

Storms kill 22

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2:00am and 6:00am.

Our Noakhali correspondent reports, a severe storm accompanied by gusty wind killed at least a dozen and damaged over 200 thatched cottages in Hatia, Subarnachar, Companiganj and Sadar upazilas.

The deceased are Sharmin Akhtar, 10, and Nur Jahan, 55, of Subarnachar, Shima Akhtar, 12, Mamunuddin, 8, Brajalal, 60, Rajshibala Das, 60, and Arif, 10, of Hatia and Reazuddin, 20, Ilias, 16, Amir Hossain, 35, and Nur Islam, 40, of Companiganj.

The local administration, however, could not confirm the identity of the other dead, aged about 55.

Starting around 2:00am, the 20-minute squall destroyed mosques, educational institutions and thatched cottages.

Scores of trees along the roads in Subarnachar and Hatia were uprooted, snapping road communications.

Following the storm, electricity supply remained suspended in the district headquarters.

Locals informed the administration that several fishermen with their fishing trawlers remained missing.

Contacted, Mohiuddin, chairman of Char King

union parishad, said locals communicated to administration that several fishermen were missing with their fishing trawlers.

In Bhola, a storm hit Charfession and Monpura upazilas, claiming at least six lives.

The dead are Abdul Khalek, 50, and Shah Alam, 36, of Monpura and Amena Begum, 35, Raihan, 3, Amir and Sakib, 14, of Charfession.

Charfession Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Nur-E-Alam said it became difficult to reach the affected areas as many trees fell on the roads. "We are trying our best to manage the disaster with the help of local people."

Wahidul Islam, UNO of Monpura upazila, said they were preparing lists of the missing people and damaged houses in the area. Deputy Commissioner of Bhola Khondakar Mostafizur Rahman said the district administration has allocated Tk 50,000 in cash and 30 metric tonnes of rice for the victims in Monpura and Tk 20,000 in cash and 10 metric tonnes of rice for the affected people in Charfession.

In Chittagong, four people died as a storm swept

across Sandwip and Mirsarai upazilas.

The dead are Khodeza Begum, 65, Hare Krishna Boishnab, 65 and Anwara Begum, 30, of Swandip, and Shamsul Haque, 60, of Mirsarai.

Of the two women victims, one died in a house collapse and the other was killed when a tree fell on her, said Maksudur Rahman Phul Miyan, UP chairman of Santospur.

The storm also killed 20 cattle and damaged over 2,000 houses and crops on 2,500 acres of land, said sources in upazila administrations.

In Feni, at least 17 people were injured when houses collapsed and trees fell on them during a storm in Sadar upazila, reports a correspondent.

Many trees along the Feni stretch of the Dhaka-Chittagong highway were uprooted.

Meanwhile, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed deep shock at the death in the coastal areas caused by the devastating storms.

In a statement, she expressed sympathy to the bereaved family members and prayed for the salvation of the departed souls.

Mozena

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Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), a US government programme to provide grants to poor countries to fight poverty, he said.

After announcing a development assistance of \$200 million by the USAID for Bangladesh for the year 2012, Mozena said he hopes to see an MCA programme in the country apart from the USAID assistance.

READ MORE ON STAR BUSINESS

Wonder ebook

FROM PAGE 1
To save costs, the gadget has no connectors, and books are sent to it from a mobile phone app using bluetooth.

The firm also claims the gadget is the world's smallest e-reader. "The ttr beagle is the smallest eReader in the world. It is mostly just 5mm thick, and it weighs just 128 grams, making it the world's lightest 5" or 6" E Ink eReader available.

"Unlike other eReaders, there is no need for chargers or cables.

"The location of the batteries not only creates an elegant silhouette but also becomes an ergonomic feature as it rests easily in the palm of a hand," it says.

The gadget does away with many of the capabilities of Amazon's Kindle, which sells for £69 in the UK.

It boasts its own wifi capabilities, and extras like web browsing and the ability to buy books directly.

Owners of the ttr beagle will need to send books to the device via bluetooth from their mobile phones.

The front of the device is dominated by a 5in E-Ink display with an 800x600 resolution, along with buttons to control the page turning and the selected book.

According to ttr, the combination of low-power display type and lack of extra networking capabilities mean a long battery life - around 12 to 15 full books per battery charge.

