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International



American pop singer Madonna escorted by movie director Alek Keshinian to attend the screening of their film "In Bed with Madonna" at Cames Film Festival Page 5

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It is not unknown to political parties what are the causes of present campus violence and therefore they may come forward to help the country out of the situation Page 4

Sport



Cocaine found during the drug arrest of soccer star Diego Maradona was of "maximum purity" Page 7

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NEWS BRIEFS

JS session to be prorogued today

By Staff Correspondent
The first session of the fifth Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) is expected to be prorogued today after ending the discussion on the Acting President's inaugural address. The session began on April 5 and met for 21 working days till Tuesday.
The Leader of the House Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to wind up the discussion on the Acting President's address.

Agricultural rehabilitation

By Staff Correspondent
The government allocated Taka 10 crore for agricultural rehabilitation in the cyclone-battered areas. Information Secretary Manzur-U-Mowla told the newsmen on Tuesday at Sheraton Hotel that the rehabilitation programme would be launched on priority basis.

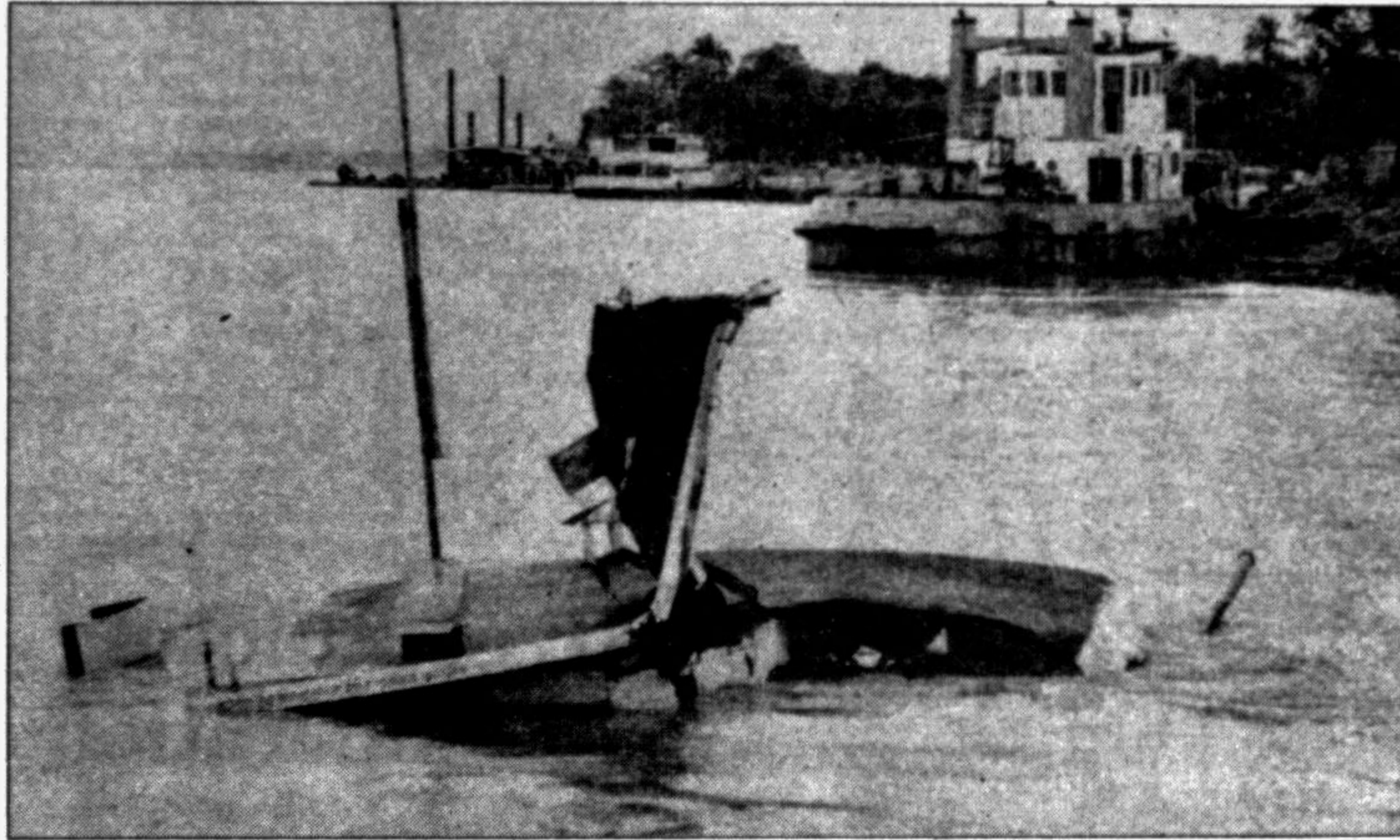
Thai copters for relief operations

BANGKOK May 14 : Thai government is to send three helicopters to cyclone ravaged Bangladesh for use in relief operations, officials said Tuesday, reports AFP.

Gates nominated new CIA chief

WASHINGTON May 14 : President George Bush today nominated his Deputy National Security Adviser Robert Gates to succeed William Webster as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), reports AFP.

Bera and Sathia upazilas of Pabna worst hit : Many fishing boats and vessels still missing



A sunken barge loaded with goods near Aricha Ghat. Many fishing boats and vessels are still missing in the Jamuna following Monday night's severe nor'wester. — Star photo

Monday night's nor'wester death toll 27

By Staff Correspondent

The death toll on Monday night's severe nor'wester that hit three districts — Pabna, Manikganj and Brahmanbaria — rose to 27 on Tuesday besides, many others were still missing as a number of fishing boats and other vessels remained untraced in the rivers.
The storm also left several hundred people injured, over 3,000 houses and crops of a vast area damaged and many trees and electric poles were uprooted.

Our Pabna correspondent says: 15 more deaths were reported Tuesday raising the death toll in the nor'wester that battered 12 upazilas of the district on Monday. Officials confirmed 14 deaths. Seven deaths were reported from Bera, six from Sathia, two from Faridpur and one each from

