



HISTORY AND AMNESIA

Syed Badrul Ahsan reflects on August 15 and Khaleda Zia's celebrating her birthday on the day

PAGE 6

TIGERS TAKE ON WI TODAY

Bangladesh will begin their series against West Indies with the first ODI in Grenada

PAGE 14

'IS ENEMY NO 1 OF ISLAM'

Saudi grand mufti slams the militant group committing genocide in parts of Iraq

PAGE 8



DROUGHT

CONTRAST

Left, a dried up seedbed in Hasila village of Dinajpur. Right, a vast area in Sundarganj of Gaibandha has been flooded, while in some other parts of the district, water to rot jute is a big concern for farmers. Both Dinajpur and Gaibandha are northern districts and the photos were taken on Friday and Tuesday respectively.

PHOTO: STAR



FLOOD

Weather goes haywire

Country experiences rain and flood here, drought there; farming, livelihood hit by strange climate

PINAKI ROY

In just three days beginning Friday, Teknaf experienced 482 millimetres of rain, exceeding what is usual for the whole of August.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) records Teknaf's maximum and normal rainfall for August at 1,382mm and 438mm, and the number of rainy days at 12 to 25.

The coastal upazila had 1,019.4mm rain on just a few days between August 1 and 17.

Similarly, Lorergarh of Sunamganj got 1,038mm rain in the 17 days and 267mm in

three days till Monday. The area's maximum and normal rain for the month are 1,480mm and 880mm, according to FFWC.

In sharp contrast, farmers in many other parts of the country find cracks in their dried up Aman field.

The Ghagot and Teesta rivers are flowing above the danger level, eroding their banks and flooding villages in Gaibandha due to upstream storm water. But in many other villages of the district, water to rot jute plants has become scarce and this is a big concern for farmers.

Farmers are worried too in Naogaon, Dinajpur

and Feni.

Usually, July is the peak of the monsoon in Bangladesh, but there was 34 percent less rainfall last month following a dry spell.

Most of the downpour occurs in the country in June and July with 460mm and 523mm rain respectively on an average. Each month gets 12 to 24 rainy days, varying from region to region.

This year, the monsoon remained largely inactive throughout the two months, though the season started on June 15.

The monsoon became active from

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Climate change takes toll on GDP

ADB study projects 9pc GDP loss by end of century, 23pc crop loss in Bangladesh by 2080

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh could lose more than 9 percent of its gross domestic product by the end of this century due to the impact of climate change, says the Asian Development Bank.

Global warming might cause the country's annual rice production to fall by 23 percent by 2080, according to an ADB report, titled "Assessing the Costs of Climate Change and Adaptation in South Asia", launched in the capital yesterday.

"Low-lying Bangladesh is at the front line of at-risk countries from climate change", given the vulnerability of the country's coastline to extreme weather events, said the report.

With nearly half the country's population depending on agriculture, human and financial losses could be even higher if the damage from floods, droughts and other extreme weather events is included, it said.

Only one metre rise in sea levels would

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

New scheme to give villages a new look

Aiming to prevent shrinkage of farmland, govt okays Tk 424cr pilot project; selected villages to get limited urban facilities

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government yesterday approved an ambitious project of setting up new model villages with limited urban facilities to prevent shrinkage of agricultural land.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) yesterday gave the go-ahead to the Tk 424 crore "Palli Janapad" project, under which four-storey buildings would be constructed initially in seven villages from seven divisions to accommodate the families living there.

A total of 272 flats in four categories



would be constructed in each village.

The allottee of each flat would pay 30 percent of the construction cost as down payment. The rest 70 percent would be paid in instalments in 15 years in addition to another 5 percent simple interest on the amount.

After the ECNEC meeting, Planning

Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal told reporters that initially they would implement the scheme in seven selected villages on a pilot basis.

"If the project becomes a success, it will be expanded throughout the country in phases," the minister added.

The buildings will have four categories of flats. The 'A' type flats will have an area of 915 square feet (sft) with three bedrooms and two balconies and cost Tk 14.67 lakh each. The 'B' type flats of 710sft area with a price tag of Tk 11.38 lakh each would have two bedrooms and two balconies. The 460sft

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

LIVEABILITY INDEX Dhaka 2nd worst city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has been ranked as the second least liveable city among the world's 140 cities in this year's Global Liveability Index released by the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Only Damascus in war-torn Syria lags behind Dhaka, which was placed in second position last year too and at the bottom the year before.

The list is prepared based on the scores across a range of criteria, including health care, culture, environment, education and infrastructure.

The capital of Bangladesh had come

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Tk 31 lakh snatched

Muggers open fire, blast bombs; 5 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five employees of a distributor of Akij Group sustained injuries yesterday as muggers took away Tk 31 lakh from them spraying them with bullets and blasting several crude bombs in the capital's Moghbazar.

The victims are general manager of JR Corporation Ltd Harun-or-Rashid, its

accounts officer Nur Mohammad, security guard Altaf Hossain, mechanic Mintu Ali Manik and a shopkeeper, Zahir.

Nur has been undergoing treatment with a bullet injury to the right thigh and splinter injuries in different parts of his body at Insaf Barakah Kidney and General Hospital. The four others also sustained splinter injuries

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



DOB: June 8, 1993
Demise: August 20, 2013

First death anniversary of Mashroor Sharar Azam

Today is the first death anniversary of our beloved son **Mashroor Sharar Azam**.

Dear friends, families, relatives and well wishers are kindly requested to pray for his departed soul.

May Almighty Allah grant him Jannah

On behalf of his family- Md. Moshuiul Azam Shajal

CONSTRUCTION SITE ACCIDENT

3 Bangladeshi workers killed in Malaysia

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPLOB

They had known each other since childhood. They went to school together, grew up together as friends. Together, as if through a miracle, they went abroad in search of a better life.

They found employment. They were happy that at long last their fortunes were about to change. That was not to be, for what lay in store for them was a tragic end.

They died as they had lived, in close friendship. Death came to them at the same time, making sure their friendship endured even if life in the end cheated them.

Rescuers recovered the bodies of Elahi Hossain, 31, son of Abdus Satter and Alauddin Mollik, 34, son of Shahadat Mollik of Ishwardi upazila in Pabna along with another Bangladeshi Faruk Khan, 38, son of Mohammad Kashem Khan of Sirajdikhan in Munshiganj yesterday.

They were killed at a construction site in Petaling Jaya of Malaysia on Monday night when a segmented box girder of an elevated guideway collapsed on them at 8:30pm local time on Monday, Musharrat Jebin, second secretary (labour) at Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, told The Daily Star over the phone.

Of the victims, Elahi and Alauddin were friends who migrated to Malaysia in May.

"As they couldn't make a good living by working in the country, they had decided to go abroad in search of a better life,"

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



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