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40 feared dead as bus falls into river in Pirojpur

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, May 27: At least 40 passengers were feared dead when a bus fell into the Kacha river from a ferry at Charkhali ferryghat under Bhandaria thana of Pirojpur district today.

The Pirojpur-bound passenger bus of Jhumur Paribahan from Bhandaria fell into the river when the driver lost control of the vehicle due to the brake failure.

Witnesses said, there were 50 to 55 passengers on board when it fell into the river. About 10 to 15 passengers including driver Bishu, 28, could swim ashore.

Fire brigade from Pirojpur, Bhandaria and Jhalakati rushed to the spot and started rescue operations immediately.

Ten people rescued were identified as Taslima Begum, 33, a teacher of Bhandaria College, Sabuj, 26, Helal, 28, Aulad, 40, Hakim, 55, Suman, 10, Haris, 29, Yusuf, 30, Jalil, 40, and Humayun, 26.

Rescue operation was going on till filing of the report at 7:15 pm.

### Shipu murder

Victim's family alleges threat over telephone

By Staff Correspondent  
Police could not arrest Jewel, son of ruling party MP Kamal Ahmed Majumder, accused of killing businessman Itekhbar Ahmed Shipu at Banani on Wednesday night.

Brother of the victim alleged his family is being intimidated by unknown callers over telephone, asking them to drop the name of MP's son from the FIR.

The Dhaka City Shopowners' Association, will observe a three-day programme beginning today to protest Shipu's killing, said leaders of the association yesterday. The shopowners will hoist black flag and wear black badges to protest the killing.

The shopowners of Makhali, Gulshan and Banani will observe a half-day hartal on Wednesday to protest the killing, said their leaders yesterday.

The Gulshan police investigating the case told The Daily Star that they raided MPs Banani residence yesterday afternoon.

The MP's wife and son Tomal were present at their house during the raid, police said, adding they did not find Jewel there.

When contacted over phone, one person identifying himself

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### Our new numbers

19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215  
Phones : 8124944, 8124955 & 8124966  
Fax: 8125155

### Inside Today

#### Article

#### Putin's Forward March

by A M M Shahabuddin

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#### Business

Listed cos want dividend income free from tax

DSE, CSE price quotations  
Pages 6 & 7

#### Supplements

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a 2-page supplement on 'South East Bank' on Pages 8 & 9 and one page supplement on 'Safe Motherhood Day' on Page 10

#### Prayer Timings

May 28  
Fajr 4:15 4:45  
Zohr 12:30 1:30  
Asr 5:00 5:15  
Maghrib 6:43 6:45  
Esha 8:00 8:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

