

## **The Seasons of Bangladesh**

*by Swapna Dutta*

The name of my country is Bangladesh. It is situated in south-east Asia. There are six seasons in my country. The seasons are Grisma, Basara, Sarat, Hemanto, Seet and Basanto. The first season in my country is summer. We call it Grisma. It lasts from March through May. The weather warms up a bit each day. The heat starts intensifying more rapidly and the soil turns dusty khaki and then almost white. There is lightning and thunder storms and sometimes icy lumps of hail crash down. The rivers dry out and are difficult to navigate. Grisma is also the picking time for the brick industry. The soil in my country is good for making bricks. In this season, people work in the fields. When the temperature is very high, people rest under the trees and birds are singing for rain. Everyone waits for the rain and the beginning of another cycle of seasons.

The next season is the rainy season. We call it Barsa. It starts in June and stays until August. In Bangladesh, which has both the world's largest delta system and the greatest flow of river water to the sea, water rules the earth. So, the most important season of all is Barsa, a time of lashing rains and tearing winds. In this season, 70% of the land is under water; water from rivers, the sea, rain, floods and the melting snows of the Himalayas. Fields and homes are flooded, people and animals have to move to higher ground. During the rains, most villages are isolated, accessible only by boat. In this season, Bangladesh's main crop is jute, which is called golden fiber, begins to ripen and is harvested. Aside from these particular problems, the rain and the water inspires poetry, and the song of the people.

The third season of my country is Sarat. It stays from September through October. When September begins, the sky is blue and a cool wind blows. The land turns into a carpet of bright green rice. Flowers bloom, the rice ripens, and the harvest begins. Blue, gold and green are the colors of Sarat: blue sky, golden sun, and green vegetation from emerald to jade, pea to lime, shamrock to sea green. White Siberian cranes, egrets, and ducks hunt for food. Although the air is humid, there is a slight chill late at night.

After Sarat, the next season is Hemanto, which stays from October through November. During this season, the land is at its luscious best. The land and its people come to life during Hemanto, when the flowers bloom – Jasmine, water-lily, rose, magnolia, etc. By the season's end, the air is no longer humid. Hemanto marks the start of the wedding season where receptions are held under red, blue, green or white tents.

From mid November to early January, the weather becomes more arid and less humid, we call it Seet. In this season the earth dries. There are lots of date trees in our country. People collect the date juice in this season, it is very sweet. The women of each family make pita in the morning and they eat it with date juice. In this season, poor people do not have enough warm clothes, so they suffer from the cold.

The last season of my country is Spring. We call it Bosanto. The coolest days are from mid-December to February when the days are golden with light, the flowers are blooming, and nights and early mornings are chilly. During Bosanto, the country-side hums with fairs, parades and festivals. People arrange parties, picnics, tours, music and drama. New leaves appear on all of the trees. The trees look evergreen and different kinds and colors of flowers are blooming in the trees. For this reason, another name of Bosanto is "king of season".