



A helpless family, top, struggles to rebuild life from scratch amid ruins all over and a villager, bottom, trawls for relatives' bodies in a swamp in Kanchanpur village in Netrakona yesterday, two days after a monster twister reduced the idyllic village into matchwood.

One murdered

FROM PAGE 1
Locals alleged that Yasmeen was involved in an extramarital affair with Shipon.

Shipon's family members on the other hand said Manik had a dispute over property with his brother Farooq and pointed accusing fingers at him for the murder.

They said Shipon, who recently had his master's in chemistry from Jagannath University College, was falsely implicated in the murder.

On hearing the news of his son's death, Shipon's father went to the spot along with an acquaintance but both were also beaten up by the mob. Police later rescued them and sent them to the DMC.

Manik's brother Farooq filed a case with Demra Police Station accusing Shipon of killing his brother.

In another incident, a ward level leader of Jasas (Jatiyatobadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha) was shot dead near his Azam Road house in Mohammadpur

JCD factional clash at Sust injures 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An inter-faction clash of Jatiyatobadi Chhatri Dal (JCD) at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) in the wee hours yesterday left 15 injured, six of them badly.

The clash took place when Kamal-Shanto faction launched an attack at 1:30am on members of Momin-Sadat faction residing in Shahporan Hall reportedly for joining in a protest against an alleged sexual violence by a JCD man on a female student of the varsity two days ago.

The attackers were armed with guns and iron rods. They reportedly fired about 15 shots during the raid that ended when police reached the spot at about 3:00am.

The seriously injured six students were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. Among them, Sust JCD Vice President Momimul Islam Momin received bullet wounds. Of the rest, Shahadat Hossain, Manjur Al Hasan Babu, Sudipta Saha Pappu and Rubel are JCD members and Saidur Rahman is known to have no political affiliation.

According to witnesses, 40 to 50 JCD cadres led by Sust JCD President Mostafizur Rahman and General Secretary (GS) Emran Hossain Bhuiyan swooped on their rivals in Shahporan Hall at the dead of the night. The invaders belong to the Kamal-Shanto faction named after Reza Sharif Kamal and Shanto, former president and GS of the Sust JCD. They broke into eight rooms belonging to some members of Momin-Sadat faction. Those rooms and some toilets, where frightened students tried to hide, were badly damaged in the raid.

Professor Moslehuddin Ahmed, the acting vice-chancellor, visited the wounded students in the hospital yesterday afternoon.

Professor Habibul Ahsan, provost of Shahporan Hall, said, as the clash was an intra-party incident of the JCD, the varsity authorities had nothing to say.

Members of the Momin-Sadat faction had joined an all-party procession on the Sust campus Thursday protesting the sexual assault on a fellow student allegedly by JCD cadre Mahmudul Haque Sadi.

In a written accusation, Shanta Dey, a second-year honours student, also of social science, alleged Sadi requested her to go to a mess at Rikabibazar in the city Sunday last for some urgent business. When she went there at noon that day, he sexually assaulted and abused her. Shanta complained, adding Sadi also tortured her physically and mentally. She also said some friends of Sadi were present outside the room in the mess during the assault.

Protesting and condemning the crime, students and teachers formed a human chain on the varsity campus Thursday afternoon. The social science department also organised an all-party protest procession, followed by a rally in front of the registrar building, in which JCD Momin-Sadat faction took part, infuriating its rival faction, to which Sadi belongs.

She demanded that the government provide tin, bamboo and wood for the distressed and visited the injured at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital later in the day.

yesterday.

Hospital sources said Syed Mehed Ali, 28, Jasas secretary of ward no. 44, was gunned down within 20 yards of his house where he was going for lunch.

Mehedi, who ran a vegetable shop at Mohammadpur's Town Hall Kitchen Market, was shot in the head and back.

His relatives found him lying on the roadside and took him to the DMCH as a road accident victim. But doctors at the DMCH morgue found bullet marks on his body.

Mohammadpur police confirmed Mehed Ali was murdered but could not give any details of the incident.

Meanwhile, Pallabi police recovered a partially decomposed body of a 25-year-old man from a paddy field near Ashulia embankment yesterday.

Police said the body of the unidentified man was dumped there after he was killed two to three days ago.

The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Cry for aid

FROM PAGE 1
visit apparently added speed to relief distribution.

According to the local administration, the giant tornado with wind speeds of 120km an hour affected 3,085 people of 720 families in four villages in Haluaghata upazila.

Dr Feroze from the heavily affected Somania neighbourhood

Road accidents

of a passenger bus bound for Somania from Sirajganj lost control over the steering and the bus fell into a roadside ditch, killing two passengers on the spot and injuring 27 others.

