

Hurricane

FROM PAGE 16
not to be complacent and to heed local officials' instructions in the face of a storm that could be the most severe to strike northeast Florida in more than 100 years.

"I just want to emphasise to everybody that this is still a really dangerous hurricane, that the potential for storm surge, loss of life and severe property damage exists," Obama told reporters after a briefing with emergency management officials.

Matthew smashed through Haiti's western peninsula on Tuesday with 145 mph winds and torrential rain. Some 61,500 people were in shelters, officials said, after the storm pushed the sea into fragile coastal villages, some of which were only now being contacted.

At least three towns reported dozens of people killed in the hills and coast of Haiti's fertile western tip, including the farming village of Chantal where the mayor said 86 people died, mostly when trees crushed houses. He said 20 others were missing.

"A tree fell on the house and flattened it, the entire house fell on us. I couldn't get out," said driver Jean-Pierre Jean-Donald, 27, who had been married for only a year.

"People came to lift the rubble, and then we saw my wife who had died in the same spot," Jean-Donald said, his young daughter by his side, crying "Mommy."

With cellphone networks down and roads flooded by sea and river water, aid has been slow to reach hard-hit areas in Haiti. Food was scarce, and at least seven people died of cholera, likely because of flood water mixing with sewage.

The USS Mesa Verde, a US Navy amphibious transport dock ship, was heading for Haiti to support relief efforts. A Navy spokesman said the ship would take heavy-lift helicopters, bulldozers and fresh water delivery vehicles. The ship has a surgical team and two operating rooms on board.

Matthew skirted Florida yesterday with winds of up to 120 miles per hour (195 kph), but did not make landfall. The U.S. National Hurricane Center's hurricane warning extended up the Atlantic coast from central Florida through Georgia and South Carolina and into North Carolina.

In Daytona Beach, Florida, the street under the city's famed "World's Most Famous Beach" sign was clogged with debris washed up by the ocean. The waves had receded by early afternoon but damage was evident throughout the city, including a facade ripped off the front of a seaside hotel.

The city of Jacksonville could face significant flooding, Governor Rick Scott said. The storm had cut power to some 827,000 households in Florida, he said.

Matthew passed over the Bahamas on Thursday and yesterday armed guards patrolled the outside of Fox Hill prison in the capital of Nassau, the Bahamas' only prison facility, after the storm knocked down several parts of its external concrete walls.

Matthew also tore off part of the side of the RIU Paradise Island, one of the major hotel resorts in Nassau, exposing several guest rooms to the elements.

No deaths were reported from the Bahamas, but residents of Nassau were still without power on Friday.

At 2:00pm (1800 GMT), Matthew's eye, or center, was brushing the northeast Florida coast, the NHC said. Its winds had weakened slightly to 115 mph (185 kph) and it was moving at around 12 mph (19 kph) on a path that would likely take it near or over the coast of northeast Florida and Georgia through yesterday night and near or over the coast of South Carolina today.

No significant damage or injuries were reported in cities and towns in south Florida where the storm brought down trees and power lines, CNN and local media reported.

In Cape Canaveral, Florida, home to the country's main space launch site, the storm downed power lines and trees and destroyed billboards.

After losing some strength on Thursday night, Matthew was still a Category 3 storm on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale of hurricane intensity. Category 5 is the strongest.

The US National Weather Service said it could be the most powerful storm to strike northeast Florida in 118 years. The last major hurricane, classified as a storm bearing sustained winds of more than 110 mph (177 kph), to make landfall on US shores was Hurricane Wilma in 2005.

About 22,000 people were in Florida shelters and more had moved inland or to the state's west coast, Scott said. Georgia and South Carolina had also opened dozens of shelters for evacuees.

South Carolina officials warned residents of potentially damaging flooding and storm surge once Matthew arrives there.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson and a senior FEMA official called both candidates for the US presidential election on Nov 8, Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump, to brief them on Friday about the storm

Mauritius wing debris from missing MH370

Says Australian authorities

AFP, Sydney

A piece of wing debris found in Mauritius is from MH370, Australian authorities said yesterday as they cautioned the discovery shed no new light on the missing passenger jet's specific location.

