



Transport of vehicles through Baliatali ferry terminal on the alternative road of Patuakhali-Kuakata highway has remained suspended for the last five days as the pontoon and the gangway were thrown onto the bank during the onslaught of cyclone Mahasen on Thursday.

CYCLONE-HIT PATUAKHALI, BARGUNA

243-km flood control dyke damaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

About 243 kilometres (km) of flood control embankments in Patuakhali and Barguna districts got damaged as cyclone Mahasen accompanied by tidal surges hit the coastal region on Thursday.

About 73 km area of the damaged embankments is in Patuakhali and rest 170 km in Barguna, said sources of WDB (Water Development Board).

Under Patuakhali and Kalapara circles of WDB in Patuakhali district, six km embankment was damaged

fully and 67.40 km partly.

Md Delwar Hossain, executive engineer of Patuakhali Circle, said they have informed the higher authorities to take immediate step in this regard.

Charipara and Gazir Khali in Lalua union remain highly vulnerable as embankments were badly damaged, said AKM Abul Bashar, deputy assistant engineer of Kalapara Circle of WDB.

"About 10 villages were flooded as tidal surges entered through the damaged parts of the embankment during the cyclone. We are worried about cultiva-

tion of aman paddy as saline water has entered our farmland. Immediate step should be taken to repair the embankments to save agriculture in the area," said Abul Kalam, a local farmer.

In Barguna, the cyclone and tidal surges damaged at least 20 km embankment fully and more 150 km partly, said Shyamol Banarjee, assistant engineer of Barguna WDB.

Most vulnerable areas are both sides of Bishkhali and Payra rivers while most affected areas are under Amtali, Pathorghata, Bamna and Betagi upazilas in the district, he added.



With the rains already in sight, a carpenter repairs a boat at Kachari ferry ghat on the outskirts of Mymensingh town as boats serve as the main mode of transport in the rural areas, especially in char (landmass emerged from riverbed) villages of the district during the rainy season.

Two PCP men shot in Khagrachhari

PCJSS Santu Larma faction blamed for the attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Two activists of Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP), a front organisation of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), sustained bullet injuries in an attack by an unidentified gang in Dudukchhara area under Panchhari upazila of the district yesterday.

The injured are Anurag Chakma, 27, son of Shankamoni Chakma of Dudukchhara area, and Samesh Chakma, 20, son of Kalaiya Chakma of Shimanapara in the upazila. They are undergoing treatment at Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital.

Officer In-Charge Alamgir Hossain of Panchhari Police Station quoted witnesses as saying that an unidentified gang opened fire on a jeep in which PCP men were going

to the party's Khagrachhari rally from Panchhari at around 8:30am, leaving the two injured.

Additional police have been deployed in Dudukchhara area to avert any further incident, the OC added.

Pahari Chhatra Parishad blamed the armed cadres of Santu Larma faction of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) for the gun attack on its activists.

Umesh Chakma, office secretary of the central unit of PCP, said armed cadres of PCJSS Shantu Larma faction launched the attack to foil their programme at Khagrachhari.

Refuting the allegation, Sajib Chakma, assistant press and information secretary of Santu Larma faction, said the incident might have occurred due to internal feud of UPDF.

JCD men stab BCL leader, 4 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists stabbed a Chhatra League leader in Mirpur upazila town on Sunday night.

Critically Injured Emon Khan Moshtaque, joint convener of BCL Mirpur upazila unit, was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital (RMCH).

Police arrested four JCD men for their alleged involvement in the attack. They are Arif Hossain, 24, Rajib Ali, 25, Sahabul Islam, 30, and Hasem Ali, 24.

Protesting the incident, BCL activists blocked Kushtia-Meherpur highway for two hours from 9:30am yesterday. They withdrew the barricade after police assured them of taking lawful action against the attackers.

Matiur Rahman, officer in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, said a group of JCD men swooped on Emon at Egol Chatter in the town while he was returning home at around 11:00pm.

16 rescued while being trafficked to India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) rescued 16 people, including women and children, while they were being trafficked to India through Putkhali frontier yesterday.

