

# 3 killed, 300 hurt as storm lashes Kishoreganj

## Lightning kills 4 in Mymensingh, Lalmonirhat

### STAR NATIONAL DESK

Three people were killed and 300 injured when nor'westers battered Katiadi and Karimganj upazilas in Kishoreganj district Monday evening.

Earlier on the day, lightning killed four people including three of a family and injured at least 17 others in Mymensingh and Lalmonirhat districts.

Our Kishoreganj Correspondent reports: Two people were killed and around 200 injured as the season's first nor'wester hit two villages in Katiadi.

Police and administration sources said housewife Halima Begum, 42, died when an uprooted tree fell on her at Paiksha village.

Al Amin, 20, of Gochihata village

died at Katiadi Hospital Monday night from injuries he suffered in a house collapse. Thirteen of the injured people were admitted to Katiadi Health Complex, sources there said.

In Karimganj upazila, Renu Mia, 40, was killed by lightning during the storm when he was working in the field in Boroitala Haor (waterbody).

The nor'westers damaged at least 500 houses in the two upazilas and uprooted many trees.

Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department (AED) in Kishoreganj, MA Baten, said the storm damaged IRRRI-Boro crops on about 200 acres.

A correspondent reports from Lamoniathat: Lightning killed three of a family and injured five others at Tajpur Char village in Sadar upazila

of the district on Monday.

The dead were identified as day-laborer Nawsher Ali, 28, his wife Marzina Begum, 20, and their son Raseel, 3. They were killed when lightning hit their hut.

The five injure are Azad, 32, of Mogholhat village in Sadar upazila; Sirazul, 25, and Maleka Begum, 42, of Mohisa Sahar village in Aditmar upazila; and Farida Begum, 30 and her minor son Jobed of Sindurna village at Hatibandha upazila. They are being treated at local hospitals, police said.

Our Mymensingh Correspondent reports: A school girl was killed and 12 others including nine students and two teachers were injured, fire of them critically, when lightning struck two schools in Bhaluka upazila at about 11:30 am

Monday.

The dead was identified as Shampa Akhtar, 13, a student class of eight at Aftab Uddin Junior High School.

The other school struck by lightning was Bhandabo Namapara Primary School.

Critically injured students of Aftab Uddin Junior High School—Swapna Akhtar, Shima Akhtar, Naimul Hasan, Mahbub— and peon Lition were admitted at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

Injured students Rozina, Asma, Sathi, Reya and Rina and two teachers—Gopal and Shahnaz—of Bhandabo Namapara Primary School were admitted at Bhaluka upazila Health Complex.

## 13 hurt as BDR, villagers clash in Panchagarh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

At least 13 people including a captain and a company commander of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and a police constable were injured in a clash with villagers at Fakirganj village in Atwari upazila, Panchagarh on Monday.

BDR sources and witnesses said the clash erupted when a BDR team went to recover smuggled Indian goods from a shop belonging to Hossain and Shariful of the village.

During the raid, the shop owners had an altercation with the BDR members. At one stage, villagers attacked the BDR personnel with lethal weapons and brickbats.

As the situation worsened, Atwari Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Arun Kumar Malaker rushed to the spot with police forces. BDR men fired two gunshots to disperse the crowd.

Later, local traders held a protest meeting in front of the UNO office slating BDR firing. They alleged that their shops were looted during the clash.

# Trial of five JMB men begins in Patuakhali

## 26 suspects freed on bail in Gaibandha

### STAR NATIONAL DESK

Trial of five cadres of Jamiaatul Mujahidin Bangladesh (JMB), held for alleged involvement in the August 17 serial bombing in Patuakhali town, began yesterday in a Special Tribunal.

In Gaibandha, all the 26 JMB suspects were released on bail.

Our Patuakhali Correspondent reported that the five JMB men facing trial are Al-Amin alias Abdullah, Mostafa Hasan, Masum Billah, Abu Zafar and Asadul Islam.

They are from different villages in Barguna Sadar upazila. Asadul Islam is being tried in absentia, court sources said.

Charged were framed against the five accused under Sections 3 and 6 of the Explosives Act on March 30.

The JMB activists allegedly blasted seven bombs in different places in Patuakhali town on August 17 last year.

Police arrested their ringleader Al-Amin from Kathaltali village in Mirzaganj upazila in December.

Acting on his confession, police later arrested tree others from their village homes.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reported that a magistrate court there released 26 suspected militants of outlawed JMB on bail yesterday.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)

arrested the 26 in a raid on the house of one Habibur Rahman at Dhangharah village in Gaibandha Sadar upazila on March 1.

Police had earlier said that during primary interrogation, the arrestees had admitted that they are supporters of Allar Dal, a militant group.