The move will pit the firm against Amazon.

Two lawyers

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Crimes Tribunals to hinder the fairness of the trials.

He claimed that intelligence personnel were harassing Abdur Razzaq and Tajul Islam, defence lawyers of Jamaat leaders accused of crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

Mahbub Hossain brought the allegations at a press conference at the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium in the afternoon.

On October 9, armed members of Detective Branch of Police had illegally entered the chamber of Tajul Islam and harassed him and his clients and employees in the name of raid, he claimed at the briefing terming the incident shocking.

"The constitution and rule of law of a civilised country are bound to fall flat on the face if such raids are launched at lawyers' chambers," said Mahbub Hossain.

Lawyers were the officers of the court and their professional activities were considered as "privileged", he said, adding that the police had violated the professional rights of lawyers by raiding Tajul's chamber.

He said it was not possible for lawyers to work fearlessly and independently against such backdrop.

He demanded all kinds of harassment be stopped immediately, or else the lawyer community would wage tough movement against the government.

Govt administrator to run Destiny

FROM PAGE 1
Yesterday, the Senior Special Judge's Court ordered sending three top Destiny bosses, including Lt Gen (ret'd) M Harun-Ar-Rashid and Rafiqul Amin, to jail in two cases of money laundering.

The duo along with Mohammad Hossain, chairman of Destiny 2000 and Destiny Multi-purpose Cooperative Society, surrendered to the court earlier in the morning and sought bail.

After the central bank requested the ACC to look into the Destiny scams, the watchdog on July 31 filed cases against the group's 22 top officials over the Tk 3,285.26 crore laundering.

In the cases, Harun, an ex-chief of army staff, was shown as a Destiny Group director and Rafiqul Amin as managing director. But Destiny's documents showed them as president and chairman respectively.

Their lawyers also mentioned the duo as president and chairman in bail petitions.

Earlier, three metropolitan magistrates in Dhaka granted the Destiny men bail on three different dates between August 6 and September 10, although they have no jurisdiction to deal with money laundering cases.

The ACC on August 13 and September 12 filed appeal petitions with the Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka for cancellation of the bail.

On September 27, Judge Md Zahirul Haque of the court cancelled the bail of 22 Destiny officials, including the trio. He ordered them to surrender before the court, which has jurisdiction to deal with money laundering cases.

During the proceedings yesterday, Public Prosecutor Mosahraf Hossain Kajol opposed the bail petitions, saying the accused could flee.

ACC Assistant Director Md Towfiqul Islam and Deputy Director Mozahar Ali Sardar filed two separate prayers seeking a 20-day remand for each of the three.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court of Dhaka will hear the petitions on Sunday in the presence of the accused.

Meanwhile, police baton-charged some agitators who were chanting slogans demanding the release of Destiny Group officials and trying to damage vehicles on the court premises and outside.

HARUN GOESTOHC
The High Court yesterday fixed October 14 for hearings on two separate bail petitions

filed on behalf of Harun citing his health condition.

Opposing the petitions, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told the court that he would ask the jail authorities to provide Harun with treatment in prison.

The Destiny Group, which commenced its journey in 2000 through MLM wing with only Tk 12 lakh, ends up facing an ACC allegation that its top officials laundered Tk 3,285.26 crore.

According to a Bangladesh Bank report, Tk 4,995.82 crore was deposited in 281 accounts of the three concerns -- Destiny 2000 Ltd, Destiny Tree Plantation Ltd and Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd (DMCSL).

Of the amount, Tk 4,975.32 crore was transferred to the personal accounts of its directors and several associated firms, said the BB report prepared for the ACC.

Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society, which became the cash cow for the Destiny Group soon after its inception in 2005, has seen an astronomical rise in its capital, shareholders, profit and investment since 2009.

The company's paid-up capital increased to nearly Tk 300 crore in 2009-10 from Tk 5.53 crore a year earlier. The

figure jumped to nearly Tk 1,200 crore in 2010-11.

Loans and investments also grew to Tk 569 crore in 2010-11 from less than Tk 23 crore in 2008-09; they rose over 213 percent between 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Destiny posted a staggering 354 percent increase in its net profit in 2010-11 from that of a year ago. These figures, however, are not certified by any chartered accountant and can easily misguide people, said the Bangladesh Bank report.

