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Flood to wane next week before it rages again

Slow relief work peaks miseries; waterborne diseases spread fast

STAR REPORT

Weathermen yesterday predicted a lull in rain in the next seven days leading to an improvement in floods that blighted about 30 million people in Bangladesh and fuelled a rampage of waterborne diseases in the wake of floodwater recession in the north.

But the rain triggered by monsoon will pelt down on the flood-ravaged country later in the second week of August in a sign of worsening the flooding. Director of the Meteorological Department Akram Hossain told The Daily Star.

Yesterday's weathercast came as an abrupt change to earlier prediction that heavy cloudbursts and a

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Soaked in rain, children and women squat in a neat row on Mohammadpur cross-dam yesterday for relief to arrive.

PM flies to Bangkok BIMST-EC summit

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia left for Bangkok yesterday afternoon to attend the first-ever BIMST-EC summit where Dhaka will focus on commercial and economic cooperation among the countries of South and Southeast Asia in a bigger way.

The two-day summit of the

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More aid pours in

USAID to give \$210m, EC 2.91m euro

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will provide \$210 million for the flood-hit people in Bangladesh and the European Commission (EC) chips in with euro 2.91 million (approximately Tk 215.19 million).

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IMF okays \$87m loan

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved Wednesday tranches of two loans worth about \$87 million although Bangladesh failed to fulfil some of its pre-conditions.

Bangladesh however sought exemption from these loan qualifiers. The IMF board also approved the waiver of performance criterion, finance ministry sources said yesterday.

The country will get \$72 million

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GAZIPUR BY-POLLS

EC drops 14 'biased' officials, army deployed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday decided to drop 14 polling officials with alleged bias towards a political party, relocate 22 swamped polling centres and the authorities deployed army in Gazipur-2 constituency, ending speculation of postponement of the by-polls.

The EC move came in the wake of the main opposition Awami League's (AL's) allegation that the ruling alliance was planning to rig the polls in connivance with the officials.

The AL yesterday lodged a complaint with the Election Commission (EC) accusing 34 presiding officers and assistant returning officers of working to a plan to rig the polls for the ruling alliance.

Acting Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Saifur Rahman asked the returning officer (RO) to drop the 14 presiding and polling officers and others with bias towards a political party from election duty, EC sources said.

If any person involved with a

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Loan recovery from flood-hit industries to be suspended

Knitwear sector to get Tk 150cr export subsidy Saturday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The

government will treat these industries with a caring attitude as they have been the most valuable contributors to our economy, providing employment to a large number of people," said Saifur while speaking to reporters after a meeting with the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) at the finance ministry yesterday.

Defaulters, however, will not

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Rain brings more miseries to Dhaka

Water crosses DND dam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Raging floodwater started crossing the Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) embankment at more than 100 points. Army troops and local volunteers were stacking sandbags at the spots to block water flow.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre said yesterday flood situation may deteriorate further in

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Outlaws bomb to death two JCD leaders

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (Janajuddho) in a bomb attack killed two Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders and injured another at Hardi bazar of Alamdanga upazila in Chuadanga district on Wednesday night.

The deceased were identified as Arif Hossain 25, organising secretary of Alamdanga upazila unit of the ruling BNP's student wing and Pinjurul Islam, 22. Salim Uddin, 26.

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Fewer people using sanitary latrines, coverage drops 11pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sanitation coverage has dropped 11 percent to 33 percent from 44 percent in recent years due to neglect of authorities and lack of sustainable technology. Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said yesterday.

"Every year 1,10,000 children die of a lack of proper sanitation facilities and Tk 500 crore is spent on diseases caused by the absence of sanitation facilities," Bhuiyan said at the launch of the Decentralised Total Sanitation Project.

The sanitation project, styled

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SAYEDABAD SLUICE GATE

Fresh clash leaves 15 hurt, gate gives in to gushing water

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fresh violence erupted in Sayedabad yesterday as residents of North and South Jatrabari clashed over opening of a sluice gate to release floodwaters in Sayedabad

yesterday left at least 15 people wounded.

The sluice gate on Sutikhal, a stream passing by Jatrabari, however failed to hold out the pressure of floodwaters that streamed down

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Another defeat for Tigers

AL MUSABBIR SADI, from Colombo

Bangladesh ended their Asia Cup campaign on the losing note when they suffered a six-wicket defeat against outgoing champions Pakistan at the Premadasa Stadium yesterday.

Chasing Bangladesh's paltry 166, Inzamamul Haq's men reached the target with nine overs to spare but not before their batsmen struggled on a wearing pitch. Opener Yasir Hameed and Imran Nazir did not

look comfortable against the new-ball pair of Tapash Baisya and Tareq Aziz, who bowled a tight line and length.

Hameed, who scored a century against Bangladesh earlier in the competition, was first to go for 11 edging a Tapash delivery to Manjarul Islam at second slip.

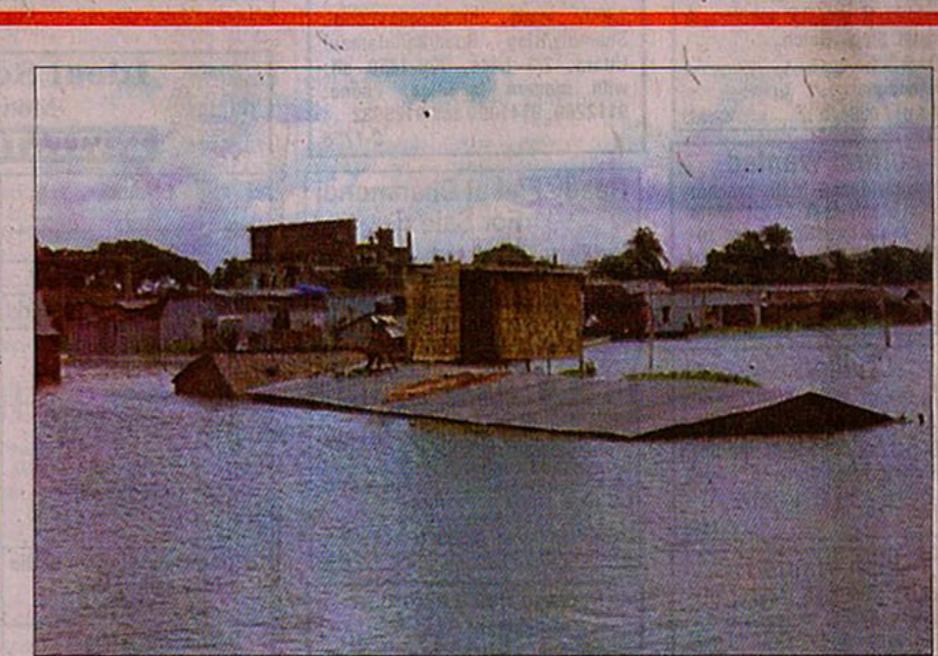
Just after Pakistan crossed the fifty-mark, Tareq Aziz had Nazir (27) caught at square-leg.

Coming together at 52-2, Shoaib

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