammad Abdullah added.

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**SIBL**  
Social Islami Bank Limited  
Prayer Timing April 19

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-35	12-45	4-45	6-24
JAMAAT	5-10	1-15	5-00	6-28
			8-15	

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Canadian river vanishes in 4 days



AP, Washington

Scientists have witnessed the first modern case of what they call "river piracy" and they blame global warming. Most of the water gushing from a large glacier in northwest Canada last year suddenly switched from one river to another.

That changed the Slims River from a 10-foot (3 meters) deep, raging river to something so shallow that it barely was above a scientist's high top sneakers at midstream. The melt from the Yukon's Kaskawulsh glacier now flows mostly into the Alsek River and ends up in the Pacific Ocean instead of the Arctic's Bering Sea.

It seemed to all happen over a period of four

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## One of four missing youths returns home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

One of the four youths, who had gone missing from the capital's Banani in December last year, returned to his village home in Barisal yesterday.

Mahedi Hasan Howlader neither remembered the place where he was kept nor did he have any idea about the people who took him there.

Talking to The Daily Star, the 25-year-old man said he was kept blindfolded all the time and was not properly fed.

On December 1, Mahedi along with three other youths -- Zain Hossain Khan Pavel, Shafayat Hossain and Md Sujon -- went missing.

Pavel and Shafayat are students of North South University and childhood friends, while Sujon worked at an advertising firm in the

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## N Korea renews threat

US VP reassures Japan; Mattis pledges to work with China to reduce tensions in Korean peninsula

AGENCIES

US Vice President Mike Pence reiterated his country's commitment to the security of Japan yesterday, as North Korea intensified concerns over its weapons programme with a vow to launch missile tests "every week".

The North, which is intent on developing a nuclear-tipped ballistic missile capable of reaching the mainland United States, defied international pressure Sunday with a test that failed immediately after launch.

As fears grow that it may also be preparing

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**বাংলাদেশ পাটকল করপোরেশন**  
সুখবর! সুখবর! সুখবর!

**আকর্ষণীয় মূল্য ! আকর্ষণীয় মূল্য !**

- \* "পণ্যে পাটজাত মোড়কের বাধ্যতামূলক ব্যবহার আইন-২০১০" অনুযায়ী কোন ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান পাটজাত মোড়ক দ্বারা মোড়কজাতকরণ ব্যতীত ধান, চাল, গম, ভুট্টা, সার, চিনি, মরিচ, হলুদ, পেঁয়াজ, আদা, রসুন, ডাল, ধনিয়া, আলু ইত্যাদি পণ্য বিক্রয়, বিতরণ বা সরবরাহ করতে পারবেন না।
- \* এ আইনের আওতায় ৫০ কে.জি. ওজনের পণ্য মোড়কীকরণের জন্য বিজেএমসি কর্তৃক উৎপাদিত ৩৭" x ২২.৫" সাইজের হেসিয়ান ও স্যাকিং ব্যাগ বিজেএমসি'র সকল মিলে আকর্ষণীয় মূল্যে পাওয়া যাচ্ছে।
- \* ৩৬" x ২২.৫" সাইজের হেসিয়ান ব্যাগও আকর্ষণীয় মূল্যে বাজারে ছাড়া হয়েছে।

এ বিষয়ে বিস্তারিত জানতে ও ব্যাগ ক্রয়ের জন্য আত্মহী ক্রেতাগণকে বিজেএমসি'র মিলসমূহে এবং নিম্নোক্ত ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হল :

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