Train tickets

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Corporation will start selling them from Monday.

The launch operators took the decision yesterday at a meeting at the shipping ministry with Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan in the chair.

"Only cabin tickets will be sold in advance. Tickets for deck passengers will be sold just before boarding," said Badiuzzaman Badal, senior vice president of Bangladesh Inland Waterways (Passenger Carriers) Association.

The meeting decided to ask the authorities concerned not to set up any makeshift cattle market on roads adjacent to launch terminals. The minister directed the launch operators not to overcharge passengers and overload launches.

Initiatives will be taken to limit ferrying of trucks and vans, except those carrying essential goods, to facilitate the movement of passenger buses, said the minister.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation will decide on Sunday whether to introduce Eid-special services of its steamers.

Train tickets for October 22 to October 26 will be sold from Saturday to Wednesday, said Sardar Shahadat Ali, divisional railway manager (Dhaka).

Bangladesh Railway will run six special trains from and to the Kamalapur railway station between three days before the Eid day and after, he said.

BRTC will offer special bus services from October 22 to two days after the Eid day. A total of 420 special buses will be run during the period, said Nikhil Ranjan Roy, director (administration and operation) of the BRTC.

Private bus operators said passengers are desperately looking for tickets for three days between October 23 and 25.

"Most of the tickets for the three days have been sold in two days," said Samad Mandal, general manager of Hanif Paribahan.

Funding

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The WB has appointed a panel of international experts to assess the conduct of the Anti-Corruption Commission's probe into the alleged corruption in the project.

The three-member panel led by Luis Moreno Ocampo, a former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, will arrive in Bangladesh on Sunday.

Guerrero told Muihth that another WB mission would soon visit Bangladesh to talk with the project's other three co-financiers -- Asian Development Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency and Islamic Development Bank -- to finalise a new financing arrangement.

Muihth on Wednesday held talks with Jica President Akihiko Tanaka, who assured the minister of the financing it had promised for the project.

Muihth will meet WB Managing Director Mulyani Indrawati on Monday.

The minister also held a meeting with US Assistant Treasury Secretary Charles Collins in the same hotel.

The US official raised the issue of Grameen Bank and reiterated Washington's stance that it does not want any outside interference in the world's best-known anti-poverty institution, according to a finance ministry official, who was present at the meeting.

Bangladeshi beaten dead in India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A Bangladeshi citizen was beaten to death by local people in Murshidabad district of Paschim Banga after he entered Indian territory illegally yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Alam Hossain, 40, of Jamalpur village in Daulatpur upazila of Kushtia.

Alam, along with five or six others, went to Char Meghalaya village in Murshidabad district through Daulatpur border at around 3:00am.

"The villagers caught Alam and beat him to death," said Rezaul Haq, commanding officer of Pragpur BOP (Border Observation Post) of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) battalion No. 32, quoting Indian Border Security Force (BSF) officials.

Alam's accomplices managed to flee the scene, he said.

Bangladeshi people found the body of Alam on no man's land near the border at 10:30am and informed the nearby Pragpur BOP of the BGB.

Contacted, Zahir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Daulatpur Police Station, said the police were looking for the people who were with Alam during the incident since only they could provide details about it.

Responding to a letter sent by BGB for a flag meeting, BSF personnel sat with the BGB officials at Pragpur border point at around 12:30pm.

"The BSF confirmed the incident and assured us of returning the body on the completion of all formalities, including an autopsy," Rezaul said.

On Wednesday, a sector commander-level meeting between the forces was held at Daulatpur border point where the BSF alleged that Bangladeshis entered India illegally and urged the BGB to check it.

ACC to quiz

FROM PAGE 20
T and Brothers, Paragon Group, Nakshi Knit and Khanjahan Ali, ACC officials said yesterday, adding that officials of these companies were already served with notices to this end.

The Tk 900 crore is part of the Tk 3,547 crore (as per Bangladesh Bank investigation) swindled out of Sonali Bank's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch by Hall-Mark and five other companies using fake documents.

A Sonali Bank audit, however, put the total figure at Tk 3,606 crore.

The ACC will interrogate two officials of T and Brothers on October 14, three officials of Paragon Group on October 15, two officials of Nakshi Knit on October 16 and four officials of Khanjahan Ali on October 17.

