

## Cyclone Bijli

FROM PAGE 1

Abdur Rahim, 8, son of Abdul Monaf of Pekua upazila, died when a tree fell on him, while the two-year-old child of Amir Hossain of Char Para died in a stampede in Kasturaghat cyclone centre in Cox's Bazar at 9:30pm Friday.

Seven women and children were also injured in the stampede.

Mohammad Ibrahim, 55, of Fateh Ali Sikder Para died of cardiac arrest at Brac shelter centre in Ali Akbar Dail union, Kutubdia around 11:00pm.

More than 50 people were injured as trees and thatched houses fell on them.

Sources say over 500 thatched houses and 1,500 betel leaf plantations were destroyed, while boro crops on about 20 acres of land and salt production in about 70,000 acres of land in the district remained suspended due to rainfall.

People in the coastal areas of Chittagong heaved a sigh of relief as Bijli caused no casualty and big damage of property, writes our Staff Correspondent

in Chittagong.

Three elderly people reportedly died of old-age complications in Satkania upazila.

Mobaraka Khatun, 65, of Premashia in Khankhanaband union died after she was brought to a nearby cyclone shelter, said District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer Abul Kalam Azad.

Twelve people were injured in Banshkhali upazila while going to the nearby cyclone shelters.

Boro crops on around 323 hectares of land were damaged, while 448 houses in seven upazilas were destroyed.

The storm lashed coastal upazila of Charfashon under the offshore island of Bhola, reports our Barisal correspondent.

At least eight people were injured when trees and walls collapsed on them during the cyclone, which damaged boro crops on about 25 acre of land.

In Noakhali, Dulal Mia, 40, of the island of Hatia died being struck by a lightning, reports UNB.

## Bangladeshi

FROM PAGE 16

Serabang district as their dormitory was not prepared. However, the local agent also took away their passports and other documents from them, said Liakat.

"On March 24 night, the Malaysian police suddenly came to the mosque and arrested all of us as we failed to produce our passports and other valid documents and took us to the Lenging Detention Camp."

"In the camp, they force us to be naked and do exercise by holding ears. When someone becomes slow in complying with their (police) instructions or fails to do so, they beat us," Liakat told The Daily Star over telephone.

Police took Iktiar for the team leader and tortured him severely, he added.

"After four to five days, Iktiar became very sick. We then requested the authorities concerned to hospitalise him (Iktiar). After two days, Iktiar succumbed to his injury in the hospital," Liakat continued.

Dingy After 16 days of the detention, the agent finally arranged their release from the police custody.

However, they are now working in a palm garden without having any work permit. "Police can arrest us again," Liakat feared.

## Criminals

FROM PAGE 1

critical hospital sources said.

Injured Kawsar Parvez at DMCH told The Daily Star that at around 1:30pm a gang of 3-4 armed criminals, all of a sudden, opened fire on them at the gate No-2 leaving him and guard M Amzad Hossain bullet injured.

Asked who he thinks are the conspirators, he replied, "Those who don't want the country to make progress and those who want to see it become a failed state."

According to Indian media reports, Menon exchanged notes with his counterpart on the activities of the radical groups that operate in Bangladesh and are suspected to have played a role in the February 25 bloodbath at BDR Pilkhana headquarters.

In the first high-level contact with Bangladesh after the mutiny by border guards, India is believed to have emphasised the need to crack down on elements which aim to destabilise peace and security in the two countries in particular and the region as a whole.

The gang of criminals were waiting at the gate in the guise of visitors and as workers came out at lunch break they sprayed bullets on them leaving the guards injured.

A witness, Rabiu Hawlader, also an employee of the garment factory, said when he was going downstairs he saw the gang of 3-4 armed criminals fleeing the scene firing bullets.

When contacted Pallabi police said two local bands of criminals - one led by Jamil and the other by Sahadat - had been trying to take the garment jhooth (wastage) business in their grips for the last few months.

Either of them might have been behind the incident, he added.

Abdul Malek, officer-in-charge (OC) of Pallabi Police Station, said they arrested eight criminals from a house on Block-B at Mirpur-2 and recovered 10 rounds of bullet and 10 cell-phone sets from them last night after a case was filed with the police station.

During primary interrogation, the arrestees admitted to their involvement in the incident, Malek said.

Police are analysing the video footage of the incident captured on CCTV cameras installed at the garment factory, he added.

On information, police came to the spot and charged batons to bring the situation under control. Police squads were deployed in the area to avert further untoward incident. High officials of police visited the area after the incident.

