

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

STAR WEEKEND

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BTRC slashes 4G licence fees, other charges ahead of rollout

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'HOSTILE'
Iran president says of the US measures 'breaching nuke deal'

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City drowns in record rain

Poor drainage once again kicks up public outcry

"I used to love rain. But now I've come to fear it because commuting on Dhaka streets after rain has become virtually impossible."

MASUD RANA
A PRIVATE BANKER FROM DHANMONDI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A feeling of dread grips Masud Rana whenever he sees black clouds in Dhaka sky these days. The reason is obvious. A little rain means the same old story of misery, and it's hard to find a city dweller who doesn't share his plight.

Streets, lanes and by-lanes get submerged, public transports thin out and traffic stands still even after a moderate rainfall.

Yesterday, things were worse after about three hours of hard rain.

Between 12:00 noon and 3:00pm, the Met office recorded 121mm of rain in Dhaka, the highest rainfall in three hours since 2003 when the Dhaka Met office first started to record hour-wise rainfall, said Bazlur Rashid, a meteorologist there.

Since 2003, the highest rain in three hours before yesterday was 96mm in 2010.

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This photo of Bijoy Sarani-Rokya Sarani intersection at the northeastern end of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban shows road pavement under ankle-deep water even though waterlogging was rare in this area. The street on the left leads to the Gono Bhaban and the one on the right goes towards the Prime Minister's Office.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Heat to make parts of South Asia unliveable by century end

AP, New Delhi

Venturing outdoors may become deadly across wide swaths of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan by the end of the century as climate change drives heat and humidity to new extremes, according to a new study.

These conditions could affect up to a third of the people living throughout the Indo-Gangetic Plain unless the global community ramps up efforts to rein in climate-warming carbon emissions. Today, that vast region is home to some 1.5 billion people.

"The most intense hazard

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SC stays DU VC panel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The functions of the three-member panel nominated for the appointment of Dhaka University amid protest from a quarter of students have been stayed by the Supreme Court.

The Appellate Division of the SC also allowed Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique to continue his duties as the vice-chancellor until the disposal of the High Court rule issued over legality of the senate meeting that formed the VC panel on July 29.

It asked the HC to hear and dispose of the rule by

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Focus on selection, removal will be rare

SC tells govt in 16th amendment case verdict, puts emphasis on proper process to find competent judges

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Supreme Court is critical of the system for appointing higher court judges and stressed the need for a better selection process.

The apex court in the 16th amendment case verdict also observed that removal of judges from office would be a rare event if they were appointed through a rigorous judicial selection process.

According to article 95 (1) of the constitution, the president appoints the apex court judges after consulting with the chief justice.

It may seem that the president is empow-

ered to make the appointment but he himself cannot exercise the power. In reality, the prime minister exercises the power as the president performs all his duties on the advice of the premier, except for the appointment of the PM and the chief justice. Moreover, no law has been made in the last four decades in line with article 95 (2) (c) determining other criteria and qualifications required for a potential judge of the SC.

In the absence of the law, any Bangladeshi, who has been a lawyer of the SC for at least 10 years or has held an office

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Divorce doubles, separation triples in one decade

Notices in Dhaka mostly come from women

REAZ AHMAD and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLIA

- Divorce rate highest among 25-29 age group
- People of rural areas get divorced more
- Only a fraction notify city corporations about their divorce intentions
- 7 out of 10 who notify city corporations are females
- Divorce rate highest in Rajshahi

The rate of people getting divorced and living separately from their spouses almost doubled over the last decade, revealed a recent Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) report.

Marriage registrars, psychologists and gender experts noted loss of family bonds and values, polygamy and extra-marital affairs, virtual world, and economically empowered women opting out of marriages following mental and physical torture as reasons for increasing divorces and separations.

In 2006, the crude rate of divorce was 0.6 per one thousand of the population and this increased to 1.1 in 2016 while the rate of separations also rose to 0.6 from 0.2 during the same period.

The report finds that the educational level of women appear to be associated with the crude divorce rate.

It showed that the rate of crude divorce was highest for those having attained

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Airlines move to ease hajj flight mess

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman Bangladesh and Saudi Arabian Airlines yesterday used their full capacity, for the first time in around a week, to carry pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

Neither of the airlines had to cancel any flight due to shortage of passengers.

It gave new hopes for at least 6,580 pilgrims, who missed their flights mainly because of delays in getting visas, officials of the national airlines of Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia said.

Biman was forced to cancel 12 hajj flights while Saudi Arabian Airlines cancelled four since July 27 as private hajj tour operators failed to send on due date,

Civil Aviation Minister Rashed Khan Menon told reporters on Wednesday.

Aiming to carry a total of 1.27 lakh pilgrims, Biman yesterday sought permission from the General Authority of Civil Aviation of Saudi Arabia to operate 20 additional dedicated hajj flights, Saiful Islam, director of Ashkona Hajj Camp told The Daily Star.

Abdul Jalil, secretary of the religious affairs ministry, said Biman and Saudi Airlines carried 32,525 pilgrims to Saudi Arabia till yesterday morning. The number increased by 10,000, compared to the same period last year.

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NHRC worried over rising rape incidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission Chairman Kazi Rezaul Hoque yesterday expressed concern over the rising number of rape incidents across the country.

The NHRC chief in a statement condemned the recent rape incident in Bogra, rape and murder of a four-year-old girl in the capital, rape of a 10th grader who later became pregnant and committed suicide in Shariatpur, rape of a Tangail girl who was violated for

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With their hajj flights scheduled for 4:35pm yesterday, many of the pilgrims at Ashkona Hajj camp were seen anxiously waiting to receive their visa and passport. When members of the hajj agencies came bearing the documents at 1:00pm, the pilgrims made a mad dash to get those, as time was running out fast.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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