

বিশ্ব বলেছিলো- পদ্মা সেতু 'সম্ভব না' একজন প্রধানমন্ত্রী আর ১৬ কোটি বাঙালি বলেছিলো- 'কেন না!'

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# Embankment woes in haor

Dubious construction, work behind schedule worry Sunamganj farmers

DWOHA CHOWDHURY with ANDREW EAGLE

When it comes to Boro paddy, Sunamganj usually offers a lion's share of the nationwide harvest. But for the last two years the district has suffered from flash floods, with the 2017 crop in Sunamganj and other haor wetland areas of the northeast all but wiped out. In response, the government initiated investment in embankment construction and repair. But with works originally scheduled for completion by February 28 still underway and in terms of construction quality, farmers are worried.

"We hope the embankment works in our area will be finished soon," says one farmer, Fotik Miah from Kaliarkapon village in Dirai upazila. "We also have doubts about how long the embankments will last."

Fotik believes there were anomalies in the forming of the project implementation committees which has resulted in low quality construction. "Soil has been taken from directly below the embankments. The embankments have not been compacted. It is uncertain how well they will withstand floods," he says.

Government rules stipulate that no soil should be excavated from within 50 metres of an embankment under construction. After construction the earth of each embankment is supposed to be compacted and planted with grass.

The Daily Star recently visited three sites alongside Cheftir Haor in Dirai where workers were observed sourcing earth from as close as 10 metres, in violation of the rules.

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Workers collecting soil from as close as 10 metres of an embankment being repaired near Cheftir Haor in Sunamganj recently. According to government rules, no earth should be removed from within 50 metres of an embankment under construction. PHOTO: DWOHA CHOWDHURY



## Anti-apartheid activist Winnie Mandela dies

AFP, Johannesburg

Winnie Mandela, the former wife of South African anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela, died yesterday at the age of 81, her spokesman said.

She died in a Johannesburg hospital after a long illness, spokesman Victor Dlamini said in a statement.

Winnie Mandela, who was married to Nelson Mandela for 38 years, played a high-profile role in the battle to end white-minority rule but her place in history was also stained by controversy.

"It is with profound sadness that we inform the public that Mrs Winnie Madikizela-Mandela passed away at the Netcare Milpark Hospital, Johannesburg, South Africa on Monday."

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## Obhai, Obon!

New ride-sharing app offers multiple services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ridesharing mobile apps have already gained popularity among the city dwellers with some of the service providers offering car rides, some motorcycle rides and some offering both.

### OBHAI

But what if one wants to go to a place in the capital with a large number of family members? Or what about a female passenger wishing a female biker to take her to the destination?

A new ride-hailing app has been put on trial for last six months that offers customers cars, motorcycles, CNG-run auto-rickshaws and even seats on a 10-seater air-conditioned microbus.

"Obhai", a four-in-one ridesharing app, will be launched formally soon.

"Obhai reduces your waiting time for

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## US-China trade war escalates

Beijing slaps retaliatory tariffs up to 25pc on 128 US products

REUTERS, Beijing

China has increased tariffs by up to 25 percent on 128 US products, from frozen pork and wine to certain fruits and nuts, escalating a spat between the world's biggest economies in response to US duties on imports of aluminum and steel.

The tariffs, took effect yesterday, were announced late on Sunday by China's finance ministry and matched a list of potential tariffs on up to \$3 billion in US goods published by China on March 23.

Soon after the announcement, an editorial in the widely read Chinese tabloid Global Times warned that if the US had thought China would not retaliate or would only take symbolic counter-measures, it can now "say goodbye to that delusion."

"Even though China and the US have not publicly said they are in a trade war, the sparks of such a war have already started to fly," the editorial said.

China's Ministry of Commerce said it was suspending its obligations to the World Trade Organization (WTO) to reduce tariffs on 120 US goods,

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## BCL leader shot, hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Chhatra League leader was shot and hacked to death by his rivals at Pakshey in Pabna's Ishwardi upazila on Sunday night, said police.

The victim, Sadrul Alam Pintu, 28, of Char Rooppur village, is the president of Pakshey union unit BCL, pro-ruling Awami League student body.

Azim Uddin, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station, said around 8:00pm, some criminals first shot Pintu and then hacked him in front of a pharmacy at Rooppur crossing.

