

Storm razes 100 houses to ground in 7 villages

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A severe storm injured at least 10 people and razed to the ground over 100 dwelling houses in seven villages under Galachipa upazila early Tuesday.

Of the injured, Aklima, 35, wife of Monir Mridha of Bauria village has been admitted to Galachipa upazila health complex.

The other injured who took first aid are Rezaul Karim, 28, Al-Amin Sikder,

38, Maya Rani, 25, Jamena Bibi, 45, Pervez, 8, Mayeen, 7, Sapan Shil, 29, Tania Begum, 25, and Nasir Uddin, 30.

Anwar Hossain, chairman of Amkhola union parishad said, at about 2:00 am on Tuesday a tornado hit seven villages.

At least 100 thatched houses collapsed while over 400 were partially damaged, he said.

Several hundred trees were uprooted and vegetable gardens on a vast tract were damaged.

The tornado affected villages are Bauria, South Bauria, Tafalbaria, Algeetafbaria, Khontakhali, Bishkaneebauria and Mushurikathi, he said.

Villager Moksed Mridha said his eight dwelling houses were totally damaged by the storm.

A weeping Softon Nesa of Bauria village said she now has to stay under the open sky unfed with her children.

Others said, they lost at least 10 cows in the tornado.



PHOTO: STAR
Elderly Softon Nesa gives a bleak look sitting amid the debris of her tornado-hit house at Bauria in Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali district yesterday. The tornado ravaged seven villages in the upazila.

Sylhet-MEGHALAYA BORDER New survey team yet to start work for absence of directives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The new team assigned for survey of Sylhet-Meghalaya border could not start their work yesterday for absence of fresh programme schedule.

Contacted, UNO of Gowainghat Iftekhhar Ahmed Chowdhury told this correspondent that the team is yet to get the fresh programme of survey.

Md Ibrahim, a member of the team who reached Sylhet from the capital on Tuesday afternoon also informed that they did not get any programme.

The joint Indo-Bangla survey on the adversely possessed lands (APL) on the said borders remained suspended since 20 June in the face of protest by border people at places during the survey.

Meanwhile, local people under the banner of 'conscious border citizens' yesterday formed human chains and held rallies at the upazila headquarters to protest 'bid to hand over Bangladesh lands to Indians in the name of joint survey'.

A two-hour long human chain was formed at Jaintapur upazila headquarters.

Upazila parishad vice-chairman Muhibul Haque, a number of UP chairmen

and former BNP lawmaker Dilder Hossain Selim also joined the programmes including a rally.

The speakers at the rally said that the joint survey should be done in a transparent way. No attempt to hand over lands to the Indians in the name of survey would be tolerated, they said. They also demanded recovery of 200 acres of lands on Padua border which remained under Indian occupation for decades.

An hour-long human chain was also held at Gowainghat upazila headquarters in the morning.

The opposition-backed human chains and protest rallies were also staged at the bordering Kanaighat, Jakiganj and Companiganj upazilas during the last four days.

Although the survey work was to be completed by 15 January, the deadline was extended several times with the last one on 30 June.

However, it now seems that it would be extended again, deputy commissioner of Sylhet Abu Syed Mohammad Hashim told this correspondent yesterday evening.

"The new survey team has been asked to finish the rest of the job as soon as possible. We want to finish the much desired survey as soon as possible", he said.

Flash flood hits two Netrakona upazilas

200 houses, aman seed beds, vegetables damaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Over 200 thatched houses, aman seed beds and vegetables on over several hundred hectares were damaged as flash flood hit two bordering upazilas yesterday morning.

Executive engineer of Netrakona Water Development Board (WDB) Mohammad Manirul Islam said that the flood affected more than a dozen villages in Kalmakanda upazila.

Heavy rain during the

last three days coupled with onrush of hill waters from across the border triggered the flood, he added.

Kalmakanda upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Mohammad Abdullah told this correspondent that flood waters damaged over 200 thatched houses in bordering Hatgobindapur, Modhukura, Bhashankura, Bogadubi, Kharnai and Langura villages in the upazila.

Sources said, flood waters also damaged vege-

tables on several hundred hectares and about half of aman seed beds in the affected areas.

In Durgapur, flood water threatened the municipal flood protection embankment and Atrailhali flood protection dam. It may collapse any time, feared Durgapur UNO Mohammad Kamruzzaman Mia.

Water level of the Someshwary River is on the rise flowing over 35 centimetre of danger mark, WDB sources said.

DISPUTE OVER MANAGING BODY

275 kids suffer as their school locked for days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Academic activities of Botrish Hazari High School at Botrish Hazari village under Sadar upazila have remained suspended since Saturday following disputes over formation of a controversial managing committee.

Frustrated students demonstrated in front of the deputy commissioner's office yesterday demanding removal of Toyebur Rahman Toyeb, headmaster of the school for his alleged role in forming the body.

Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila Assistant Education Officer Jahangir Alam, who saw the school closed during his visit yesterday noon, asked the headmaster and other teachers over cell phone to come to the school but they ignored the message, the official said.