Sadar, Sujanagar and Atkharia.
The worst-hit areas are Bera and Sathia upazilas. The storm damaged 25 educational institutions, fully or partially, and one fertilizer godown in Bera. During the storm, two ships carrying goods were grounded in a char of the Jamuna. It was not salvaged till Tuesday night.

Some of the dead were identified as: Jan Box Pramank (35), Alja Khatun (35), Kahu Paran (14) and Gazi Paran (10) of Bera upazila, Palam Jan (75), Mottaleb (32), Islam (17) and an SSC candidate Meser Ali of Sathia upazila and a madrasa student Isarafi (12) of Sadar upazila.

According to a UNB report, five fishermen, missing since their boat capsized in the Ja- See Page 10 Col. 3

Sylhet floods worsen : 30 lakh affected in 5 dists



Part of Moulvibazar town submerged in flood water.

Star Report

The flood situation in Sylhet district deteriorated further on Tuesday with the Kushiara embankment breached at two places.

The situation in Moulvibazar Habiganj, Sunamganj and Netrokona districts remained unchanged and most of the rivers were reportedly flowing above their danger marks.

Over 30 lakh people of these five districts have been severely affected by the floods. Official sources put the death toll in three of the flood affected districts Sylhet, Habiganj and Sunamganj at 40 but unofficial sources put the toll at over 100.

Communications with at least 20 upazilas and district headquarters remained disrupted in Sylhet, Moulvibazar and Sunamganj districts, official sources said.

In Sylhet, the Kushiara embankment was breached at Choughati and Gogarkul village under Golapganj upazila flooding fresh areas in the district.

Nearly 11 lakh people of the district are affected by the floods while five lakh remain marooned.

Flood waters entered the upazila headquarters on Tuesday, control room sources said.

Communications with seven upazilas out of 11 remained cut off.

An outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases was reported from Bishwanath upazila.

The death toll in Sylhet rose to 20 with one more death reported on Tuesday. Eight of the deaths were caused by lightning, four by diarrhoea, and eight in a boat capsized, official sources said.

Control room sources said that 1500 heads of cattle were killed and crops on 2,15,000 acres of land were damaged by flood.

The river Surma in Sylhet was flowing 21 cm above the danger mark and the Kushiara at Sheola point was flowing 67 cm above the red mark. Moulvibazar flood control room sources said that water of the river Manu receded slightly but was still flowing 64 cm above danger mark.

Little rainfall was recorded in the last 24 hours but the onrush of waters from Indian districts was continuing.