Contacted, Abdul Mannan said the clash broke out as BNP men were trying to control the cooperative society.

And Abus Samad said AL supporters attacked BNP men 'without any reason' which led to the clash.

**Khaleda's house**

FROM PAGE 16

Court will decide whether your (cabinet) decision is lawful or not," Delwar asked the ruling party hierarchy.

He criticized the government for creating a non-issue on an issue and dragging it on since the cabinet took its resolution on April 8, raising question in public mind what actually is going on in the state.

Besides, the Rab is helping the CID in the investigation process directly.

Colonel Reza-nur Rahman, additional director general of Rab, told The Daily Star a huge number of Rab members from across the country including the Rab headquarters are also helping the investigation.

Investigation sources said, they have spotted 66 places of occurrence (POs) and collected around 2400 evidence in connection with the carnage.

Shortly after the grisly incident, the CID launched its investigation with 60 personnel in eight groups. But the number rose to 250 in 15 days and at present over 500 CID members are working on the case.

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In addition, many army personnel were hunting down fugitives under the 'Operation Rebel Hunt.'

Contacted, BDR Director General Maj Gen Md Mainul Islam, however, declined to disclose the number of the army personnel engaged in the Rebel Hunt Operation.

He, however, reiterated BNP's stand to extend cooperation to the government in fulfilling the ruling party's election pledges urging them to return to the path of law and democracy, changing their mindset.

The rally was presided over by Tanti Dal President Humayun Islam Khan and addressed by, among others, Jibon Dal General Secretary Moazzem Hossain Alal, JCD Vice President Sultan Salahuddin Tuku.

Both the ministers said the work in the secretariat gets momentum as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is doing her office in the secretariat regularly and holding regular cabinet meeting.

The BNP secretary general asked the ruling party not to aggravate the situation further by issuing threat and intimidation, and raising 'storm at the cup of tea.'

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Talking to The Daily Star, Akbar Md Haque said, "Soon after the mutiny around 2,000 personnel of the DMP got engaged in the process but now it has come down to around 8,000."

They said all MPs are entitled to equal facilities and privileges while the Upazila Parishad Act provides more authority to the 300 lawmakers.

"Such discrimination runs counter to the constitution that bars discrimination on grounds only of religion, race,

## City cops face

FROM PAGE 16

Serabang district as their dormitory was not prepared. However, the local agent also took away their passports and other documents from them, said Liakat.

DMP on June 9, 2008 decided to establish eight police stations but it could complete only 2, Kadamtal and Darussalam police stations, raising the total number to only 35.

"In the camp, they force us to be naked and do exercise by holding ears. When someone becomes slow in complying with their (police) instructions or fails to do so, they beat us," Liakat told The Daily Star over telephone.

Police took Iktiar for the team leader and tortured him severely, he added.

"After four to five days, Iktiar became very sick. We then requested the authorities concerned to hospitalise him (Iktiar). After two days, Iktiar succumbed to his injury in the hospital," Liakat continued.

Seeking anonymity a female police sub-inspector told The Daily Star "I receive around Tk 3500 as house rent while I have to spend over Tk 4500 on rent for a small house at Mirpur and over Tk 1500 on conveyance to reach my office."

If I had a government quarters I could save Tk 2500 per month, which I could spend on my children's education, and I could spend at least three more hours with my family," she lamented.

The authorities concerned have undertaken a five-year housing plan (2008-2013) to ease the housing problem, which will raise the total number of quarters to only 1727, a very meagre 10.37 percent, DC Shajahan said.

Under the five-year housing plan 1,110 more quarters will be built by 2013 for those from the rank of assistant sub-inspector onwards.

Accommodation capacity, as per the plan, in barracks of DMP will be increased to 10752 from the existing 9252, Shajahan said.

## 31 Hizb-ut Towhid

FROM PAGE 1

Police also seized from the office some books, leaflets, and two types of powders which are now being examined.

The office is used as a training camp for the militants, police said.

During initial interrogation, the arrestees told police they do not believe in saying prayers in mosque led by an 'Imam'.

They however did not give any information about their activities in the area. So further quizzing is necessary, police said.

Hizb-ut Towhid was active in the district for the last several years, police mentioned.

They had arrested at least 100 activists of the organisation, and all were released on bail.

Different sources said Hizb-ut is becoming active again in several southwestern districts including Kushtia, Meherpur, Jhenidah, Magura and Chuadanga. Its activists are even engaged in clashes with the guards.

Either of them might have been behind the incident, he added.

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