The composite debris, recovered from the island nation in May, is the latest fragment found along western Indian Ocean shorelines linked to Malaysia Airlines MH370.

The Boeing 777 disappeared en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014 carrying 239 passengers and crew.

Despite an extensive underwater search in the southern Indian Ocean

far off Western Australia's coast where investigators believe the plane crashed, no trace of the aircraft has been found there.

The wing part "was a trailing edge section of Boeing 777 left, outboard flap, originating from the Malaysian Airlines aircraft registered 9M-MRO (MH370)", the government agency leading the search, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB), said in a report.

"A part number was identified on a section of the debris," the ATSB said, adding that another "unique work order number" assigned by the flap manufacturer corresponded to MH370.

Scrap Rooppur plant deal

FROM PAGE 16

circumstances Bangladesh would be able to do it and it is not possible," read the statement.

It expressed concern over recent media reports stating that Russia would not take back the radioactive waste to be generated from the plant.

The 10 famed personalities are Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir, rights activists Sultana Kamal and Hameeda Hossain, Campaign for Popular Education Executive Director Rasheda K Choudhury, member secretary of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports Prof Anu Muhammad, Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam of Dhaka University, BELA Chief Executive Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Shujan President M Hafizuddin Khan, columnist Syed Abul Maksud and Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman.

According to the statement, the country's citizens repeatedly expressed worries about setting up of the power plant and the lack of transparency in the contract process. There had been accidents at nuclear power plants abroad.

Ignoring all the pleas, the government went ahead with the project without taking into account people's opinion, and later signed the deal. The

contract is yet to be made public, the statement added.

Bangladesh and Russia signed the deal on the 2,400 MW power plant to be built at a cost of about \$13 billion.

The eminent citizens pointed out that lack of local technical preparation is a matter of grave concern.

There was a vote in Italy in favour of keeping the country free from radioactive waste, while Australia, Austria, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Lichtenstein, Luxemburg, Malaysia, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, and Portugal took stance against nuclear power plants, said the statement.

While the technologically sound countries like Spain, Switzerland, Belgium and Germany have pledged to move away from nuclear power plants, and Japan has been struggling to overcome the impact of the nuclear disaster in Fukushima, such a project in earthquake-prone Bangladesh might be a curse instead of a blessing, it added.

The renowned citizens said storage and treatment of radioactive waste in a populous country like Bangladesh is impossible.

"So, we demand cancellation of the deal on Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant. Instead, we demand the government adopt a plan of action on sustainable energy based on opinions of experts and common people."

Condition of Khadiza

FROM PAGE 16

support. However, her recovery will take a long time.

Khadiza's brother Shahin Ahmed told reporters in front of the hospital that she slightly moved her leg yesterday morning.

The hospital authorities postponed yesterday's prescheduled briefing on her condition. The briefing would be held today.

The Sylhet Government Women's College student, now undergoing treatment at the Neuro Intensive Care Unit of the hospital, was brutally hacked by Badrul Alam, a fourth-year student of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) and also senior assistant secretary of Chhatra League unit at Sust.

The gruesome attack was carried out on the campus of Murari Chand College (MC College) where the victim had gone to take part in one of her examinations.

Meanwhile, the mother and class mates of Suraiya Akter Risha, who was stabbed to death by her stalker, visited Khadiza at the hospital yesterday evening.

"If exemplary punishments were meted out to the killers of my daughter and other girls, Khadiza would not have been attacked this way," Risha's mother Tania Hossain told reporters in front of the hospital.

She added that her daughter, a student of Willes Little Flower School, died of her injuries 40 days ago and that she could feel the pain of Khadiza's mother.

THE YOUTH WHO RUSHED TO HER RESCUE

After Badrul left the scene, Khadiza, with critical injuries on her head, was lying on the ground.

"I went near the scene out of curiosity to see why there was so much commotion. I saw a girl lying on the ground and ran towards her. Everyone was watching from a distance," said Imran Kabir, a university admission seeker who took Khadiza to hospital.

Seeing her up close, he thought Khadiza's head had broken apart. Imran, who was taking a stroll near the scene, added that Khadiza was wearing a headscarf, and he tried to stop her bleeding with that piece of cloth.

