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## Rain paralyses life

Weather to improve this evening after depression dies out

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The unbroken spell of gusty winds and rains continued to lash Bangladesh for the third straight day yesterday, killing six people, swamping lowlands, shutting schools, offices and businesses and playing havoc with normal life.

The rains, riding on a land depression, sent most parts of Dhaka under knee- to waist-deep water, stranded hundreds of vehicles and thousands of commuters on roads, cut power and telephone links and kept day-workers from earning a living.

The meteorological office said the perils of rain, unheard of for years, will continue to hobble Bangladesh with a vengeance today as the depression was virtually stationary halfway between Faridpur and Dhaka. Weathermen said the situation will improve this

evening after the low dies out.

The low that pelted Dhaka with 309 mm of rains in 24 hours until 6:00pm yesterday rekindled the horror of the worst monsoon flooding in 15 years that brought Bangladesh to its knees this year.

A 132-kv power gridline from Hasnabad to Kalyanpur tripped yesterday noon because of the wind and it could not be fixed until 7:45pm.

Of the six dead in Dhaka, four men and a woman were electrocuted in Nayapaltan, Sawari Ghat, Dayaganj and Konapara when they came in touch with torn electric wires. Another man was killed in a wall collapse in Rayerbazar.

All domestic and international flights from Zia International Airport (ZIA) were delayed for at least an hour because of the inclement weather.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authorities have cancel

led launch services on 27 passenger routes from Barisal river port and on 13 routes from Patuakhali river port since Sunday afternoon.

Ferry services on many routes were suspended, stranding long lines of vehicles on highways.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre said a rain-fed urban flood-like situation prevailed in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal, Faridpur, Comilla, Bhairab Bazar, Noakhali, Sitakunda and Feni

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## Tornadoes strike Ctg upazilas

650 mud houses flattened, 50 hurt

UNB, Ctg

Tornadoes at the tail of a depression that has moved far inland from the Bay tossed at least 650 mud houses in Banskhali and Sitakunda

upazilas Sunday night and early yesterday, leaving some 50 people wounded.

Official sources said tornado struck twice Katharia and Saral

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

## Two Interpol experts leave for HQ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Interpol experts yesterday left Dhaka for their headquarters in Lyon, France to submit the primary report of the probe into the August 21 carnage.

The government has meanwhile extended for another three weeks the submission of the report by the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## Rain holiday at edn instts today

BSS, Dhaka

All educational institutions in the Dhaka city remain close today due to heavy downpour caused by a depression in the Bay of Bengal, education ministry sources said.

## Dhaka, Delhi starts river talks today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Water experts of Bangladesh and India meet here today to hammer out an acceptable modality of sharing the waters of the Teesta and six other common rivers.

Besides, erection of a dam across the Indian part of the Muhuri will also be on the agenda of the two-day talks.

The secretary-level Joint Committee of Experts (JCE) formed at the 32nd meeting of the Joint River Commission (JRC) in 1997 was mandated to work out water-sharing formula for the Teesta and six other major rivers flowing down the two countries -- Manu, Mahuri, Khoai, Gorai, Dharla and Dudkum.

An 11-member Indian delegation, led by secretary of water resources ministry Vinod K Duggal, arrived in Dhaka yesterday evening

to take part in the 7th meeting of the JCE.

Duggal was received by his Bangladesh number Dr Mohammad Omar Faruque Khan at ZIA. The Indian secretary is scheduled to pay a courtesy call on Water Resources Minister Hafizuddin Ahmed at the Secretariat ahead of the meeting.

Other members of the delegation include MK Sharma, Central Water Commission member; ML Goyal, RC member, and Ms Neelam Deo, joint secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Bangladesh Water Resources Secretary Mohammad Omar Faruq Khan will lead a 13-member home side at the meet at Sonargaon Hotel. The delegation includes Director General of Water Development Board Mokhesuzzaman, JRC Member Tauhidul Anwar Khan, Bangladesh High Commissioner to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## 5 electrocuted in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five persons including a couple were electrocuted in yesterday's cloudburst and a man died when a boundary wall fell on him in the capital.

Small trader Shafiqul Islam, 30, was electrocuted as he stepped in his house at Konapara in Demra at 6:30pm. The house was electrified after soaking rainwater.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## Wallich comes back

BSS, Dhaka

World Bank Country Director Christine I Wallich returned Dhaka yesterday by a Thai Airways flight from Bangkok after a six-day stay abroad in the wake of a 'bomb threat', official sources said.

The World Bank sources here said

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

Incessant three-day rain wrecked havoc on capital's life with most city streets going under knee-to-waist-deep water yesterday. This picture taken at Arambagh tells the whole story.

## BNPPPP blames AL for grenade attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling BNP lawmakers at a meeting of their parliamentary party yesterday blamed the opposition Awami League (AL) for the August 21 grenade attacks, terming it 'a pre-planned game'.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and other senior BNP leaders at the meeting asked party deputies to launch a vigorous campaign in and outside parliament to counter the AL's allegation that the government was involved in grenade attacks on

Sheikh Hasina.

The meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban also smelt a rat in the AL's refusal to investigations into the attacks by Interpol, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the judicial inquiry commission.

The BNP high command asked party deputies to submit call attention notices on grenade attacks to the House as the main opposition may shorten the general discussion on the issue.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## GRENADATE ATTACKS

## AL walks out of JS for denying debate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday walked out of parliament protesting what they said was reluctance of the ruling alliance to adjourn the scheduled business of the House to discuss the August 21 grenade attacks.

Referring to the opposition demand, the treasury bench said the speaker would decide as to how the discussion would be held in parliament.

As Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar did not clarify the mode of the discussion, the AL lawmakers walked out of parliament and did not return yesterday.

The AL Parliamentary Party (ALPP) sits today at 11:00am at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban to review the latest developments.

'We'll take decision whether to join the discussion on grenade

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

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## Torkel laments lack of probe progress

Meets Hasina, conveys sympathy to families of Aug 21 carnage

UNB, Dhaka

US Deputy Assistant Secretary for South Asia Torkel L Patterson yesterday said he is 'concerned and dis-

turbed' over the assassination attempt on Leader of Opposition Sheikh Hasina on August 21 and that none of the attackers was yet nabbed.

'We are concerned over the assassination attempt on the opposition leader. It's disturbing as well that none of the attackers who murdered people or were involved in it could be arrested,' he told reporters after meeting with Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence in the morning.

Patterson, who had over an hour's meeting with the Awami League (AL) president, deplored

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## Australia complete US demolition

REUTERS, London

Australian pacemen Michael Kasprowicz and Jason Gillespie took four wickets each to rip through the United States and set up a nine-wicket win in the ICC Champions Trophy match at the Rose Bowl, Southampton yesterday.

Adam Gilchrist then smashed 24 not out from 25 balls, charging down the wicket in the first over, as Australia reached their target of 66 in 7.5 overs.

The quickfire victory gave them a better net run rate than New Zealand, who beat the rank outsiders by 210 runs on Friday, and the statistic could become important if the final Pool A clash between the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

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