Alim played

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Committee, two anti-liberation forces, collaborated with the Pakistani army to commit killings, genocide and other crimes against humanity during the nine-month war.

Shamsul, a resident of Joypurhat, said after a provocative speech by Abdul Alim, three freedom fighters were forced to walk around the entire Joypurhat town with their faces painted black and white.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir with members Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge M Shahinur Islam recorded Shamsul's testimony before adjourning the case proceedings until October 14 when he will face cross-examination.

The tribunal on June 11 framed 17 specific charges of war crimes against Alim. The charges include genocide, killing of Bangalee civilians and burying people alive during the war.

During his 50-minute testimony, Shamsul said Alim and other local Jamaat-Islami leaders especially late Abbas Ali Khan formed the Shanti Committee in Joypurhat and "Abdul Alim became leader of Shanti Committee".

When the Pakistani army, led by Major Afzal, arrived in Joypurhat on April 21, Abdul Alim "managed" the houses, storehouse and office of Shownlal Bajla, a reputed businessman of Joypurhat, for establishing the office of the Shanti Committee, camps of the Pakistani army and the Razakars, he said.

"Abdul Alim set up Razakar recruitment camp at his own home near the [Joypurhat] police station," said Shamsul, a former union parishad chairman.

"My father had his business in Joypurhat and I used to go there. I was able to see some incidents and I heard of the rest," said Shamsul.

The witness said around 12:30pm on April 26, 1971, he was talking to some people near Kural Pukur of Kadiapur village and at that time a Pakistani army vehicle came there.

"After some time, Pakistani army personnel arrived on trucks and along with the Pakistani army, Abdul Alim came," said the witnesses, adding, "He [Alim] beckoned the army to Hindu villages like Sonarpara, Jugipara, and Palpara.

"Afterwards, some of his [Alim's] selected people along with the Pakistani army went to the Hindu villages and looted them, set fire to them and brought 370 people from those villages to Kural Pukur," said Shamsul.

"I saw 26 among them being gunned down there."

The bodies were dumped inside the oven of a sugar factory on the north of Kadiapur, he added.

At least 85 people were

killed and buried at Dompukur pond which was later recognised as a "killing ground" by the government, said the witness.

The Pakistani army shot dead five people who were hiding on a banyan tree, Shamsul said, adding that 90-year-old Kanchira Mohanta was stabbed to death.

The Pakistani army and their collaborators left the villages around 5:00pm, said Shamsul.

On October 7 or 8, 1971, around noon when the witness was at the then court of Joypurhat a truck of the Pakistani army went there.

"There were three freedom fighters inside the truck. One of them was wounded. I knew one of them. His name was Fazlu," said Shamsul, adding that Major Afzal was there too.

Shamsul said when Alim heard that Major Afzal was there, he rushed to the truck. A loudspeaker was set up and Major Afzal and Abdul Alim spoke.

"Abdul Alim in his speech said, 'The father of Fazlu is my friend and I told him to bring his son back from the wrong path. Nevertheless, he [Fazlu] fought against my country Pakistan. He has to be punished for it,'" said the witness.

The witness said, "When a journalist asked Alim about the torture on Bangalee women by the Pakistan army, Alim said, 'Soldiers do such things in any war. We have to accept it for the sake of the country.'"

"I have heard that the [detained] three freedom fighters were killed near Khuthibari on October 9, [1971] after they forced them to walk around the entire town with their faces painted black and white," he added.

Body of a boy

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up even in two hours he decided that the luggage had been left behind.

In the meantime, hundreds of curious onlookers gathered around the luggage. Some declared there was a bomb in it, others were not so sure.

"As nobody came to take it we informed the police. We thought there was a bomb," Amir told this correspondent.

Police reached the spot at 1:00am yesterday, opened the luggage and found the body of a teenage boy wrapped in a sack and a blanket.

According to Dhaka Medical College morgue sources, the boy is five feet four inches tall and was beaten to death.

Police or anybody else were yet to identify the victim, aged about 17 years.

The boy was wearing a green T-shirt and dark brown trousers, said Omar Ali, sub-inspector of Darus Salam Police Station.

Police were trying to identify the victim.

Sagar-Runi murder

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further investigation," said Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan, director of the Intelligence Wing of Rab, yesterday.