"When I tried to lift her from the ground, my clothes got soaked in blood," Imran told our Sylhet correspondent who visited his house in Tilagarh area of Sylhet city yesterday.

"I was all alone. 'She has to be taken to a hospital,' this was all I was thinking about. I screamed for help but no one came forward. After a few minutes, two MC College students came and the three of us carried her out of the campus," said the 19-year-old.

They hired a three-wheeler and took her to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

"As soon as we reached the hospital, doctors gave us a list of medicines and said blood would be needed."

Luckily, Imran's blood group matched with that of Khadiza's and he, despite being underweight, donated blood.

Khadiza's fellow students began to arrive at the hospital about 20 minutes later. In the meantime, Imran had bought the necessary drugs.

A few hours later, Khadiza's family members arrived there. At that time, Imran was almost on the verge of collapse.

Son of Nazrul Islam and Taslima Akter of Dhalarpur in Sylhet's Companiganj upazila, Imran passed Secondary School Certificate exam from Dhalarpur High School in 2013 and Higher Secondary Certificate exam from Sylhet Government College in 2015.

After the incident, he became quite popular on social media. Thousands of people have posted and shared his photos on Facebook, where he is seen in blood-stained clothes.

As some local BCL leaders claimed that Imran was their activist, he said, "I am not involved in any political party."

DEMONSTRATION ON
Demonstrations demanding Badrul's exemplary punishment continued for the fourth consecutive day yesterday in Sylhet, reports our correspondent there.

Bangladesh Nari Mukti Sangshad held a protest rally at the Sylhet Central Saheed Minar in the afternoon.

Indrani Sen, president of Sylhet chapter of the organisation, said the brutality shown by Badrul could not be tolerated in a civilised society.

Meanwhile, Sylhet police yesterday detained a teenage boy for allegedly threatening one of the female protesters over the phone.

The class-VII student admitted to threatening Sanzida Nahid Sultana, a student of Sylhet Government Women's College, said Sylhet Metropolitan Police's Additional Deputy Commissioner (media) Rahamat Ullah.

Sanzida lodged a general diary in this connection with Kotwali Police Station on Thursday, he added.

India

FROM PAGE 16

security arrangements on the border in the wake of tension between India and Pakistan after surgical strike by Army on terror camps across the Line of Control in PoK.

If not Tamim

FROM PAGE 16

"According to our information, Shaykh Abu Ibrahim al-Hanif's position is ornamental and he is not much active," he added. "We are trying to capture him."

In his article, titled "The Shuhada of the Gulshan Attack" published in Rumiyah, Tamim narrated the deadly Gulshan terror attack on July 1.

Law enforcers say Tamim coordinated and planned the attack on Holey Artisan Bakery, killing 20 hostages, including 17 foreigners, and two policemen.

Later, a 12-hour siege there ended in a commando operation in which five terrorists and a café chef were killed.

The Rumiyah magazine published the photographs of the five terrorists and hailed them.

Mentioning potential targets, it also threatened to launch more attacks in Bangladesh.

Asked about the threat, Sanwar said the terrorists hardly have any capability to carry out any attack as many of their leaders have been killed. Their organisation structure has also been destroyed and their funding has been cut, he added.

He said, "It [the threat] was a 'old discussion' when Tamim and many other leaders were alive."

The IS magazine under the title of "Operations in Bengal" also published infographics on 24 attacks in Bangladesh, including the attack on Italian national Cesare Tavella in September last year.

The infographics claimed that 42 percent of those killed by IS in Bangladesh are Hindus and Buddhists, 27 percent Christians, 19 percent Murtaddin (apostates) and atheists, and 12 percent Rafidah (Shia).

Although IS reportedly claimed responsibility for the attacks, the Bangladesh government says the global militant organisation has no organisational presence in the country. The government is blaming the home-grown militant groups for the attacks.

'Magic solution'

FROM PAGE 16

But those behind the new power station believe their system could cut the price of offshore wind energy in half.

It is so cheap, they say, that there will be no need for any Government subsidy – something currently required to build any new kind of power generation, renewable or fossil fuel.