# The Daily Star

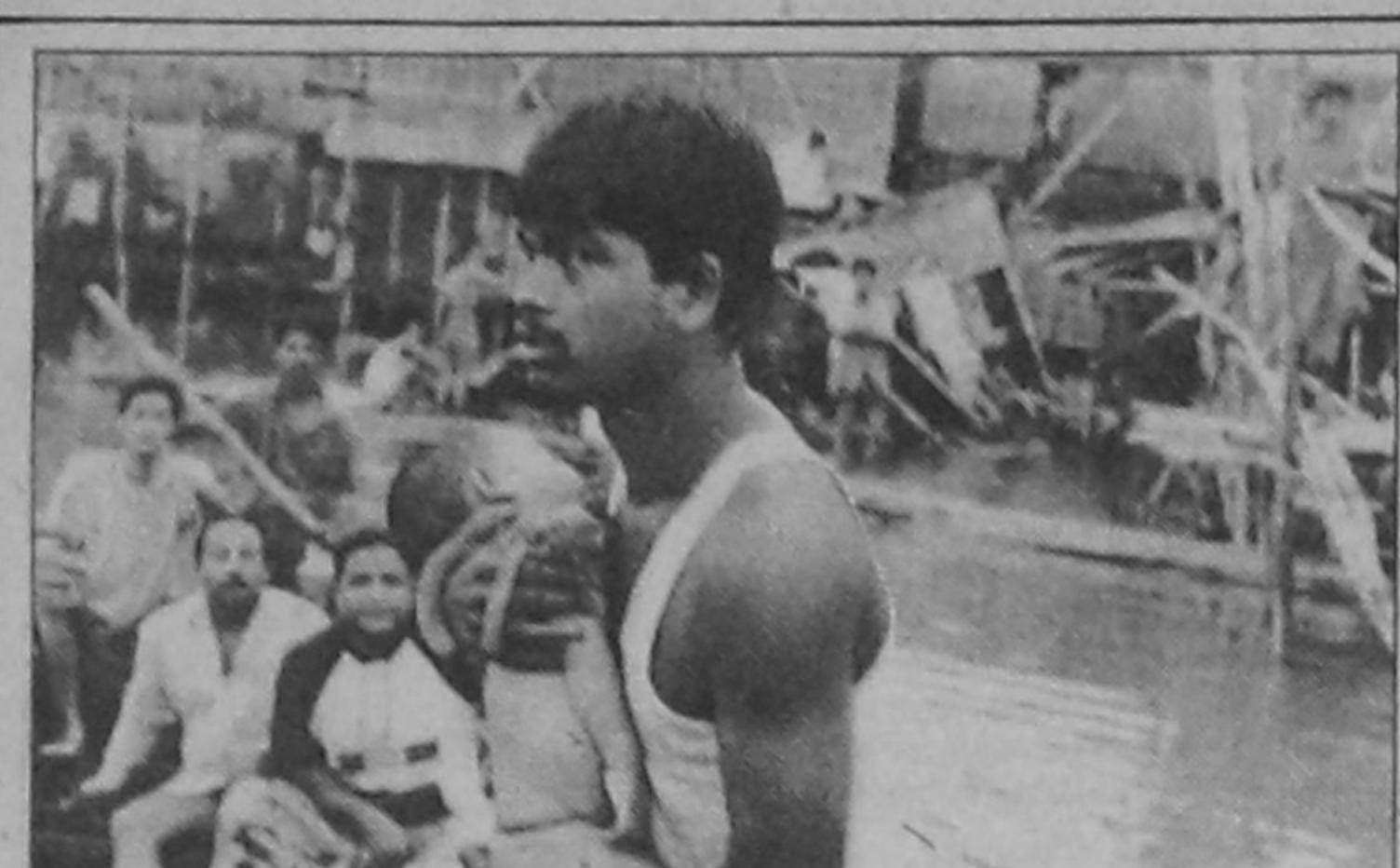
WISHING THE  
BEST  
FOR THE  
3RD MILLENNIUM

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BEST  
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### Flash flood in Sylhet

## Nor'wester claims 11 lives in city



#### The living and the dead

A father gets back his lost child (top) while a hapless girl (above) returns home after night duty at a garments factory only to find all her family members dead. -Star photo

By Special Correspondent

At least 11 people were killed and 50 injured as a severe nor'wester accompanied with heavy rains battered the city yesterday, while the inclement weather persisting for the third day caused flooding in Chittagong and threatened to worsen the situation in Sylhet region.

They were killed as two huge bamboo-made two-storied structures built on water at Poolpar at Rayer Bazar collapsed.

Fire brigade sources said 11 bodies were recovered from water. The injured were taken to different hospitals.

Rains and strong winds were reported from many places in the country. Cascading waters from the hills in the upstream swelled many rivers in the north-eastern region, the Manu crossing its danger mark at Manu Railway Bridge in Maulvibazar.

The flood situation in the south-eastern hill basin started to improve yesterday and is likely to improve further.

But flood situation in the Meghna basin may deteriorate with more rains. Rivers in greater Sylhet may rise sharply, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre in the city said.

While the nor'wester on the waning season of storm battered the city and many other areas, the Bay of Bengal continued to remain rough with the advancing Monsoon reaching the North Bay near Teknaf coast.

The Meteorological Department advised hoisting of local cautionary signal number three at Chittagong, Mongla and Coxs Bazar for the third consecutive day yesterday.

The Monsoon is likely to ar-

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## Rain threatens Asia Cup opener

PEPSI  
ASIA CUP

By Al-Amin

After days of incessant rain, the weather could well upset the start of the much-expected four-nation Pepsi Asia Cup cricket tournament, scheduled to begin at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

"We are keeping our fingers crossed. We will try to have the first match on Sunday but we are at the mercy of the weather," Saber Hossain Chowdhury, president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board, told reporters yesterday.