The injured were rushed to Sirajganj General Hospital where two of them succumbed to their injuries soon after admission.

Identity of the dead and injured could not be known. Police seized the bus, but its driver and helper managed to escape.

In Tangail, two persons were killed and 16 others injured when a Dhaka-bound bus from Rajshahi overturned on the Dhaka-Tangail Highway at Bhatkura under Sadar upazila yesterday.

One of the dead was identified as M Innu Ali, 60, son of Younus Ali of Bhatkura village under the upazila.

Of the injured, nine were admitted to Tangail General Hospital and the rest given first aid.

Those admitted to the hospital are Jahir Uddin, Shamia, Nurul Islam, Abul Kashem Mandal, Mofazzal Haque, Pradip Kumar Ghose, Monzur, Abdul Aziz, and Sadi.

told reporters that no government relief arrived there. Matin, a goldsmith, echoed him.

Some army and local medical teams are treating people for injuries in 13 villages of three Mymensingh upazilas. Police, paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles and volunteers are also working on rehabilitation of tornado victims.

ASSURANCE AND BLAME

The prime minister told the affected people to wait in patience and assured them of food, tin, timber and money after she reached the nor'wester hit areas in Netrakona at 3:45pm.

She stayed with villagers for 20 minutes and visited Netrakona Sadar Hospital and talked to the injured, doctors and nurses.

Addressing a gathering in Kanchanpur, Khaleda said: "I have come to share your sorrows. You have to turn your mourning into strength and begin your life anew facing the disaster with courage and patience."

Hasina, also Awami League president, visiting the tornado-hit areas in Netrakona and Mymensingh, accused the government of inactivity.

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India's historic win

FROM PAGE 1

"It's a very big win, coming against Pakistan. It'll take a few days to sink in. We've been playing good cricket for the last two years, it's great to win when you're playing well."

The victory was Ganguly's 15th as captain, making him India's most successful test skipper surpassing Mohammad Azharuddin's 14 wins.

Pakistan, resuming on their overnight 49 for two chasing 376 to make India bat again, enjoyed a spate of lucky breaks earlier on Friday.

Hameed was dropped on eight at point by Tendulkar, who could not hold on to a tough chance to his left.

He got another life on 13 when Kumble put him down at gully off left-arm seamer Irfan Pathan.

Danger man Inzamam was dropped on eight by Rahul Dravid at first slip, the ball popping out of his hands, before Balaji had the skipper caught behind with a late

outswinger.

Youhana also got a chance when Yuvraj Singh could not hold on to a sharp catch at point.

But India still had little to complain about as their seamers made good use of overcast conditions to move the ball both ways.

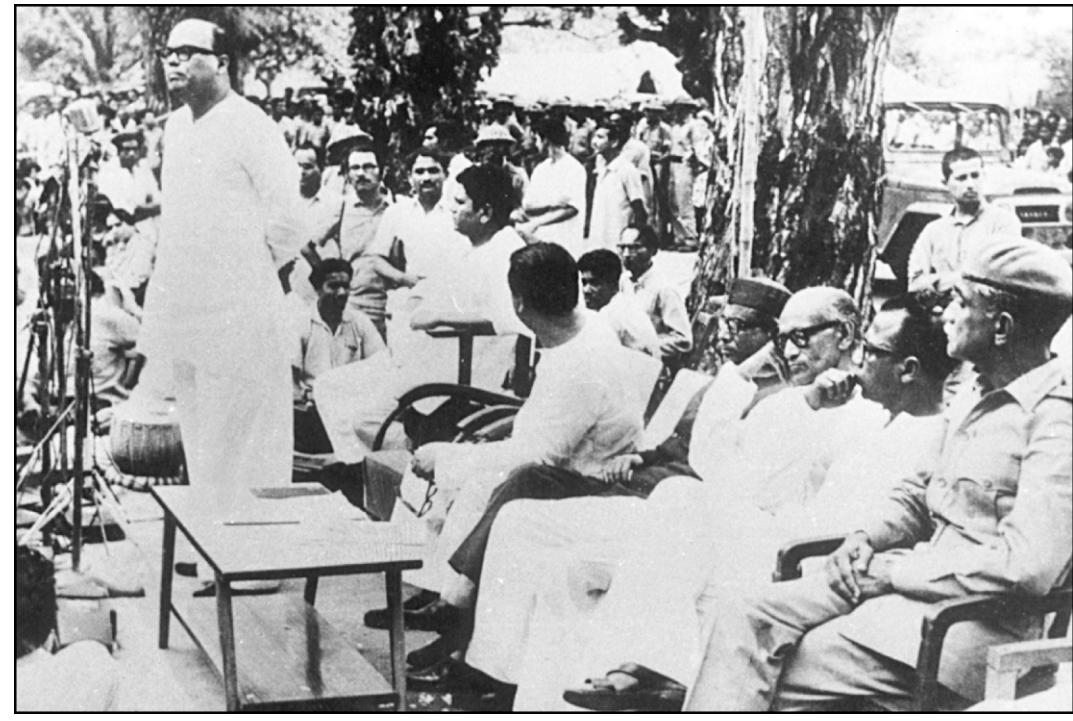
Youhana and left-hander Asim Kamal attempted to stem the tide in a breezy 81-run sixth-wicket stand before Youhana lobbed a simple return catch to Kumble.