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, who is investing billions in green technology, has said he believes there is a 10 percent chance that kite power is the "magic solution" to the world's energy problems.

Other companies are also investigating the potential of "kytoons" – kite/balloon hybrids – or even flying turbines that can capture the energy of the jet stream at altitudes of 20,000ft, where the wind is constant.

The firm behind the Stranraer project, Kite Power Systems has already demonstrated a small kite-driven power station in Essex.

But it now plans to build a 500-kilowatt system at the Ministry of Defence's West Freugh Range near the southern Scottish town after securing planning permission. This will be the first of a significant scale in the UK and only the second in the world after a research project in Italy.

The kites fly to heights of up to 450m in a figure-of-eight pattern, pulling a tether as they rise which turns a turbine that produces electricity.

By having two kites working in tandem, one going up as the other floats back down, electricity can be generated continuously.

David Ainsworth, business development director at Kite Power Solutions, the firm behind the system, told The Independent that the system was mainly designed to be used offshore with the West Freugh power station designed to demonstrate its capabilities.

Schoolchildren

FROM PAGE 5

flag is hoisted, the information will have to be disseminated that a cyclone is coming.

"When two red flags are hoisted, there will be a danger signal where all should take shelters at their homes. And when three red flags are lifted, that will be a signal for extreme danger and all should take shelter at cyclone centres or other safe places," said Tasfia.

They applied their disaster preparedness knowledge before the tropical cyclone Roanu that hit Cox's Bazar on May 21, and they contributed to minimising the losses on the aftermath of the natural disaster.

"When we heard that Roanu is coming, we ran around the village and asked the villagers to take shelters at cyclone centres," said Shahabuddin, a primary school dropout who later joined Mohseniapaara Shikhon School.

Dr Abul Kalam, a community leader, said the role of the schoolchildren in disaster preparedness is commendable as they are contributing to minimising disaster aftermath.

Around 6,000 children are now well informed about cyclone as they learned lessons under the school disaster management (SDM) programme, said DIPECHO Technical Officer Md Helal Uddin.

Care when cure

FROM PAGE 16

replaced by intravenous saline as she can barely have any real food orally.

This condition has taken a toll on Mitali and she has lost weight significantly. This once-vibrant career woman is now frail and confined to bed.

The excruciating pain and mental distress in Mitali's everyday life have become more manageable since her husband, Shafiq Alam, got her admitted to the palliative care centre, also known as a hospice -- a health-care facility specialising in pain control and emotional support for the terminally ill and family alike.

"What's more comforting [about the CPC] is that nurses and doctors are readily available any time I need them," said Mitali, with a sigh of relief, lying in her bed at the CPC.

She no longer has to tolerate the pain for too long as the caregivers and doctors at the CPC are always watchful and they administer necessary pain-killer, chiefly morphine, whenever required, she added.

Mitali had gynaecological complications before being diagnosed with uterus cancer last December at the BSMMU and the radiotherapy treatment the doctors were giving her over the following three months seemed to be going well, said Shafiq, Mitali's husband.

But as her condition deteriorated gradually, she developed constant symptoms of severe pain, nausea and loss of appetite. The doctors then referred her to the CPC, which is of great help for such patients with need for extra care, he explained. "The service here is quite good. The doctors and nurses here are really caring for their patients."

This is exactly what a palliative care facility is supposed to provide, said Prof Nezamuddin Ahmad of Palliative Medicine department at the BSMMU.

This sort of specialised care is recognized worldwide, but it is quite new in Bangladesh, he told The Daily Star on the eve of World Hospice and Palliative Care Day, which is being observed today with the slogan "Living and dying in pain: It doesn't have to happen".

The CPC at BSMMU started its operation in 2007 when it was initially a unit of the hospital. Later upgraded to a full-fledged centre for palliative care, the CPC, beginning this year, has started to offer a course on doctor of medicine in palliative care.

In recent times a few non-governmental organisations as well as medical facilities, such as Dhaka Medical College Hospital and National Institute of Cancer Research & Hospital, have introduced palliative care services.