Earlier on Tuesday, Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir at a press conference disclosed the names of eight persons as suspects. He also announced Tk 10 lakh in bounty for the fugitive suspect, Humayun, security guard of Sagar-Runi's Rajabazar residence.

Five of those eight suspects are accused in the Dr Narayan Chandra Dutta Nital murder case as well.

The seven arrested are Tanvir, an official of an English medium school, Palash, Mintu, Bakul, Rafiqul, Sayeed and Arun.

According to the home

minister's statement on Tuesday, the last five -- accused in the Nital murder case -- are professional killers.

Asked about the relations between Tanvir, some professional killers and a security guard, Lt Col Ziaul said, "We are not sure whether Tanvir had hired the eight professional criminals and convinced the security guards."

On whether the couple were killed during a robbery attempt by the "professional killers," he said: "We are yet to be sure about that as well. Let us interrogate all the detainees, arrest the fugitive one and carry out our investigation."

Sagar Sarowar, news editor at the private TV sta-

tion Maasranga, and his wife Meherun Runi, senior reporter at another TV channel ATN Bangla, were killed in the week hours of February 11 at their apartment in the capital's West Rajabazar.

Meanwhile, reacting to journalist leaders' comments on his Tuesday press conference, the home minister yesterday said: "It is not a sign of playing a positive role. I also said that the investigation was yet to be completed."

Journalist leaders on Wednesday termed the home minister's statements "unclear" and "misleading".

The journalist leaders yesterday demanded the arrest of the real killers and bringing them to justice through a speedy trial.

Chinese author wins Nobel

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Since 1901, 104 Nobel literature prizes have been awarded, the most recent to Tomas Transtromer, a Swedish poet, whose more than 15 collections of poetry, the academy said last year, offered "condensed, translucent images" through which "he gives us fresh access to reality."

Mo was one of three writers tipped by bookmakers to

break what critics had seen as a preponderance on European writers winning the prize over the past decade. The jury said his work had qualities of "hallucinatory realism."

The prize is worth 8 million Swedish kronor, about \$1.2 million.

The last American writer to win a Nobel in literature was Toni Morrison in 1993. Philip Roth has been a

perennial favourite but has not been selected.

Nobel committees have announced prizes so far this week in physics, chemistry and medicine. The 2012 Nobel peace laureate is to be named today by the Norwegian Nobel Committee and the prize in economics is to be announced on Monday by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Pak teen's attackers

FROM PAGE 20
Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack that has sparked outrage across the world.

She was airlifted to the country's top military hospital for specialist treatment yesterday and still is in a critical condition, officials said.

The shooting of 14-year-old Malala Yousafzai on a school bus in the Swat valley has been denounced worldwide and by the Pakistani authorities, who have offered a reward of more than \$100,000 for the capture of her attackers.

Two of her friends were also injured in the attack, carried out as retribution for Malala's campaign for the right to an education during a two-year Taliban insurgency in Swat that the army claimed to have crushed in 2009.

But as she spent a second day in intensive care questions are mounting about how the attack could have happened in the first place and how the perpetrators simply walked away in an area with a police and army presence.

"Now she needs post surgery care. The doctors recommended that AFIC (Armed Forces Institute of Cardiology) has better facilities for post-surgery care,"

military spokesman Major General Asim Saleem Bajwa told AFP.

Another official later confirmed she had arrived by helicopter in Rawalpindi, the twin city of the capital Islamabad and the headquarters of the Pakistan army.

Bajwa said Malala was unconscious and that the next 24 hours would be crucial.

On Wednesday, she underwent an operation to remove the bullet from between her shoulders in a military hospital in the northwestern city of Peshawar.

"She has been put on a ventilator for two days. The bullet has affected some part of the brain, but there is a 70 percent chance that she will survive," one of her doctors, Mumtaz Khan, told AFP.

Mehmoodul Hasan, one of Malala's relatives, said the family had been told doctors were sending her medical reports abroad for advice.

"They are checking if better facilities are available in the UK or Dubai or any other country, then they will decide about sending her abroad, otherwise they will treat her here," said Hasan.

Malala won international prominence after highlighting Taliban atrocities in Swat with a blog for the BBC three

years ago, when the Islamist militants burned girls' schools and terrorised the valley before the army intervened.

China forced evictions on the rise