There were doubts if Kamal would bat after he was hit on his right elbow by a ferocious pull from Ganguly on Wednesday, but the 26-year-old showed great resolve.

Shoaib played an attractive cameo but, by then, it was only a matter of time.

Dravid was named man-of-the-match for his 270, which enabled India to amass 600 after dismissing Pakistan for 224 in the first innings.

(Scoreboard on sports page)



FILE PHOTO
Acting President of the provisional government of Bangladesh, Syed Nazrul Islam, speaks after formation of the administration in Mujibnagar on April 17, 1971. Seated on the podium, from right, are Colonel MAG Osmani, cabinet members M Qamruzzaman, Monsur Ali and Khandaker Mushtaq Ahmed and Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmed (back to camera).

Old Dhaka traders

FROM PAGE 12

"Businesspeople have been forced to go into hiding as police are arresting anyone who were on the list made by Nasiruddin Pinto's men after the strike called by Lalbagh businesspeople on March 22. When we challenge the arrests, police ask us to prove our innocence in court," said a businessman from Nolgora.

Six cases have been filed against former lawmakers of Lalbagh and Awami League leader Haji Selim on charges of illegal possession of explosives and hindering government functions after the March 22 strike that also left Haji Selim and 10 Jabo League workers injured. At least 40 of the arrested businesspeople were also implicated in the cases.

Haji Selim told The Daily Star recently that BNP leaders, aided openly by police, are trying to get AL adherents in the Lalbagh area arrested on farcical charges.

OC Gaffar also dismissed the allegation that such a list exists and that police are making arrests in accordance with names of traders listed by any political party.

The Daily Star was unable to talk to Lalbagh MP and BNP leader Nasiruddin Ahmed Pinto as he is

currently abroad.

Gaffar, OCs of Kotwali Police Station Sultan Ahmed and Sutrapur Police Station Awlad Hossain have all refuted allegations of harassing businesspeople. Sultan has also said no businesspeople were arrested in connection with the protests or under ruling party directives.

Leader of Nawabpur Dokan Malik Samity Kamal Hossain Kamal, meanwhile, said he had received death threats after he went ahead with the strike despite political pressure to call it off.

"Has it become a crime to protest against criminal activities?" complained Kamal, adding that a number of his workers have been arrested for simply participating in the protest programmes.

Traders of Lalbagh also alleged that police are not only serving vested political interests, but also taking bribes from arrested businesspeople for their release.

They said acting Chairman of Basic Banki Samity of Nolgora Abul Bashar and Murtaza Ali, a ceramic trader from Chawkmoguttil, were arrested on March 29 but were released on the same night in exchange for a hefty sum.

In pursuit of happiness

FROM PAGE 12

mother poured a mixture of tobacco and hot mustard oil into them for a cure. But the treatment erased the taste of Julia's recovery.

After her hearing became impaired, Julia also came to be known to others that she was unable to speak.

But to Julia the weight of beatings from her parents, the weight of the pain in her ears, the weight of society's brutality towards Julia, physical disabilities, were the most helpless and neglected people in society, even more painfully if they were born into ultra-poor families.

The centre now houses 20 girls with speech, hearing, visual or other disabilities. The centre has in-house physiotherapist and treatment, educational and recreational facilities as well as a history of treating 150 physically-challenged children as outpatients.

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Angela Gomez, head of Jessore-based non-governmental organisation Banchte Shekha (Learning to Live) and her 'Didi', penned the poem that Julia was reciting.

Gomez and the staff of her organisation sowed the seed of hope in Julia and others in the rehabilitation centre and infused them with a commitment that they would break out of society's neglect and their lives

would be as colourful and fulfilling as anyone else.

While working as social workers in southern districts, the activists of Banchte Shekha found that children like Julia, with physical disabilities, were the most helpless and neglected people in society, even more painfully if they were born into ultra-poor families.

It became a desolate life for Julia until a group of social workers instilled her with a new hope and spirit to live. She began her journey from being shunned to shining in her life.

She grew weary of the world, as her parents would beat her up everyday for not being able to hear or speak to them and society would attach stigma to the people with disabilities.

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