



Flattened homes at Bishompur of Kalmakanda upazila in Netrakona, left, after a nor'wester struck the village late Sunday night. Top right, lamp posts rest on the guard rails of Shahjalal Bridge in Sylhet yesterday. A four-minute storm early yesterday left almost 90 percent of the district in the dark. Carcasses of birds, bottom right, killed in the storm at Rikabibazar in Sylhet city.

PHOTO: STAR

Storm lashes four districts

FROM PAGE 1
At least 30 people were injured and many of them were admitted to Netrakona Sadar Hospital and local healthcare centres.

In Sunamganj, Shamsul Haque, 65, a security guard at a brick kiln in Mahadirpur, Bithi Akhtar, 10, and Kachu Mia, 40, Golla Rajapur of Dharmapasha, and Dud Mia, 65, of Jagannathpur in Madhyanagar were killed when their homes caved in on them, said Harun-Or-Rashid, superintendent of police of Sunamganj.

Forty others were injured as the

storms swept over parts of the district between 11:30pm Sunday and 1:00am yesterday, flattening around 5,000 houses and uprooting more than 1,000 trees and electric poles.

In Sylhet, a four-minute storm with wind speed of 82kmph swept through the district at 12:48am yesterday.

UNO Tarek Mohammad Zakaria of Kanaighat upazila said Altafunnesa, an elderly woman, was killed at Gorakpur and 15 others were injured during the storm. Altafunnesa died when the roof of her house fell on her.

Chief Engineer (Sylhet circle)

Rezaul Kabir of Power Development Board said power supply to about 90 percent of the district had been suspended since the storm struck.

Meanwhile, Farid Sheikh, 30, a fisherman, was killed during a nor'wester. He was struck by lightning on the Padma in Goalanda of Rajbari yesterday morning.

Two nor'westers, on Sunday night and yesterday morning, halted ferry services in Goalanda and launch services between Paturia and Daulatdia twice.

Violent winds in Sirajganj reportedly derailed nine out of 12 carriages of

Drutojan Express, which runs between Dhaka and Dinajpur, at the west end of Bangabandhu Multipurpose Bridge around 11:30pm on Sunday.

The derailment snapped rail communications between Dhaka and the northwestern and southwestern districts for 18 hours.

According to the Met office in Dhaka, there is a possibility of more nor'westers in Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions until evening today.

Different parts of the country may experience rain and thunderstorms today, the Met office added.

Probe finds evidence

FROM PAGE 16
in the village.

Apart from that, Jabbar participated in the killing of one person in Phuljhuri and setting fire to 360 houses.

He and his cohorts on October 6 1971 detained 37 people of Angulkata and Mothbaria villages of the upazila. Of them, 22 were later killed and the others injured, said Helal, who had also investigated the case against war crimes convict Delawar Hossain Sayedee.

Jabbar's involvement was also found in the killing of 11 people, and looting of and setting fire to 60 houses at Noli village of Pirojpur.

More than a hundred houses were torched at Nathpara and Kolupara by Jobbar and his men, as per the report.

Helal said he had begun the investigation on May 19 last year and named 40 witnesses in the report.

The investigation agency is supposed to submit the probe report to the prosecution today. As per the norms, the prosecution will submit

a formal charge sheet to the tribunal after scrutinising the report.

Senior investigator Abdul Hannan Khan gave the introduction of Jabbar and his role in the nine-month-long war.

Jabbar, the then chairman of Mothbaria Peace Committee, "played a key role" in the formation of Razakar Bahini and led the force in crimes committed in the upazila during the war. He also formed peace committees in every union and led them.

Peace Committee and Razakar Bahini were two anti-liberation forces that collaborated with the Pakistan army in 1971.

Hannan said some 150 Razakars had occupied Mothbaria thana complex and set up a camp.

Jabbar was elected lawmaker from Mothbaria in 1986 and 1988 with Jatiya Party ticket but later he retired from politics. There has been no trace of him since 2009, Hannan added.

310 killed, disappeared

FROM PAGE 1
made the allegation at a party meeting at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

However, the numbers given by Fakhru don't add up. The break-ups show that 272 BNP men were killed and 25 others made to disappear, making a total of 297 victims.

Asked about the anomalies in numbers after the meeting, Fakhru said, "Why The Daily Star is picking out mistakes in figures instead of giving importance to the spirit of the facts."