Safiqul Islam, company commander of 23 BGB at Benapole, said on secret information, a BGB team rescued four women, five children and seven men from the border in the morning.

The victims hail from different areas of Faridpur, Narail and Bagerhat districts. The traffickers, however, managed to flee, sensing the presence of the paramilitary troops.

The BGB men later handed them over to Benapole Port Police Station, said the commander.

AFTERMATH OF CYCLONE MAHASEN

Many areas in five upazilas still without electricity

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Many areas including Kuakata tourist spot, Dashmina and Kalapara upazila towns under Patuakhali district and Amtali, Taltali and Pathorghata upazila towns under Barguna district are still without electricity as authorities could not repair the lines damaged during the onslaught of cyclone Mahasen on Thursday.

A total of 150 km electricity lines out of 3200 km got damaged in Patuakhali and Barguna districts during cyclone Mahasen on Thursday, said Hafeez Ahmed, general manager of Patuakhali REB (Rural

Electrification Board).

"Besides, three electricity towers collapsed, three river crossing lines got disconnected, 80 electric polls broke, 300 others got damaged and over 500 electric meters broke. We are working hard to repair all the damaged installations, giving priority to Kuakata tourist spot," he said.

Treatment of patients in different upazila health complexes and union level health centres is badly hampered in absence of electricity. Most people who were wounded during the storm in different areas are the worst sufferers.

With injuries due to being hit by a tree during the

Storm kills 2, damages 700 houses in three districts

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two people were killed and over 700 houses damaged as storm lashed Gopalganj Gaibandha and Bogra districts yesterday and on Sunday night.

In Gopalganj, a violent storm hit Kotalipara upazila at around 4:00pm yesterday, leaving two people dead and seven others injured, reports our correspondent.

The storm also damaged over 100 thatched houses and eight poultry farms and boro paddy on around 30 acres of land.

The deceased were identified as Rebeka Begum, 35, wife of Abdul Jalil Hawlader of Dakhsinpar village, and Bipul Gain, 28, son of Debendranath Gain of Hazrabari village.

Rebeka died on the spot while a tree collapsed on her in front of her house. Bipul was struck by lightning while harvesting paddy. He died instantly.

The injured were admit-

ted to the upazila health complex.

In Gaibandha, a violent storm hit the char (landmass emerged from riverbed) areas of Phulchari upazila on Sunday night, damaging over 100 houses and injuring seven people, according to our correspondent.

The injured are Hosne Ara Begum, 35, Khabiruddin, 40, Younus Ali, 25, Ahsan Ali, 35, and Chand Mia, 24 of Jhanjhair village, and Marzina, 25, and Rozina, 18 of Golna village.

Marzin and Rozina received injuries as they were struck by lightning during the storm. They were admitted to Phulchari Upazila Health Complex while the rest given first aid.

Our Bogra correspondent reported that over 600 thatched and tin-roofed houses were damaged as storm lashed 35 villages under four upazilas of the district on Saturday night.

The affected upazilas are

Dhunat, Shahjahanpur, Gabtoli and Sonatola. In Dhunat upazila, at least 100 houses, boro paddy and other crops on around 40 hectares of land in Nimgachi, Alangi, Kalerpara and Chikasi unions were damaged by the storm.

In Shajahanpur upazila, at least 200 houses at Laximpur and Saulidhuki villages under Amrul union and in Madla union were ravaged by the storm. Irriboro and other crops were damaged while hundreds of trees uprooted.

In Gabtoli upazila, storm swept 10 villages under Nasipur and Baliadangi unions, damaging over 100 houses uprooting scores of trees.

In Sonatola upazila, 200 houses and several poultry farms in two unions were badly damaged by the storm. Several hundred trees were uprooted and boro paddy and other crops were damaged in the two unions.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Transport workers block road

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Workers of Truck and Tank-lorry Workers' Union blocked Joypurhat-Bogra highway yesterday, protesting attack on one of their leaders by the men of another union. They also damaged several vehicles during the protest. Following an altercation, over 50 workers of Joypurhat Motor Sramik Union swooped on the office of Workers of Truck and Tank-lorry Workers' Union, Joypurhat and assaulted its president Ziaul Haque, leaving him seriously injured at noon, said police.

