



e-GP LAUNCHED

PM inaugurates electronic government procurement

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DIGITAL WALLET

Credit cards to make a foray into smartphones

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JAPAN PM SURVIVES

Naoto Kan defeats a no-confidence motion

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Weather cycle goes normal

Favourable climate contributes to bumper food production, pleasant summer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the southwest monsoon blowing in, the mercury has significantly dropped giving people a break from summer heat and boosting hope for the country's agriculture, say meteorologists.

The southwest monsoon, also known as wet monsoon, lasts from early June to mid-August, influenced by a seasonal wind that blows from the Indian Ocean over the country causing a lot of rain.

The summer is usually hot coupled by intense humidity. But in this April and May, the temperature was much tolerable, to some extent soothing. The mercury has so far shot up to 37.5 degrees Celsius once in Iswardi where it generally goes as high as 39 degrees Celsius.

Citing the dry spells of the last two years, the met office said this year the number of rainy days across the country was normal.

In May, the rainfall was only 4.5 percent less than that is normal for the month. The silver lining is that the rainfalls

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Rice mills across the country are now operating in full swing as the government prepares to buy a large quantity of rice from the local market. The photo was taken from Dinajpur.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Tk **29** / kg
Govt to buy 6 lakh tonnes Boro rice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has targeted buying six lakh tonnes of Boro rice from the domestic market at Tk 29 a kg from June 5 to September 30.

But unlike in the previous years, it will not buy paddy from the farmers due to lack of adequate storage facilities required for this.

Food Secretary Barun Dev Mitra said this while talking to journalists at his office yesterday.

Production cost of Boro paddy this season is Tk 14.65 a kg as estimated by the agriculture ministry. Procurement price of rice has been fixed taking into consideration milling cost and 25 percent benefit, he said.

Public procurement of Boro rice used to start in mid-April in the past, but this time the government delayed the process

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Smuggled turtles seized in Bangkok

STAR REPORT

Thai customs found hundreds of live turtles and tortoises along with some gavials, all smuggled through Dhaka, in air luggage at Bangkok's main airport yesterday, reports AFP.

The haul included five species of endangered and critically endangered Bangladeshi turtles and about \$33,000 worth of 35 star

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SHOT INTO DISABILITY BY RAB
Limon pleads with PM for justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

College student Limon Hossain, maimed after allegedly being shot by Rab in Jhalakathi, appealed to the prime minister for justice and protection from influential quarters.

Limon at Pangu Hospital in the capital told The Daily Star that he was never in speaking terms with criminal Morshed Jamadder or his family members. He did not even know him, he claimed.



He said, "I request Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to look into the matter. I want justice from her."

His father Tofazzol Hossain said he requested the doctors not to release him in a few days as Limon has not recovered completely and because he will not be able to treat him anywhere else.

Nitor Director Prof KH Abdul Awal said, "Limon was scheduled to be released from the hospital. A few weeks later a

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BSS act shocks HR boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission Chairman Mizanur Rahman said yesterday he hoped that justice will be done to college student Limon Hossain, who lost a leg after being shot by Rapid Action Battalion on March 23.

"I'm not losing hope about his getting justice," Mizanur said at a roundtable discussion on Constitutional

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Rejoinder, our reply

Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited in a rejoinder on a report published on May 21 under the headline "Biman in severe cash crunch-Borrows Tk 20 crore from bank to pay staff salaries" said actually the airline borrowed the money from the bank to meet its day-to-day operational expenditure.

It also said the national flag carrier has about

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NEWS ANALYSIS

A sad Monday for Sangsad

All three proposals for strengthening House rejected

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The cabinet seems to have ignored a constitutional provision by rejecting a proposed law that would empower parliamentary committees to force witness attendance at committee hearings, and production of documents.

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TIB for no more money whitening

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has urged the government not to allow whitening black money in the budget for the fiscal year 2011-12.

The anti-corruption body in a statement demanded the government abolish such scope permanently as it pledged

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NIMTOLI BLAZE

Never-ending nightmare

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and RAKIB AHAMMED

It has been a year since the devastating fire at capital's Nimtoli burnt Shamsunnahar's house and all her belongings into ashes. And with that all her hope.

The seventy-year-old widow still waits for someone to help rebuild the house.

Ever since the blaze burnt down her tin-shed house on June 3 last year in Old Dhaka, she has been spending her nights in the corridors of neighbours' houses.

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Heartiest congratulations to Honorable Chairman **Dr. Abdullhel Bari** for being awarded with the **Mercantile Bank Foundation Award-2011** for his outstanding contribution in Industry and Commerce of Bangladesh by establishing our shipbuilding recognized worldwide through exporting first ever ship to Europe and ten ships till date. All employees of Ananda Shipyard are very proud of his achievement. This recognition will further solidify our commitments towards enhanced quality, productivity and contribution to the Country.

Ananda Shipyard & Slipways Ltd.

Remove all structures from Kuakata beach: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned to immediately remove all structures from Kuakata sea beach, and submit a report on the compliance within seven days.

It also asked them to take necessary steps to stop encroachment, earth filling and construction of structures on the beach.

The HC directive came following a writ petition filed by Human Rights

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TOP...Losing his son to the Nimtoli inferno a year ago a fruit seller has his son's photo framed on the shop shelf. The devastation, bottom, the fire left behind.

PHOTO: SHAKHAT JAMIL/ANISUR RAHMAN