According to Prof Nezamuddin, around six lakh patients in the country need palliative care at any point in time. However, the country, till date, has a capacity of treating only 2,500 of such patients annually. "In comparison to the requirement, the services available from these organisations are inadequate."

A hospice or palliative care facility provides a specialised service that regular hospitals are not equipped to provide -- a holistic approach to care, focusing on comfort, dignity, and emotional support for not only for the patient, but also for the family members and caregivers. In addition to regular medical care to patients, a hospice in developed countries provides grief support or counselling for family members, as young as a seven-year-old child.

A full service hospice there operates 24X7, with a team of staff members

consisting physicians, nurses, social workers, home health aides, chaplains or clerics (such as a priest, rabbi or imam), bereavement counselors and volunteers.

With the recommendation of a patient's physician, the services of a hospice is not limited only to the terminally ill, but it is available to patients with a wide variety of conditions, including congestive heart failure, Alzheimer's disease or dementia, chronic lung disease and more.

Why palliative care is important? Patients with incurable and life-limiting illnesses, such as cancer in advanced stage, HIV/ AIDS, paralysis or serious damage to organs, are usually sent home by hospital authorities as "our health system provides basic preventive and curative care," Prof Nezamuddin said.

At best, such patients are kept in intensive care units (ICU), costing a large amount of money. Although patients in ICUs are supposed to get palliative care, the high cost incurred at the ICU is not a viable solution for these patients, he added.

Seventy percent cancer patients and 60 percent AIDS patients suffer massive pain. Apart from administering necessary drugs, doctors and nurses at a palliative care facility relieve these patients' pain through building honest communication with patients and exhibiting empathy toward them.

"This way we reduce their physical as well as social and emotional pain," said Prof Nezamuddin, adding that a healthy community means the one that takes care of its dying members. "When there's a system like that, it becomes a civilised society."

It is a positive sign that more and more physicians in the country these days are recommending palliative care for such patients who need extra care, he observed.

Dr Iqbal Arslan, secretary general of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), said the need for palliative care is growing day by day as non-communicable diseases such as cancer, cardiac disease, etc., are on the rise with a large section of the population growing older in the near future.

"We need to ensure that they live pain-free" and there will be a need for more doctors and nurses specialised in palliative care in the country to achieve this objective, he observed, saying that the authorities, in order to address this impending situation, will need to introduce palliative care in all large hospitals in cities and districts at a steady pace.

"BMA will observe the day [World Hospice and Palliative Care Day] for the first time this year to shed light on these issues with a greater emphasis," Dr Iqbal said.

Names of the patient and her husband have been changed for their privacy.

Russian special forces kill six Islamists

AFP, Moscow

Russia said yesterday its security forces killed six Islamists in the volatile North Caucasus including an envoy from the Islamic State group who had spent time in Syria.

Special forces "neutralised" four fighters in Nazran, the largest city in the Ingushetia region, and two more in the village of Gazi-Yurt, the National Anti-Terrorism Committee said in a statement quoted by Interfax news agency.

Reconsider the decision

FROM PAGE 16

Sahu, who taught numerous courses in several Southern California universities including University of California, Los Angeles, said the proposed controls for sulphur dioxide are not fully explained or substantiated in tender documents or in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Convener of NCSS Sultana Kamal read out a summary of the other experts' opinions.

Water pollution expert at Waterkeeper Alliance Donna Lisenby said the coal ash pond is likely to eventually leak or spill due to earthquake or flood risks and contaminate the Sundarbans with arsenic, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, lead, mercury, thallium and uranium.

Around 26 kilometers from the Bay of Bengal to the plant site must be dredged to remove more than 34 million cubic metres of river bottom that provides habitat for fish, crustaceans and dolphins, she added.

Prof Deb Niemeier of University of California said roughly between 2 to 3.8 tonnes of fugitive coal dust will escape into the air and water every year.

"The proposed Rampal power plant water-only sprinkler system has been shown to be relatively ineffective at controlling dust. Coal dust escapes from stockpiles even with more stringent pollution control technologies including chemical surfactants which are not required at the power plant," he said.

Charles H Norris, a geologist who has 40 years of professional experi-