"I have taken statement of the local guardians and students of Botrish Hazari High School. I will inform my higher authority who will take necessary action against the persons concerned," Jahangir Alam said. There are 12 staff including

nine teachers, a clerk, a peon and a night guard and 275 students, including 155 girls and 125 boys, who read in classes six to ten in this school.

Several students said they regularly come to the school but have to go back without any classes as all the classrooms and teachers' room have remained locked since Saturday. Even after calling the headmaster and other teachers they do not get any reasonable answer.

"We come to the school in time but go back home without getting any lessons, as teachers and other staffs are not available in the school," said Sanzida Akhter, a student of class eight of Botrish Hazari High School.

Abdul Gofur, 48, a guardian, alleged that headmaster Toyebur Rahman Toyeb recently formed the school managing committee with his chosen people from outside the locality to do a 'good business' concerning recruitment of six teachers in the school.

When Soleman Ali, a resident of Hira Manik village, also a teacher of Haziganj High School in

Aditmari upazila, was selected chairman of the managing committee last week, local people vehemently protested it, he said.

"For saving himself from the wrath of locals, the headmaster has remained absent from the school since Saturday. Other teachers and staff have also stopped coming to the school following the headmaster," he said.

Anisuzzaman Sarker, a teacher of the school, also the teachers' representative in the school managing committee, said, "We feel helpless as the headmaster is all in all and everything is done according to his will."

Asked by this correspondent, Botrish Hazari High School managing committee chairman Soleman Ali said he was made chairman by headmaster Toyebur Rahman Toyeb.

He declined to tell further regarding the matter.

When contacted, headmaster of Botrish Hazari High School Toyebur Rahman Toyeb said that he will not talk with any newsman regarding the matter.

"I will reply only if my authority asks," he said.



PHOTO: STAR
Golam Sarwar, the chief inspector of the Magura office under the Directorate of Jute, who runs the office single-handedly, himself opens and locks the door of his room daily.

One-man show

Chief inspector of jute runs office single-handedly for long

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

The top official at the office of the chief inspector (CI) of jute at Hrishipara in Magura town has to run the set-up single-handedly as there is no other official or staff for long.

CI Golam Sarwar, who has to inspect 1025 licensed jute dealers' business establishments in 37 jute markets of four upazilas in the district and attend four monthly meetings at the deputy commissioner's office, also opens and closes his own office on every working day.

Office of the CI is responsible for collecting statistics of arrival of jute and its prices at different markets in the district, issuing licences for jute trading to the local interested people and renewing the given licences, said Sarwar.

"One post of inspector and two posts of assistant inspectors have been lying

vacant for the last two years. Besides, the post of peon has remained vacant for about 10 years. In absence of any other staff or official, I open only the room of CI while two other rooms of the office remain closed throughout the year," he said.

"I have to keep the office closed during my inspection of the jute markets in the district or when I have to go out of the office for any other purpose. Stakeholders suffer due to the situation," said the CI.

Asked about the cause of non-existence of any other staff, he said, "The department as a whole is suffering from shortage of officials and staffs. An advertisement against the vacancies of 79 posts of assistant inspector in the offices across the country was published in newspapers about two years ago, but nobody has been appointed yet due to unknown reasons."

5-yr-old boy slain in Habiganj

Five of uncle's family held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A five-year-old boy was slain in Habiganj district yesterday.

Police recovered his beheaded body from a sanitary latrine at a house in Bahubal upazila.

Police also arrested five of a family for their alleged complicity in the gruesome murder.

Officer-in-charge of Bahubal police station inspector Syeduzzaman told this correspondent that the murder was a sequel to family feud. The boy was killed in the morning, he said quoting an arrestee.

Victim's uncle Daim Ullah, his wife Ayesha Khatun, their sons Kamal Miah, Joynal Miah and Shahjahan have been taken to custody, he added.

The body was sent to Habiganj Sadar Hospital morgue for post mortem.



PHOTO: STAR
Botrish Hazar High School in Lalmonirhar Sadar upazila has remained under lock and key since Saturday, following a dispute over the school managing committee.

DISPUTE OVER TR SHARING

20 hurt as AL factions clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

At least 20 people were injured as two factions of local Awami League (AL) clashed on Gouripur upazila parishad premises yesterday.

Police said one group, led by Dr Mojibur Rahman Fakir, MP, went to place a list of recipients of test relief (TR) at the upazila parishad at noon.

Meanwhile, another

group, led by Ali Ahmad Khan Pathan, upazila chairman and Gouripur municipal chairman Rafiqul Islam protested it and tried to resist Fakir group from submitting the list.

This triggered a violent clash leaving at least 20 people injured from both sides.

Of the injured, 10 were admitted to upazila health complex while another

critically injured was admitted to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital, reports UNB.

Twenty motorbikes were also vandalised during the clash. Food and project implementation officer's (PIO) office was also ransacked.

On information, police rushed to the spot. Additional forces have been deployed in the area.

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Please Contact: Manager, CRP-Mirpur, Plot- A/5, Block-A Section-14, Mirpur, Dhaka-1206, Tel: 01730059614, 8053662-3, 8020178