Weather willing, the mega event, tipped as the most exciting cricket extravaganza next to the World Cup, gets underway with Bangladesh taking on defending champions Sri Lanka in the opener. The day-night match is expected to start at 2.30 pm with the satellite channel Star Sports and the Bangladesh Television airing the proceedings live.

However, as the inclement weather continues to wreak havoc for the last few days, the premium event, also involving India and Pakistan, is in all probability, heading nowhere but to a false start.

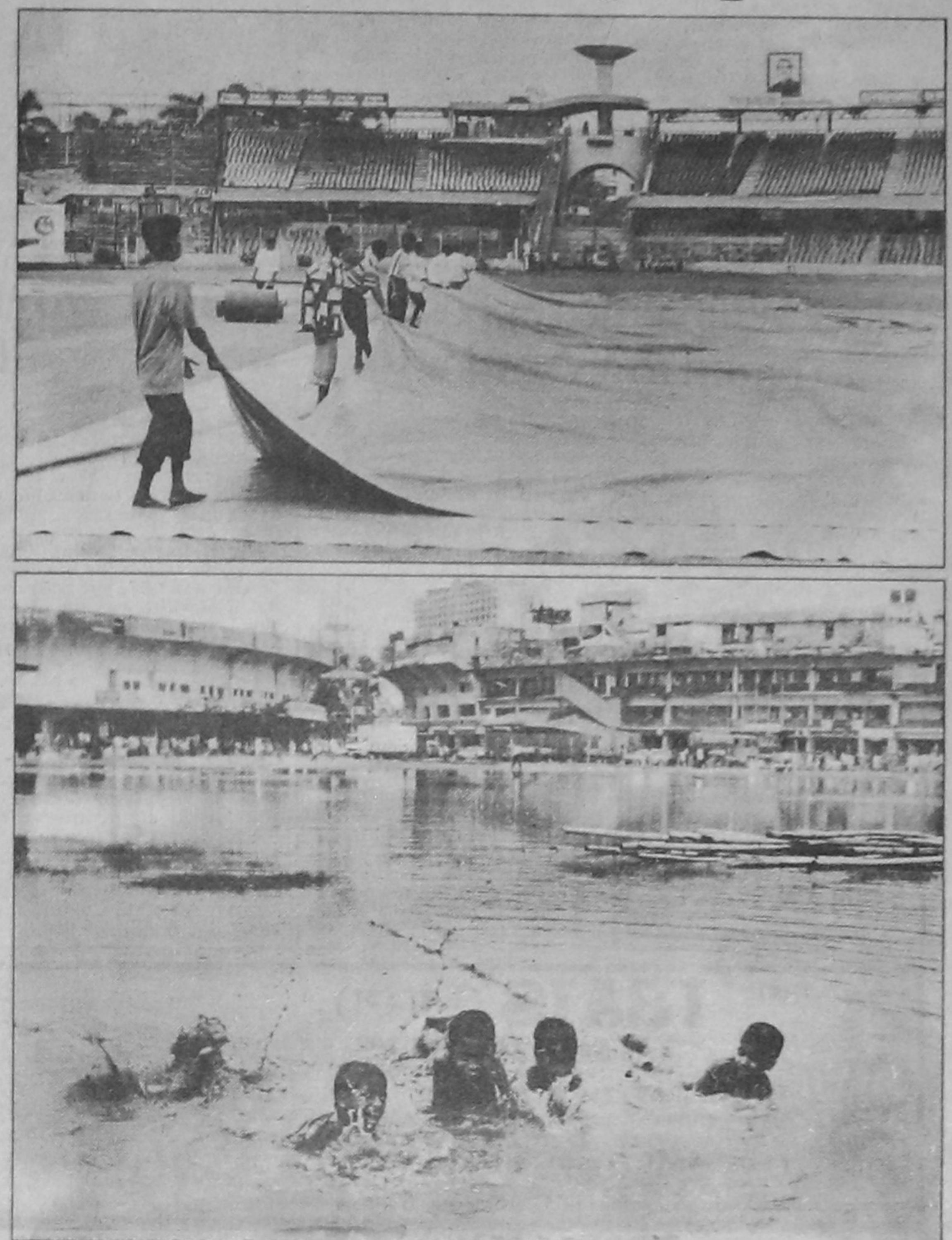
Saber did say that they were delighted to host the biennial event for the second time after 1988. But there was no sign of smile in his face, as tons of clouds was ominously hovering over the capital after a massive spell of rain early in the morning.