He said they have details, addresses, names and photographs of the victims, which the party collected through its sources.

When this correspondent asked Fakhru for the list of victims, he turned down the request, and said, "Earlier, you had undermined the BNP Chairperson [Khaleda Zia] over a statistical error in the numbers of BNP men, who fell victim to murder and forced disappearance."

"The Daily Star is supporting government-sponsored killing and forced disappearance of BNP men ... you should understand the merit and gravity of the incidents. But you don't do that," said Fakhru.

He, however, told this correspondent, "You will be given the list at the right time."

BNP Dhaka city unit organised yesterday's meeting, protesting "false cases" against party Chief Khaleda Zia, her elder son Tarique Rahman and other BNP leaders, and forced disappearance of BNP men.

At a press briefing on February 4, Khaleda had claimed that 302 leaders and activists of the BNP-led alliance were murdered and forcibly disappeared between December 26 and January 27 this year. But in the written statement, she mentioned names and identity of only five victims.

Five days later, The Daily Star ran a report mentioning that the figures

given by the BNP chief were not supported by facts on the ground.

Upon cross-checking with local BNP leaders, police and local journalists in the nine districts, the newspaper found that there had been only 17 deaths during the period, not 152 as claimed by Khaleda.

In response, the BNP later issued a rejoinder terming the report baseless and motivated.

The rejoinder also said the party would give The Daily Star the list of victims if the newspaper wished to have it.

The English daily on March 19 wrote to the BNP and sought the list. But the party is yet to provide the list.

At a press conference on January 22, Fakhru claimed 294 activists of the BNP-led alliance had been killed by law enforcers in the last three months. He also alleged that 187 others fell victim to forced disappearance during the period.

War crimes probe agency seeks arrest power

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Against the backdrop of the tendency on the part of the accused to abscond during probe, the investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal has proposed empowering agency officials to arrest an accused without warrant.

A letter of the agency, signed by its co-ordinator Mohammad Abdul Hannan Khan, recently proposed that the law ministry amend the corresponding section of International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973 in this connection.

The agency has so far completed probe into 19 cases. The proceedings

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| ABDUL JABBAR Age: 82 |
| Area of crimes: Phuljhuri, Noli, Angulkata, Nathpara, Kulupara in Mothbaria of Pirojpur |
| CHARGES |
| Murders of 36 people |
| Forced conversion of 200 Hindus |
| Torching of more than 520 houses |
| Investigation began on May 19, 2013 |
| <i>Report likely to be submitted today</i> |

MH370 found

FROM PAGE 16
Six weeks have now passed since the plane disappeared and extensive searches in the Indian Ocean have failed to locate any wreckage.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott yesterday admitted the chance of finding debris on the surface is slim to none.

GeoResonance believes authorities have been looking in the wrong place.

It started its own search for the missing aircraft on March 10. It surveyed over 2,000,000 square kilometres of the possible crash zone, using images obtained from satellites and aircraft.

"The technology that we use was originally designed to find nuclear warheads, submarines," David Pope from GeoResonance said.

Scientists focused their efforts north of the flight's last known location, using over 20 technologies to analyse the data including a nuclear reactor.

They could not believe what they found in the Bay of Bengal.

"Our team was very excited when we found what we believe to be the wreckage of a commercial airliner," Pope said.

Pavel Kurs from GeoResonance told 7News: "We identified chemical elements and materials that make up a Boeing 777... these are aluminium, titanium, copper, steel alloys and other materials."

An initial report was sent to authorities while the black box still had two weeks of battery power.

The team then verified its findings by analysing images from the same area on March 5, three days before the plane disappeared. "The wreckage wasn't there prior to the disappearance of MH370," Mr Pope said.

The full report was delivered on April 15.

"We're not trying to say that it definitely is MH370, however it is a lead we feel should be followed up," Pope told 7News.

'Robber' killed in shootout

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

An alleged robber was killed and four others, including two policemen, were injured in a gunfight between law enforcers and a gang of robbers in Hasanpur area on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway under Daudkandi upazila of the district early yesterday.

The identity of the dead aged around 40-years could not be known.

Abdus Salam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Daudkandi Police Station, said a gang of six to seven robbers intercepted a Cox's Bazar-bound private car on the highway around 3:00am and opened fire on Tajul Islam, driver of the car.

When a police patrol team reached there, the gang opened fire, prompting the law enforcers to retaliate.

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