Over 560 square miles of lands were flooded damaging 17,000 houses and standing crops. Seven thousand people were See Page 10 Col. 2

Defeated Bhattarai quits as PM

KATHMANDU, May 14: Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, who led the campaign that ended absolute monarchy last year, resigned Tuesday after being defeated in Nepal's first multiparty election in three decades, reports AP.

Bhattarai lost his seat in his Kathmandu constituency to Madan Bhandari, a 39-year-old Marxist, by a slender margin of 751 votes out of 63,000 cast.

It is inappropriate for me to continue in government on political and moral grounds," said Bhattarai, 66, after submitting his resignation to the royal palace.

"I accept the verdict of the people," he told reporters at his home.

King Birendra accepted Bhattarai's resignation.

Bhandari, a leftist activist who lived underground for 12 years until last year's revolution, received 27,372 votes to Bhattarai's 26,621 in Kathmandu, according to final results.

"It is a vote for democracy. It is a vote for independence.

It is a vote for the alleviation of poverty," said Bhandari, who was a candidate in two of Khatmandu's five districts and won in both.

Ten of thousands of jubilant supporters of Bhandari's United Communist Party, which dominates the leftist alliance, poured into the streets of Kathmandu hours after the result was declared, dancing, waving red flags and smearing red powder on the faces of onlookers.

"Long live Communist unity," the jubilant supporters shouted.

The leftist alliance and the Nepali Congress emerged as the strongest political forces in Sunday's balloting for the 205-member House of Representatives.

Early results gave Nepali Congress a slim lead nationwide but it was still too early to predict what party or coalition could form a governing majority.

Of 59 results declared by the Election Commission, the Congress won 31 seats and the leftist alliance 24.

Ballots from many remote constituencies in this ragged Himalayan country that reaches from sea-level jungles to the world's highest mountains were still being gathered. Final results are not expected until Friday.



Bhattarai : I accept people's verdict

Further probe into damage of Airforce planes, Navy vessels

The Acting President and supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, on Tuesday ordered further enquiry into the circumstances which resulted in heavy damage to several aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force and vessels of Bangladesh Navy based at See Page 10 Col. 6

Release of Firoz Rashid ordered

A Division Bench of the High Court Division ordered the release of former minister Kazi Firoz Rashid from detention, reports BSS.

The Bench comprising Justice Fazle Hussain Mohammad Habibur Rahman and Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury, delivered the judgement on a writ petition of Kazi Firoz Rashid.

Wives of two sailors killed in surge : Large quantity of armaments lost

7 Navy ships damaged, two completely

By Moinuddin Naser

Seven ships of the Bangladesh Navy were damaged, two of them completely, in the century's severest cyclone that hit the country's coastal areas April 29.

The Navy also lost a large quantity of armaments, mostly those donated by foreign countries, in the tidal surge that accompanied the cyclone.

One of the two completely damaged ships, BNS Sanket was lost in the Bay. The other completely damaged ship is Shaheed Ruhul Amin, originally a Canadian ship that had arrived in Bangladesh in 1970 carrying relief goods. It was later handed over as a gift to the Bangladesh Navy.

The Bangladesh Navy used the Shaheed Ruhul Amin as a relief distribution ship.

The ship dashed against a merchant ship during the cyclone and as a result it breakup and sank in the river.

The BNS SR Amin also dashed BNS Sanket which instantly capsized and was lost.

According to Naval Headquarters sources the damage of the Naval ships was mainly due to other merchant ships being alongside them.

During the cyclone two ships — BNS Durjoy and BNS Durnibar capsized and still remain under water.

Naval forces are trying to salvage BNS Durjoy from the river Karnafuly.

Besides, BNS Nirbhoy and BNS Jamuna, two Navy ships, were also grounded during the tidal surge. See Page 10 Col. 3

UN appeal for help to cyclone victims

NEW YORK, May 14 : The United Nations General Assembly on Monday called on all nations and humanitarian agencies to help the people of Bangladesh, stricken by a cyclone, tornados, floods and disease, reports agencies.

The non-binding resolution, passed unanimously, also appeals to international financial institutions "to respond urgently and generously to assist Bangladesh in its relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts and programmes following the calamity."
The General Assembly

which was in special session took up the Bangladesh issue as special emergency matter, passing it by acclamation. The draft resolution was sponsored by Bangladesh.

