

Bumper yield of Boro likely

Farmers hope for better price as harvesting begins

Farmers in most parts of the country have started harvesting Boro paddy with high hopes of getting a better price this season. Their expectations were buoyed by a recent government promise to buy grains directly from the growers, not from the middlemen or millers. Though Boro paddy was farmed on 48 lakh hectares of land last year, the acreage has shrunk to 46.85 lakh hectares this year, mainly due to low price last year. Besides, there has been some flash flood-induced crop losses early in the harvesting season in the northeastern haors. Agriculture officials, nonetheless, are optimistic about achieving a bumper Boro output of 1.9 crore tonnes. If that happens, the total rice production this fiscal year would go a little over 3.47 crore tonnes, equalling the previous year's output. Of the three rice seasons in Bangladesh, Boro is the biggest contributor to the staple production in the country. The other seasons are Aus and Aman. Taking the shrunken Boro acreage into consideration, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) projects Bangladesh's total Boro output to be 1.86 crore tonnes in the current season. Upon return from the haor regions early this week, top officials of the agriculture ministry confirmed to The Daily Star that the flash floods caused significant damages to 22,000 hectares of Boro crop but it would not affect



A good crop of Boro this season keeps farmers busy across the country. Here some farmers are winnowing harvested rice near a paddy field in Raipura of Narsingdi. The photo was taken last week.

PROF REZAUL KILLING 'Fanatics hated him for his music school'

Say police; 2 detained for quizzing
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
Four days into the killing of Prof Rezaul Karim Siddiquee, the police yesterday said they got information that the teacher had incurred wrath of fanatics by setting up a music school at his village Dargamaria in Bagmara upazila. Police also detained two persons from Dargamaria and neighbouring Khajapara villages for they had reportedly been against establishing the music school, police sources said. The arrestees are Raihan Ali, 28, imam of the Dargamaria village mosque, and Monsur Rahman, 50, a teacher of Gopalpur Islamia Alim Madrasa in Khajapara.

XULHAZ-TONNOY MURDER Ansar Al Islam claims responsibility

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Ansar Al Islam or Bangladesh branch of al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) has claimed responsibility for the murder of LGBT magazine editor and his friend, according to US-based monitoring agency SITE Intelligence Group. The outfit had earlier "claimed credit" for the murders of secularist bloggers and online activists Niladri Neel, Ananta Bijoy Das and Nazim Uddin Samad and publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan. The killing of Xulhaz Mannan, 42, and his friend Khandaker Mahbub Rabbi Tonoy, 25, suggests the Islamist extremists now might have expanded the hit list by including gay rights activists in Bangladesh.

Condemnation pours in from across the world

Quick probe urged
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
Expressing concern over the rise in murders and violent attacks in Bangladesh, the US, the UN, the UK, Germany, Norway and Denmark have called for effective and speedy investigations into the incidents to bring the perpetrators to justice. "We offer our full support to the government of Bangladesh as they investigate the murders and bring the

Load shedding again

Power plants run short of fuel as vessel strike causes disruption to transportation
SHARIER KHAN
People of the country have been witnessing severe power cuts for the last couple of days because of a drop in oil-based power generation resulting from a shortage of fuel supply. A strike by waterways transport workers since April 20 caused the fuel shortage forcing most of the power plants run by fuel oil to remain shut, according to officials at the Power Development Board (PDB). Transport workers have not been supply-

TOP QUOTE
"Intolerance-related violence is increasing in Bangladesh and targeting a growing range of people whose views may not conform with those of the majority."
UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR IN BANGLADESH
ROBERT D WATKINS



Security camera footage shows a suspected killer (framed in red) running away after killing USAID staff Xulhaz Mannan and his friend Mahbub Tonoy in the capital's Kalabagan on Monday afternoon.

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO
Star LIVE

Olama League not affiliated with AL

Reiterates ruling party after Olama League leaders criticise AL leaders
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Awami League yesterday reiterated that the Olama League was not affiliated with the ruling party, a day after an Olama League faction came down heavily on some AL leaders for saying their party had no links with the organisation. "The Olama League does not belong to the Awami League. Our joint general secretary [Mahbubul Alam Hanif] has already clarified the matter on behalf of the party," Syed Ashrafur Islam, general secretary of the AL, said at a press conference yesterday. "Even after that, if anyone makes any audacious comment, it is up to them," he said at the programme at his party president's Dhanmondi office in the capital. On Monday, Abdul Hasan Sheikh Shariatpuri, general secretary of an Olama League faction, termed his organisation a "bridge" between religious Muslims and the AL. "The organisation is not just a like-minded body of the AL, it is something more than that," he said at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club. At present, the Olama League is split into two feuding factions -- one led by Ismail Hossain bin Helali and the other by Shariatpuri.

NEWS ANALYSIS DRAFT LAW ON JUDGE IMPEACHMENT Appointment issue ignored

SHAKHAWAT LITON
The constitution has two specific provisions that ask the parliament to make laws for the appointment of a judge to the Supreme Court and also for the removal of a sitting judge by the House. The first provision is now more than four decades old. One of them suggested making a law that would be very specific about who could be a judge of the SC in addition to the qualifications set in the constitution. Under the current mechanism, a citizen of Bangladesh who has been an advocate of the SC for not less than ten years or been in any judicial office for the same period is eligible to be appointed as a judge of the SC. The other provision, which is merely around two years old, asks for a law that would define the mechanisms for the parliament to investigate allegations of misconduct or incapacity against an SC judge and to remove him. The government has decided to act on the new one and the cabinet on Monday approved in principle a draft law specifying the procedure to remove a judge by the parliament.

শুধু সিমেন্ট নয়, জীবনের গতি

নির্মাণ যাব্যবে

- সঠিক মাত্রার খনিজ উপাদান
- উচ্চ প্রতিরোধশক্তি সম্পন্ন
- অত্যাধুনিক প্রযুক্তিতে তৈরী
- নবগাভ্রতা রোধ করে

মেঘনা গ্রুপ
ডিলাশ
জীবনের গতি

A Brand of MEGHNA GROUP OF INDUSTRIES