

2 killed, 75 hurt as storm hits several districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At least two people were killed, 75 others injured and over 800 houses damaged as nor'wester lashed five districts--Patuakhali, Noakhali, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Barguna--early yesterday.

Our Patuakhali correspondent reported that storm swept over Dashmina Baufal, Galachipa, Kalapara

and Sadar upazilas of the district at around 4:00am, killing one person and injuring at least 50 others. Over 200 houses in the five upazilas were also damaged during the storm.

The deceased was identified as Aleya Begum, 55, wife of Abdul Barek of Bogra village under Dashmina upazila. She

died in house collapse.

Of the injured, 15 are from Dashmina, 10 from Baufal, Galachipa and Kalapara each and five from Sadar upazila. Five of them were admitted to Dashmina Upazila Health Complex while the rest given first aid at different hospitals and clinics.

Power supply to the affected upazilas remained

cut as of filing of this report at 5:00pm yesterday as the storm uprooted a good number of electric poles.

In Gopalganj, a shop owner was killed and at least 50 houses were damaged as a violent storm accompanied by heavy rain lashed Kashiani upazila at around 3:30am, reports our correspondent.

The deceased was identi-

fied as Wahid Sheikh, 32, a grocery shop owner at Kashiani Bazar. He was killed when a banyan tree fell on his shop. Locals said Wahid was asleep in his shop during the storm.

According to our Madaripur correspondent, nor'wester hit several villages under Sadar and Kalkini upazilas of the district early yesterday.

At least 450 houses were damaged and 15 people injured during the storm. Of the injured, Hamida Begum, wife of Lokman Bapari of Sadar upazila, was admitted to Madaripur Sadar Hospital in a critical condition while the rest were given first aid at the hospital.

In Noakhali, 25 shops were damaged and at least 15 people injured as storm lashed Nalchira ghat area in Hatiya upazila early yesterday.

Hatiya Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Harun Rashid visited the storm-hit area.

In Barguna, nor'wester injured at least 15 people damaged over 130 houses in two upazilas of the district early yesterday, reports UNB.

The affected upazilas are Barguna Sadar and Amtoli. Local sources said at least 70 houses were damaged at Locha and Basuki village in Amtoli upazila while over 56 houses in different areas of Sadar upazila.

Vegetables and Boro paddy were also damaged in the storm-hit upazilas.

PHOTO: STAR

Nor'wester damaged at least 200 houses in five upazilas of Patuakhali district early yesterday. Photo shows two battered houses at Bogra village in Dashmina upazila of the district.

11 injured in Natore pre-election clash

Nominations filed in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Natore

At least 11 people were injured in a pre-poll clash between the supporters of two chairmen candidates at Kolabaria village under Faguyar Diyar Union of Bagatipara upazila on Wednesday night.

Pro-AL candidate Shariful Islam and BNP backed candidate Jahangir Alam Manik are contesting for the post of chairman in the upcoming election to Faguyar Diyar Union Parishad.

Locals said the campaigners of the two candidates clashed at Kolabaria village at around 10:30pm on Wednesday, leaving at least 11 people from both sides injured.

Chairman candidate Shariful Islam alleged that the supporters of his rival candidate Jahangir Alam

Manik equipped with lethal weapons swooped on his men after a rally at the village, leaving at least six of them injured.

AL men injured in the clash are Omar Faruk, 40, Tahir Uddin, 45, Shahidul Islam, 25, and Ainal Haq, 30, Rabiul Islam, 35 and Enamul Haq, 25. Of them, four were admitted to Bagatipara Upazila Health Complex while the rest two given first aid at the hospital.

Jahangir Alam Manik claimed that Shariful's supporters attacked his campaigners and injured five of them.

Two of the injured BNP men-Anisur Rahman, 35, and Abul Bashar, 32-are now undergoing treatment at Natore Sadar Hospital and the remaining three took first aid at a clinic, he added.

District Election Officer Md Nurul Hassan said as many as 15,056 voters are expected to cast their votes in nine polling booths.

Necessary measures are being taken to ensure a free, fair and peaceful municipal election, he added.

Shariful filed a complaint with Bagatipara upazila nirbahi officer (UNO),

accusing Manik of violating election rules. He also lodged a case with Bagatipara Police Station.

Meanwhile, Candidates for mayoral and nine councillor posts of Ramgarh Municipality submitted their nomination papers on May 16.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent quoted district election office sources as saying that three mayor aspirants, 47 councillor candidates and eight women candidates for reserved seats submitted nominations to contest the polls scheduled for June 12.

Fishermen in the area said that pirates swooped on them while they were returning through the two channels with trawlers full offishes.

Mujibur Rahman, president of Cox's Bazar Fishing Boat Owners Association said that incidents of piracy have recently increased to an alarming level in the area.

"Fishermen cannot return to the shore safely with their fishes and trawlers. The pirates are attacking them in the deep sea and looting their everything", he said.

In the last five days, the pirate gangs have looted at least 14 trawlers and beat up more than 60 fishermen

while they were returning to the shore, Mujibur added. Several trawler owners yesterday painted a grim picture how they were looted in mid-sea by the armed pirates.

Trawler owner Abul Kashem said the fishermen could not resist the attacks as pirates carry illegal arms and lethal weapons. Most of the pirates seem to be Myanmar nationals, he said.

Vice president of the boat owners association said over 80 thousand fishermen of about six thousand trawlers are now suffering from insecurity.

They cannot go to mid-sea for fishing for fear of life during the hilsa season, he said.

Ranjit Barua, officer-in-charge of Teknaf police station said although they lack vessels to conduct drives on water, but they are raiding different areas in the shore to arrest the pirates.

Principal Mizanur Rahman, Dulal Majumdar, Nabila Alam, Mithun and other activists of different students, socio-cultural-political-human rights organisations, addressed the rally.

Limon Hossain's mother Henoara Begum, while addressing the rally, burst into tears and said, if Rab had arranged imme-

Follow-up

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