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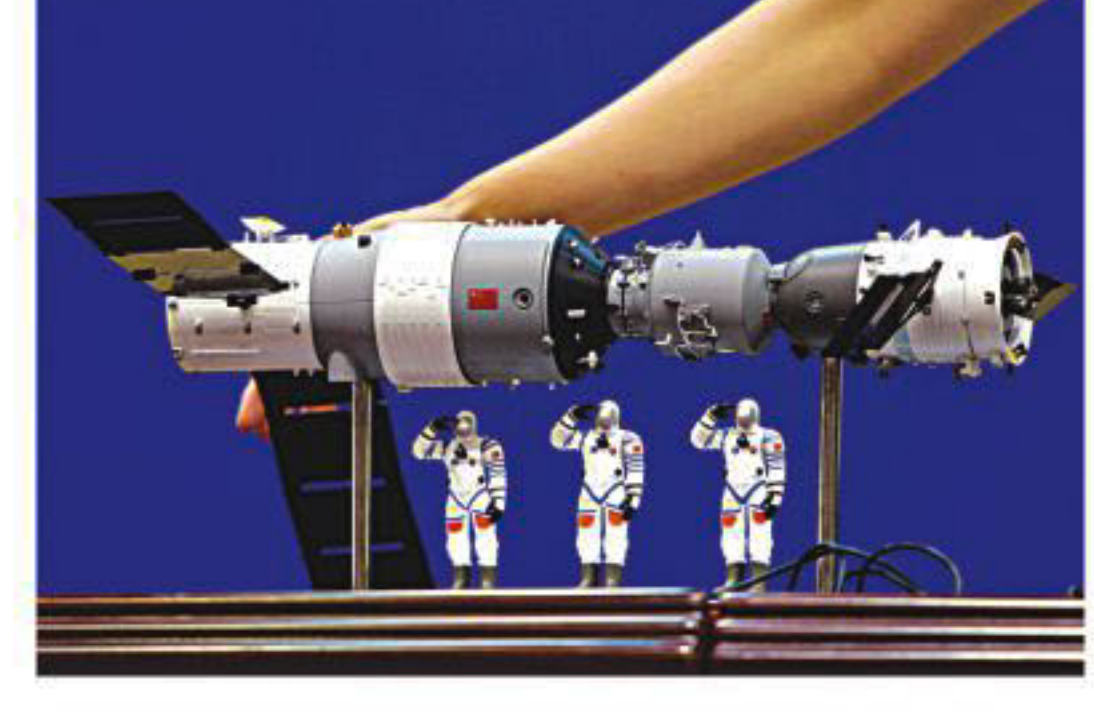
## Chinese space lab falls into the Pacific

AFP, Beijing

A defunct Chinese space lab disintegrated under intense heat as it hurtled through Earth's atmosphere yesterday and plunged to a watery grave in the South Pacific, Chinese officials said.

The Tiangong-1 "mostly" burnt up above the vast ocean's central region at 8:15 am Beijing time,

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## BANKING SECTOR TIB worried at proposal for reporting law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday termed the Bangladesh Association of Banks' proposal of formulating the Bank Reporting Act as illegal and expressed deep concern over it.

In a statement, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman termed the move as dreadful saying the anti-public proposal will encourage irregularities and corruption in the banking sector.

TIB said the proposal goes against public interest

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Jatka (hilsa less than 10 inches in length) on sale at Kanakshah market in Munshiganj's Louhajong. Below, hilsa fries, easily mistaken for kachki, being taken to Holudia market in the same upazila in buckets. Despite an ongoing ban, locals have been catching such fish indiscriminately from the Padma River for the last 15 days. The authorities, however, seem nonchalant. The photos were taken a couple of days ago.

PHOTO: FARHANA MIRZA

## Film professionals, BFDC at loggerheads

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC) has been celebrating National Film Day on April 3 since 2012, with elaborate programmes in the capital under an initiative of Ministry of Information.

This year, a rift seems to have developed between the government body and professionals of the film industry, who are set to carry out separate programmes to mark the day.

A group of 18 organisations of the film

industry under the banner of Cholochochitro Poribar, has been co-organising the celebratory events with BFDC.

However, this year the group has stepped away from participating in the celebrations with BFDC, and will instead hold their own event.

Eminent actor Syed Hasan Imam, the chairman of this year's National Film Day celebration committee, said "When we were finalising the event details, the Cholochochitro Poribar informed me that

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**SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center**

**PRAYER TIMING**  
**APRIL 3**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-45 6-21 7-45  
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 5-00 6-24 8-15  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**জাতীয় স্বার্থে গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি**

১৮ চৈত্র, ১৪২৪  
তারিখঃ .....  
১ এপ্রিল, ২০১৮

**এইচএসসি ও সমমান পরীক্ষা-২০১৮ চলাকালীন মোবাইল ফিন্যান্সিয়াল সার্ভিস (এমএফএস)-এর মাধ্যমে লেনদেন প্রসঙ্গে।**

২০১৮ সালে অনুষ্ঠিত এইচএসসি ও সমমানের পরীক্ষা চলাকালীন মোবাইল হিসাবের মাধ্যমে সংঘটিত সকল লেনদেন ও সংশ্লিষ্ট ডিস্ট্রিবিউটর/সুপার এজেন্ট ও এজেন্ট-কে কঠোরভাবে নজরদারি করা হবে এবং অস্বাভাবিক মর্মে প্রতীয়মান লেনদেনের ক্ষেত্রে প্রদানকারী ও গ্রহণকারী উভয়ের তথ্য সংশ্লিষ্ট এমএফএস প্রোভাইডার কর্তৃক যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আইনপ্রয়োগকারী সংস্থাকে অবহিত করা হবে। পরীক্ষা চলাকালীন সাধারণ হিসাবধারীগণকে সতর্কতার সাথে লেনদেন করার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

উক্ত সময়ে মোবাইল হিসাবধারীগণের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।