

Season cycle left in chaos

Climate change taking its toll on Bangladesh

PINAKI ROY

It is Ashwin in Bangla calendar, officially autumn in Bangladesh and usually the season of benign sunlight. And so it happened for generations.

But things are different now.

Last week was hot with intense humidity. Profuse sweating drenched people. But yesterday it was like monsoon, drizzling and sometimes pouring down with rain the whole day.

This July was the driest in the decade, said the meteorological office. It prompted some farmers at Ramchandra village in Shadullahpur, Gaibandha to marry off frogs, a rainmaking ritual in the country. Foreign media also covered the event.

Though there are six seasons in Bangladesh, three of them--summer, monsoon and winter--are noticeable. The farmers of the country depend on their traditional knowledge.

Agronomists say the farmers, who have been ever intuitive about weather, fail to predict the rain nowadays.

Monsoon rains normally sweep Bangladesh from June to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Raindrops drench a roadside tree on Dhaka University campus yesterday. Light rain in the city added to sufferings of commuters, but also felt as a relief from the sweltering heat of the last few days.

Rain sweeps country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Heavy rainfall and tidal surge influenced by the low in the Bay of Bengal have inundated many districts and chars in the coastal belt.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall from Tuesday lashed the coastal region and some other parts of the country, Dhaka Met office reported.

Rivers of Bhola, Barguna, Patuakhali and Barisal experienced tidal surge up to five feet high.

In Patuakhali, many Aman fields went under water as the dam built to control flooding was damaged. Also fish worth several hundred crore taka were washed away due to the overflow of hatcheries and ponds, said a source of district fisheries office.

An embankment in Bagerhat is also under threat of collapse raising concern

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Michelle the most powerful

Forbes list of world's top 100 women

AFP, Washington

US First Lady Michelle Obama shot up 40 places on this year's Forbes magazine list of powerful women to claim the top spot, replacing German leader Angela Merkel.

Obama's new ranking ends Merkel's four-year reign at the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

10-TRUCK ARMS HAUL CASE Govt top brass were aware of incident

Nizami is quoted as saying in statement of ex-industries secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The highest authority of the then BNP-Jamaat-led government was aware about the seizure of 10-truckload of arms and ammunition at the Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd (CUFL) Jetty on April 02, 2004.

The then industries minister Matiur Rahman Nizami and additional industries secretary Nurul Amin, who was staying at the rest house of CUFL on the night of the seizure, tried to hide the truth.

Dr Shoeb Ahmed, the then industries secretary and former adviser to a caretaker government, said this in his judicial statement before a Chittagong court yesterday.

Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate Mahubur Rahman recorded the 20-page statement under section 164 in the afternoon.

Dr Shoeb Ahmed in his statement said the then BCIC

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Anthrax now under control

Claims govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday lifted the month-long anthrax red alert, claiming the situation is under control following effective measures taken by the authorities.

Abdul Latif Biswas, fisheries and livestock minister, declared the government's decision at a press briefing at the ministry's conference room.

Only eight districts have been detected with anthrax and most of the animals of these districts have been vaccinated while the rest of the animals are going to be vaccinated before Eid-ul-Azha, the minister said.

However, the livestock officials will continue to monitor the situation closely, he added.

Only 37 anthrax-infected animals out of 103 died since August 20 this year compared

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Politics over local govt

Every govt formed commissions, but hardly took any step to make local bodies stronger

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Efforts by successive governments to make the local government bodies vibrant and fully functional through necessary reforms remain confined mainly to formation of commissions to that end.

Information available shows at least five high-powered commissions or committees were formed since 1982 to restructure and strengthen local government bodies with little achievement.

The commissions made dozens of recommendations including changing structure of local government system to establish sustainable local governance so that effective public participation can be ensured in local administration.

Erstwhile governments accepted one of the recommendations that only changed the tiers in local government. But no governments paid heed to other suggestions, which, if executed, could

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

HC exempts Sohul from personal appearance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday exempted Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain from personal appearance before this court in connection with a contempt of court petition.

The HC passed the exemption order although Sohul did not appear before it in this

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

২০১০ সালের এইচ.এস.সি, আলিম ও এইচ.এস.সি ভোকেশনাল পরীক্ষায় গোল্ডেন জিপিএ-৫ প্রাপ্তদের
স্বপ্নসিঁদুর

ইসলামী ব্যাংক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড-এর উদ্যোগে গোল্ডেন জিপিএ-৫ (সকল বিষয়ে এ+) প্রাপ্তদের স্বপ্নসিঁদুর অনুষ্ঠানের জন্য যারা এখনো রেজিস্ট্রেশন সম্পন্ন করতে পারেনি তারা ৩০ অক্টোবর '১০ তারিখের মধ্যে ডাকযোগে অথবা অনলাইনে রেজিস্ট্রেশন করতে পারবে।

ডাকযোগে রেজিস্ট্রেশনের ক্ষেত্রে : ব্যাংকের নিকটস্থ শাখা থেকে নির্ধারিত ফরম নিয়ে কর্পোরেট সোসাল এফেয়ার্স বিভাগ, ইসলামী ব্যাংক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ৬৩, দিলকুশা বা/এ (৮নং তলা), ঢাকা ঠিকানায় আবেদন করতে হবে।

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FEUD OVER TENDER BCL men beat dead Jubo League activist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A ward level Jubo League leader was allegedly beaten to death by a group of local Bangladesh Chhatra League activists in a row over tender bidding in the city's Moghbazar yesterday.

The deceased, Syed Yousuf Ali, 42, was the publicity secretary of ward-55 Jubo League.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Hajj flights begin today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hajj flights of Biman Bangladesh Airlines begin tonight with a Boeing-747 carrying 477 pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

The flight is scheduled to leave Dhaka for Jeddah at 10:40pm.

About 94,000 pilgrims from Bangladesh are likely to perform hajj this year, Biman officials said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Clarification, our reply

In a clarification, the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) contested a report published in this paper on September 3, 2010 headlined "Buriganga River Sand traders offer free dredging".

The clarification said that BIWTA has planned to dredge the parts of Buriganga by proper means but not to extract sand from the riverbed by improper technical means.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

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