But during interrogation on remand, police could not find any proof of their link with JMB, the militant organisation responsible for doing violence in the name of religion.

Twenty-four of the arrestees hail from Gaibandha and one each from Bogra and Thakurgaon, police said.

# RU recruits teacher violating rules

## Planning committee member lodges complaint

### RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University (RU) authorities allegedly recruited a professor and created a post of another teacher in Folklore Department violating rules.

Departmental Planning Committee member Dr Abul Hasan Chowdhury recently lodged a complaint with the university registrar demanding cancellation of the recruitment.

He said Prof Saifuddin Chowdhury was appointed chairman of the Folklore Department on December 02, 2004. The appointment followed a meeting of the

planning committee in mid-December the same year which okayed vacancy of the post and circulated a notice in this regard.

Later, a planning committee meeting, attended by only two of its members, was held in the department on March 28 this year. It approved Prof Saifuddin's appointment as professor. But according to rules, at least three planning committee members must attend the meeting to approve the procedure.

Dr Chowdhury further alleged that the selection committee of the university administration created another post of professor in the same department without holding

any meeting of the planning committee and without issuing any notice.

The selection committee, violating the university rules, okayed appointment of Prof Shahidur Rahman, a teacher at Islamic University (IU) Bangla Department to the post of a professor in Folklore Department, he alleged.

Terming the procedure a violation of the university rules, he demanded its cancellation.

However, vice-chancellor (VC) Prof Altaf Hossain said that the university recruitment committee approved the cases of the two professors.

'The whole thing will be finalised

after the next Syndicate meeting,' he said.

He also brushed aside allegation of violating any university rules.

When contacted, Prof Saifuddin Chowdhury admitted that only two members attended the planning committee meeting. 'There is nothing wrong in it,' he said.

He also admitted that a new post of professor was created in Folklore Department without holding any meeting of the planning committee and without issuing any notice.

'The university authorities can recruit anybody if they decide, he remarked.

## Hartal called in Khulna today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

The Greater Khulna Development Action Committee has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Khulna district for today to press its demands.

The demands include pipeline supply of gas, setting up of a 210 megawatt power plant in Khulna, reopening of the state-owned Daulatpur Jute Mills, payment of arrear wages of jute mill workers, construction of Khanjahan Ali airport, modernisation of Mongla Port and setting up of a deep sea port at Akram Point and construction of a bridge on Padma river at Mawa.

# 3 outlaws get life for killing AL leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

*Rajshahi*

Rajshahi Speedy Trial Tribunal yesterday sentenced three outlaws to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) for killing an Awami League (AL) leader at Taherpur in Bagmara.

Seven including five alleged outlaws were acquitted in the case.

AL leader Alo Khondoker, also former chairman of Taherpur municipality, was shot and slaughtered near Taherpur Saw Mill while he was returning home on December 6, 2003.

The convicts are Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) regional commander Ratan alias Titas and cadres Omar Sarker alias Pavel and Mison Chandra Das. Ratan and Omar are absconding and Mison is in custody.

The acquitted include alleged PBCP regional commanders Akkas alias Tito and Abdur Razzak alias Art Babul and its cadres Jahangir alias Babul, Fazlur Rahman Fazar alias Bijoy, Dalim alias Tuhin, Taherpur municipality ward commissioner Babul Khan and Ashrafal Islam.

The tribunal also asked each of the three convicts to pay a fine of Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer one year more RI.

Tribunal judge AFM Aminul Haque delivered the judgement.

However, Alo's wife Rukhsana Parvin and their daughter Shaila Khondoker expressed their disappointment over the verdict.

Shaila told journalists that most of the killers and masterminds of the killing escaped punishment.

A CORRESPONDENT, *Kurigram*

Teachers of Kurigram Government College abstained from taking classes yesterday, paraded streets in the town and submitted memorandums to the Deputy Commissioner and the Police Superintendent protesting vandalism by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists allegedly for not admitting their candidates to Honours classes.

Sources said, the college unit of JCD, student front of ruling BNP, had submitted a list of 96 persons

for admission to Honours classes.

But name of none of the candidates was found on the lists of successful candidates, hung on the notice board on Monday.

This angered JCD activists. On Monday night, they ransacked the principal's office, burnt the notice board and attacked the nearby residence of Assistant Professor Rabindra Nath Charkabarty. They pelted stones and damaged the house.

Yesterday morning, Principal Prof. Abul Kashem held an emergency meeting with teachers, who

declined to take classes to protest the attack.

The teachers, led by the principal, came out on the streets and marched to the offices of the DC and the SP and submitted memorandums demanding immediate steps to stop such vandalism on the campus.

When contacted, the principal said students have been selected for admission as per rule. Action will be taken against the unruly JCD activists for vitiating academic atmosphere on the campus.