The rare sun however made a brief appearance in the afternoon, attracting hundreds of butterflies at the Stadium, but the fickle fortune shifted its side before another bout of rain splashing all over the capital, much to the agony of the groundsmen.

While the ground, if not the pitches, looked totally out of order, the BCB boss came up with an alternative choice of encountering the uncertain weather.

"This match is still on. In

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#### Two worlds

Inside, some struggle to keep the cricket pitch alright, while some others outside make merry in the rainwater. — Star photo

## A day dawned with devastation

By Morshed Ali Khan

For inmates of the two-storied bamboo-made structures at Poolpar slum in the city's Rayerbazar, the day dawned with a light rain.

Many of them attended a folk function till late Friday night and intended to get up from sleep a little late yesterday, unlike on other days. But the light shower soon turned into a torrential downpour. And within minutes, a devastating wind shook the bamboo structures, about 10 feet from the water below, on top of numerous bamboo poles.

Hawa, a garments worker in her early 20s, shared a room on

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## Trees bear the brunt

By Special Correspondent

Hundreds of trees were flattened, maimed or uprooted in the storm that battered the city yesterday morning.

Even bill boards, hoardings and neon signs along with steel structures were blown away at places by the high winds.

At some places, the twisted materials hung dangerously. A huge steel structure hung over the busy Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, threatening traffic below.

Trees at Suhrawardy Uddayan, Ramna Green, Minto Road, Hare Road and Shere-Bangla Nagar bore the brunt of the storm.

Many buildings were also damaged by flying debris. The roof of a show room of Karika, a handicraft cooperative for women, was damaged when a steel frame of a bill board atop the Shahbagh Market collapsed.

Branches of trees littered the streets, blocking traffic on many roads for hours till the

City Corporation and the city's poor went out to claim those.

At many streets and parks, vandals had a hey day, selling the trees as fire wood as quickly as possible.

The small green corner opposite Sonargaon Hotel presented an ugly site. Taking the advantage, vandals chopped off many of the unaffected trees there, leaving only the trunks.

It could not be known how many trees were damaged as DCC officials were not available on the weekend.

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## Opposition to lay siege to EC offices June 1

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition alliance has called for laying siege to the Election Commission Secretariat in the city and its district offices on June 1 to protest 'unilateral' appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and press its demand for his immediate resignation.

Tougher programmes will be announced during the siege programme. BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan announced addressing a joint rally at Muktangan in the city yesterday.

"MA Syed, you must take a decision whether you will quit with honour or in a disgraceful situation. Do you want to quit alone or with Sheikh Hasina? It will be honourable for you to quit the Election Commission right now", Bhuiyan said.

Bhuiyan alleged that the AL government was conspiring to hold Upazila polls unilaterally and advised the CEC not to be a party to it. "The opposition will not allow holding of any election prior to parliamentary polls", he warned.

He also demanded extension of timer for voters' registration by one month as 'majority of eligible voters could not be enlisted due to shortage of registration forms and the very short time fixed for it'. Voter

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## Flood in Bandarban, 500 families evacuated

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 27: Heavy rainfall triggered flash flood in the low-lying areas of Chittagong region that forced evacuation of over 500 families from Bandarban town administration sources said.

The evacuated people took shelter in the local schools where they were provided with food.

The prime minister was scheduled to inaugurate the evacuation of those Marooned families from places near Shangri river in Bandarban town yesterday.

The downpour in the last three days caused breach in embankment of Durung Canal in Fatikchhari thana today, rendering about 20 families homeless. The affected families took shelter at safer places administration, sources said.

The heavy rain caused hill collapse in Rangamati and Khagrachhari, sources added.

The rainwater also inundated croplands in the low-lying areas of Chittagong.

Today's visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to the port city was cancelled due to inclement weather.

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