16 shops gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

At least 16 shops were gutted in a fire at Amlagachi Bazar in Palashbari upazila early yesterday. Locals said the fire originated at a fruit shop at 5:00am and soon engulfed the adjoining shops. On information, fire fighters rushed to the spot and doused the flame after one hour of frantic efforts. The affected shop owners claimed that the loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 15 lakh.



A devastating fire gutted 16 shops at Alamgachi Bazar in Palashbari upazila under Gaibandha district yesterday.

Man gets life for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A court here yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for killing a youth. Convict Shahidul Islam hailed from Gopalpur village in Sadar upazila. The court also fined him Tk 20,000, in default he has to suffer two years more in jail. According to the prosecution, on January 19, 2006, Shahidul and his accomplices abducted Selim Mia of Konabari village and killed him on the day. Selim's father filed a murder case with Sadar Police Station against 16 people including Shahidul. The court acquitted 14 accused of the case while another one died during the trial.

Robbers loot house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Robbers looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables worth Tk 15 lakh from a house at Naldanga village in Sadullapur upazila early yesterday. Police said a gang of 12/15 swooped on the house of one Nripen Chandra Sen and looted 15 ounces of gold ornaments, Tk 60,000, a laptop and a few mobile phone sets at gunpoint. They also beat up the family members before fleeing the scene, said Majnur Rahman, officer in-charge of Sadullapur Police Station.

Lightning kills one

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A man was killed and another injured by lightning in Chatmohar upazila yesterday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Israfil, 25, son of Sirajul Islam of Pachuria village. Locals said Israfil and one Baku Pramanik, 40, were stuck by lightning at around 4:00pm when they were working in a field. They were rushed to the upazila health complex in critical condition where Israfil died after sometime.

Housewife murdered

UNB, Rajshahi

A housewife was killed allegedly by her husband at Damdama village in Tanore upazila on Sunday night. The deceased was identified as Rani Begum, 19, wife of Abdus Salam of the village. Locals said Salam, a farmer of the village, married Rani of Bakshiganj upazila in Jamalpur district three months ago. They often quarrelled over a trifling matter since their marriage. On the fateful day, an altercation ensued between Rani and her husband over dinner at about 8.00pm. At one stage, Salam and his family members strangled Rani, said Abul Hashem, officer in-charge of Tanore Police Station.

25 Jamaat-Shibir men sent to jail in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Twenty-five Jamaat-Shibir men, accused in the cases for killing a Jubo League leader and attacking policemen at Lalpur in the district on February 28, were sent to jail yesterday.

They appeared before the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court, Natore, and sought bail. After hearing, Senior Judicial Magistrate Golam Mahfuz rejected their bail prayers and sent them to jail.

Jamaat-Shibir men went on the rampage in Lalpur upazila soon after the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) -1 sentenced Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee to death on February 28 for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

They killed Lalpur Jubo League leader Khairul Bashar, 27, in Kadamchilan area under Lalpur upazila, attacked policemen and

vandalised vehicles.

Khairul Bashar, son of Bhulu Mian of Kadamchilan village, was joint-secretary of Kadamchilan union unit of Jubo League.

Victim's brother Shahin lodge a murder case with the police station concerned the same day, accusing 160 Jamaat-Shibir men. Sub-Inspector Abdur Rauf of the police station filed another case, accusing 2500 Jamaat-Shibir men of attacking cops and vandalising vehicles.

Meanwhile, Police arrested a jamaat leader from a madrasa in Digarkanda area of Mymensingh town on Sunday noon.

The arrestee, Mahfuzul Haque Pathan, was former secretary of Jamaat district Jamaat.

Police said Mahfuzul is an accused in a train torching case. On March 26, Jamaat-Shibir men torched a compartment of a passenger train at Mymensingh Railway Station.



This aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force, used for training at Bir Shreshthia Motiur Rahman Air Base in Jessore, skidded off the runway that became too slippery due to heavy rain yesterday. A flying cadet received minor injuries due to the accident.