

## National

## Three killed, over 1000 injured in tornado

From A Correspondent

COMILLA, Mar 23: Three persons were killed and about 1,000 injured in a tornado that lashed four Unions of Devidwar and Muradnagar thanas recently.

The damages done by the tornado that continued for about 30 minutes includes 2900 kutch houses and standing crops. The tornado was associated with hail storm which caused colossal damage to wheat, Molon, Khira, wheat, Bangee, Boro paddy etc.

Mostly affected unions are Gunaihgar north and south unions of Devidwar thana, Marichakandi union in Muradnagar thana.

One Aleya Begum 12 of Gunaihgar north union died at the spot in house collapse and two others seriously injured were admitted into Comilla general hospital where they succumbed to their injuries.

The homeless people are reportedly living under open sky. Shortage of pure drinking water and absence of electricity added to the miseries of the tornado hit victims. The district administration has so far distributed 40 bundles of CI sheets and Taka 12,000 in cash.

Minister for works, Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mian with the district administration officials visited the affected areas to assess the needs of the victims.

## Surya Sen's birth centenary observed

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Mar 23: In observance of the birth centenary of the valiant freedom fighter Surya Sen Masterda, a meeting was arranged by 8 left parties at the local bar association auditorium on Monday afternoon.

The meeting was presided over by Sudhir Sen. It was addressed among others by Nazrul Haq Nilu, Advocate Abdus Sattar, Nazmul Hasan Mizan, Advocate Abdul Hye Mahboob, Dr S C Roy and Anirudh Rahman Khokan.

Speakers said, Masterda's life sacrifice for freedom is the part of our long freedom movement. Real history of our freedom movement is yet to be written. Names of Masterda and other freedom fighters of our country should correctly be written in our history — they said.

## Millat's Dinajpur correspondent assaulted

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Mar 23: The district correspondent of the Daily Millat newspaper has been physically assaulted by an organised gang of smugglers at Pulhat at the town.

The smugglers got furious seeing a feature on smuggling on March 14 issue.

It is learnt that the feature was written by Asaduzzaman Liton, district correspondent of Dinajpur.

One Labu of Pulhat along with his four accomplices attacked the journalist. Asaduzzaman Liton in front of food godown at Pulhat and beat him till he fainted. Local people came to rescue Liton when they heard Liton shouting for help. The miscreants snatched cash, wrist watch, and a sun glass from the victim and threatened Liton not to take any administrative help.

However, Asaduzzaman Liton went to Kotwali thana to file a case against the miscreants but the duty officer declined to file the case. On the other hand, Vice-president of Jatiya Sangbad Sangstha, Al Haj M A Mazid was ill-treated when he contacted with Officer in Charge of the thana about the matter.

## Dispute over land possession leaves 18 people injured

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 23: At least 18 people were injured, three of them seriously, when two rival groups clashed over the possession of a land at Pachli village in Ullapara thana Friday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, the clash ensued when Abdus Sattar along with his associates went to take the possession of a paddy field which was earlier cultivated by Abdul Baten of the same village.

Both the groups used lethal weapons in the half-an-hour long clash which left 18 people injured.

Seriously injured Majedul Islam 28, Golap 26 and Alam 40 were admitted to the Sirajganj general hospital.

When contacted, Ullapara police confirmed the incident.



COMILLA: A tornado-hit area of the district. Four unions of Devidwar and Muradnagar thanas were affected by the tornado on March 13 last.

— Star photo

## Attendance poor in pry schools

From Our Correspondent

HABIGANJ, Mar 23: The number of primary school going children is decreasing in the remote areas of the district.

According to a study, a large number of children between the age of 10 and 12 years are engaged in different petty jobs instead of going to schools to earn their livelihood.

Landless and poverty-stricken farmers engage their kids in jobs instead of sending them to schools, the study revealed.

The children are compelled to take up odd jobs like cattle grazing, rickshaw pulling and hotel boys at a poor remuneration.

Most of the marginal or landless farmers in the district have three or more children and are facing financial crisis. As a result, they cannot afford educational expenses of their children. Finding no other alternative, they encourage their children to take up any job.

During the harvesting season, a large number of farm-labourers along with their kids

go to other distant places in search of works. As a result, the primary schools in remote areas of the district have been facing acute shortage of students.

Another report says: Frequent power failure has become a regular feature at Habiganj town causing much sufferings to the consumers.

Power supply goes off at least five to seven times a day and resumes after an interval of 30 minutes to one hour.

The children are compelled to take up odd jobs like cattle grazing, rickshaw pulling and hotel boys at a poor remuneration.

Students, mills, shops and press owners are the worst sufferers due to frequent power failure. Besides, many of the electricity poles at the house have no bulbs. Taking advantage of darkness at night, the criminals become active.

The authority of local power supply department could not give satisfactory reason of frequent power failure and voltage fluctuation.

In this connection, a case was started at Nabiganj PS against the accused.

The police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against him.

The learned judge after examining records, evidences and witnesses found accused Suruk Mia guilty for murdering his wife Gul Bahar and defrauded the judgement.

Advocate Shafiqur Rahman Choudhury APP conducted the case on behalf of prosecution while Advocate Muroleedhar defended the accused.

Meanwhile, the holy eid-ul-fitr was celebrated here with due solemnity and religious fervour.

Elaborate programmes were taken up here to celebrate the Eid in a befitting manner.

The National Flag was hoisted atop all public and private buildings.

Improved diets was served to the inmates of the jails, hospitals and orphanages.

The main Eid congregation was held at local Shalstanagar Eidgah Maidan at 8:30 am.