Addressing the Assembly, Bangladesh Deputy Permanent Representative Mohiuddin Ahmed said the colossal human tragedy included 139,000 dead and many more homeless with around ten million people affected. Much of the country's infrastructure and crops have been destroyed, he said.

The estimated cost of relief and rehabilitation was 1.4 billion dollars, he said and appealed for more international assistance.

Mohamed Essaafi, Coordinator of the United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO), told a meeting of donor nations in Geneva he was heartened by international emergency aid made available to Bangladesh after the devastating cyclone.

"But massive external assistance is needed for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Bangladesh," Essaafi just back from a tour of the country, told diplomats and he UN's European headquarters in Geneva.

Essaafi said a special UN Task Force was set up in Bangladesh to assess the extent of the overall damage. It would report to a special meeting due in July, chaired by France's Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Bernard Kouchner.

European Community

The European Community (EC) will disburse two million European Currency Units (ECU), equivalent to Taka 8.60 crore of emergency relief for

the cyclone victims of Bangladesh.

Ambassador Jacques Bailly, head of the delegation of the European Commission in Dhaka signed agreement with Bangladesh Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies, Concern, Gonoshasthaya Kendra, Proshika Manobal Unnayan Kendra and Medicins Sans Frontiers (Belgium-France based).

Meanwhile an AFP report from Brussels adds, the European Community (EC) is to send emergency aid of 60 million European Currency Units (ECU) (70 million Dollars) to

help cyclone victims, the EC's Executive Commission said Monday.

The EC sent 12 million Dollars (10 million ECU) mainly in food aid to Bangladesh earlier this month.

Japan

Japan will send two helicopters and an emergency rescue team of some 50 people, including medical personnel, to Bangladesh to help survivors of a devastating cyclone.

Staff from several govern- See Page 10 Col. 1

PM commends role of troops in S Arabia

The first batch of more than 400 officers and troops of Bangladesh military contingent returned home from Saudi Arabia in the early hours of Tuesday, reports BSS.

Welcoming the officers and troops at a reception arranged at the Zia International Airport, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said the nation was proud of their role and performances in the defence of the holy land.

She said the prestige and dignity of the country had been raised amongst the world community as our troops had discharged their duties with courage and determination.

Begum Zia said the effective role of the Bangladesh contingent during the Gulf War had strengthened our brotherhood not only with Saudi Arabia but with the entire Islamic world.

Referring to the participation of a batch of Bangladesh army in the reconstruction of war-ravaged Kuwait, Begum Zia expressed the hope that they would prove See Page 10 Col. 6

Devastation enormous: Stackpole

Commander of US Joint Task Force Major General Henry C Stackpole on Tuesday said his team will start "Operation Development Effort" tomorrow (Thursday) undertaking relief and rehabilitation of the cyclone-hit people of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

"The devastation is enormous," he said, and concerted effort is needed for supplying emergency relief materials to the survivors.

General Stackpole, clad in camouflaged battle gear, was talking to newsmen on his return from a flying visit to southern Kutubdia and some adjoining areas, mauled by See Page 10 Col. 7

US Task Force has come to help relief, rehabilitation works, House told

By Staff Correspondent
State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman told the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) on Tuesday that a US Task Force had arrived in Bangladesh to take part in relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction works in the cyclone affected areas.

Making a statement he said a 100-member advance team of the US Task Force, which arrived on Monday along with five helicopters includes doctors and construction engineers.

The Task Force has come in response to an appeal by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for international help for rehabilitation of the cyclone affected people, because it was See Page 10 Col. 7

Ershad's prayer again referred to Chief Justice

A Division Bench of the High Court Division Tuesday once again referred to the Chief Justice the petition of the former President Ershad for transferring the arms case against him, reports BSS.

A Special Tribunal is trying the case against Ershad now.

The petitioner sought the transfer of the case to any other Special Tribunal or High See Page 10 Col. 8

Bye-elections in Chittagong-8 Bhola-2 postponed

The Election Commission has announced the postponement of bye-election in Jatiya Sangsad constituencies 118 Bhola-2 and 286 Chittagong-8 scheduled for June 11, reports UNB.

The Commission, after reviewing the overall situation of the two constituencies following the recent devastating cyclone and tidal bore recently, decided to postpone the bye-elections, said an Election Commission press release.