Special prayers were also offered at different mosques seeking peace, progress and prosperity of the nation and entire Muslim world.

## Negligence keeps village still dark

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Mar 23: Due to negligence of some officials of the Rural Electrification Board (REB) electric connection to Dulai village of Sujanagar thana of Pabna district could not extended.

According to reports, the village Dulai was included as a member of REB in 1980 and appealed to the General Manager for electric connections in the southern part of the village. The General Manager of REB assured the inhabitants of electric power supply. In 1990, a powerful deep tubewell was installed which also was given electric connections.

However, electricity connections to the southern part of the village remained suspended. Many small irrigation projects, schools, colleges and residents have been suffering due to non-availability of electricity.

The late President Ziaur Rahman ordered to supply electricity to the village but the REB authorities so far has not taken any initiative to arrange for power supply in the area.

The people of the village say, they need electricity for irrigation purposes. They added that, industries and businesses could be set up due to lack of power in the village.

## Nine awarded life imprisonment for murder

COMILLA, Mar 23: Nine people were sentenced for life imprisonment for murder, court sources said Wednesday.

The court also fined the convicts Selim Mia, Abu Mia, Abdul Hashem, Abdur Rahim, Abdul Karim, Abdus Sattar, Abu Kasem, Selim and Amir Hossain Taka 1000 each, in default, to suffer one year rigorous imprisonment more.

Another accused Charu Mia was acquitted following his death during the prosecution.

The case, in brief, a clash was ensued between two rival groups over the possession of a plot of land at village Baralakhipur in Barura thana on April 1, 1991 in which one Mastan Mia was killed by the accused people.

Police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against them.

After examining the witnesses and records, additional Session Judge, First Court, Md Nurul Wadud awarded the punishment last week.

## Police officer killed in road accident

GAZIPUR, Mar 23: One police officer was killed and a constable wounded seriously in a road mishap near Palli Biddut Office in Kaliakot on Dhaka-Tangail Highway Wednesday, reports UNB.

The deceased Abul Kalam Azad, 45, was identified as SI of Kaliakot Police Station. He died on the spot.

According to witnesses, the accident occurred when a Tangail-bound truck from Dhaka hit the policemen at 10:45 am who were standing at the point.

However, the driver managed to flee with the vehicle. A case has been filed with the police.

Police rushed to the spot and arrested Abdullah Sheikh (20), Manik (20), Rafiqul (18), Motaleb (19) Monirul (18) and Alim (15) and seized the vehicle.

The arrested were sent to jail hajat and a case was filed with sadar thana in this connection.

— Star photo

## District roundup

RAJSHAHI

## Tk 17 crore for city development projects

Mar 23: Rajshahi City Corporation has taken up Taka 17 crore uplift programme during the current fiscal, reports UNB.

Of the amount, government has given Taka 15 crore and the remaining is being provided from the own fund of the corporation.

Official sources said Taka 10 crore has been allocated for construction of 100 km bylane, 65 km drain and 15 km protection wall in the corporation area.

However, electricity connections to the southern part of the village remained suspended. Many small irrigation projects, schools, colleges and residents have been suffering due to non-availability of electricity.

Besides, Taka 2.22 crore has been sanctioned for water supply. Taka 1.30 crore for EPI programme, Taka 48.83 lakh for roads and electricity. Taka 73.82 lakh for slum development and Taka 15.50 lakh for tree plantation and environment protection.

Work on some of the projects has already been started and is expected to be completed by next June.

CHUADANGA

## Girls high school in poor shape

Mar 23: Uthali Girls' High School in Jibannagar are plagued with various problems since its establishment in 1972, reports UNB.

According to school authority, the school building was constructed on 2.33 decimal land with the financial support of philanthropists of the area. At present, the school has 276 students with nine teachers.

According to the teachers, education is being hampered due to shortage of benches, tables and adequate number of class rooms. Many students are to attend the classes standing for want of benches.

Besides, the school building has become worn out and cracks have developed on roofs and walls. Most of the doors have been damaged by rain during monsoon as there is no roof on the veranda.

Guardians have urged the authorities to take the schools under the development scheme to facilitate the local girls to prosecute their studies smoothly.

The situation turns worse during the rainy season. After a slight rainfall, the roads become muddy and slippery hampering the movement of pedestrians and vehicles.

All the kutchha drains are filled with garbages and stagnant water leading to the breeding of mosquito.

School going children are afraid of pye-dogs which are increasing alarmingly in the town and some time the children do not want to go to schools due to fear of these dogs.

Local people urged the authorities to take necessary measures to solve the problems of the pouashava without further delay.

KHULNA

## Acute shortage of water supply

Mar 23: Acute shortage of water supply has been causing great inconvenience to the city dwellers for quite a long time, says UNB.

The problem turned acute in the metropolitan city with a population of 12 lakh and nothing tangible has yet been made to meet the growing need of people, local people alleged.

According to city corporation sources, at present 2.50 crore gallons of water are required per day. But only one crore gallons are being supplied to the dwellers through 34 tubewells and 162 km long pipeline.

To meet the people's demand the Water Supply Department of Khulna City Corporation is implementing a project at a cost of Tk 5.22 crore.

Some 20 tubewells and 40 km pipeline will be installed under this project which will supply another 30 to 40 lakh gallons of water to the dwellers. After the implementation of the project the acute problem will be solved to a great extent, officials said.

Meanwhile, it is apprehended that the crisis will deepen further in near future as eight to ten out of 40 running tubewells may go out of order at any time as the ground water level is falling further.



JAMALPUR: Erosion of the river Jamuna at village Gafargaon of Madarganj thana of the district.

— Star photo