



Several people with their belongings stay under the open sky after yesterday's storms that lashed Barguna's Pathorghata upazila, along with vast areas in different districts. Inset, a house lies mangled in a nearby area.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Two killed as storms lash country

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two people were killed in thunderstorms that lashed districts across the country over the last two days and caused considerable damage to households and crops at some places.

A fisherman was killed in Pathorghata upazila of Barguna district yesterday morning while a college student died by lightning strike at Vatapara village under Boalmi upazila in Faridpur Wednesday afternoon.

The deceased were 22-year-old Md Jamal Hossain, son of Habibur Rahman of Choto Tengra village, and 18-year-old Sazedul Islam alias Sajib, son of Rustom Sheikh of Vatapara village.

A lightning struck Sazedul when he was playing near their house around 4:30pm.

He was rushed to Baolmari Upazila Health Complex where attending doctors declared him dead, reports our Faridpur correspondent quoting a relative of the deceased.

Golam Mostafa Chowdhury, president of Barguna trawler owners association, said Jamal was sleeping in a trawler anchored on the Balewshar River when they fell into the river as the trawler turned over. Locals rescued him and sent to Pathorghata Upazila Health Complex where duty doctor Anwar Ullah referred Jamal to Barisha Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital. But he died on the way around 8:00pm, reports our Patuakhali correspondent quoting Mostafa.

Thunderstorm also caused extensive damage in Pathorghata upazila, where the wind blew at a speed of 55km to 60km per hour. Over 100 houses were damaged, many trees and a number of electric poles

fell in different areas of the upazila, suspending normal life. Local Met office recorded 24.3mm rain from morning till afternoon yesterday.

Thunderstorms also battered a few unions of Tangail district's Bhupur and Kalihati upazilas from Wednesday afternoon to yesterday morning.

A 33-KV power distribution line was severed in Kalihati's Nagarbari area when trees fell on it, suspending electricity supply to three upazilas including Bhupur, reports our Tangail correspondent.

Locals said hailstorm damaged maize and Boro paddy crops at Gabsara, Alaya and Narandia unions. Besides, hundreds of tinshed houses were flattened by the storm.

Bhupur UNO Jhoton Chanda said the hailstorm did extensive damage to crops and households.

Although rain in the last three days disrupted the normal life in Rajshahi, it came as a blessing for most of the farmers in the northern district, reports our Rajshahi correspondent.

Local Met office recorded 25.2mm rainfall in last three days and most growers of mango and potato expressed their happiness as they said it would help their crops grow well.

Nurul Islam, who cultivated potato on 200 bighas of land in Tanore upazila, said rain would save him irrigation cost for one time.

SM Mostafizur Rahman, Rajshahi regional additional director of the Department of Agricultural Extension, said it would also benefit the mango growers.

Contacted, duty forecasting officer from the Met office, said the situation will improve from today.

MURDER, ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE 7 get life term in Joypurhat, Jhenidah

Three others jailed for 14 years in Jhenidah

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Seven people were sentenced to life term imprisonment while three others to 14 years yesterday in separate cases filed for murder and drug peddling in Joypurhat and Jhenidah.

A Joypurhat court sentenced four people to life term imprisonment for killing a man in Khetlal upazila in 2016, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

The convicts are Anisur Rahman, Sablu Khan, Ramzan Ali and Sohel Rana of Golahar village in the upazila.

District and Session's Judge Begum Momotaz Parvin also fined the convicts Tk 50,000 each.

According to the prosecution, police recovered the throat-slit body of one Dulal Hossain, son of Motaleb Talukdar of the village, from his house on April 8, 2016.

The deceased's elder brother Zahangir Talukdar later filed a murder case with Khetlal Police Station accusing unidentified criminals.

After investigation, police pressed charges against five accused, including the convicts, and arrested them in different times.

Meanwhile, Biplob Hossain, another accused in the case, died in prison during the trial of the case, Public Prosecutor Nripendra Nath Mondal said.

Away in Jhenidah, Additional District and Session's Judge's Court sentenced three people to life term imprisonment and jailed three others for 14 years in separate cases filed under Narcotics Control Act in 2013, reports our correspondent.

The lifers are Mizanur Rahman of Kaliganj upazila and Shahadat Hossain of Chuadanga Sadar upazila and Joynal Abedin of Jibonnagar upazila of the district.

Judge Golam Azam also fined them Tk 10,000 each.

According to the case statement, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members detained the trio along with 100 bottles of contraband Phensedyl syrup from Langalbandh Bazar under Shailakupa upazila in 2013.

Judge Golam Azam also jailed three others for 14 years and acquitted another in a case filed under the same act in Moheshpur upazila in August 2013.

According to the prosecution, Rab members arrested four people from Samanta village on August 26 in 2013 and seized 380 bottles of Phensedyl from their possession.

ATTACK AT MYMENSINGH Lawyers stage protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The lawyers of Mymensingh Bar Association boycotted all the courts here yesterday protesting attack on some of their colleagues allegedly by some members of Judicial Employees Welfare Association (Jewa) on Tuesday.

They also brought out a procession and held a rally on the premises of District and Sessions Judges' Court demanding immediate arrest of the attackers.

"When some lawyers asked the Jewa members to stop illegal construction work of five shops on the court premises on Tuesday afternoon, the latter locked in an altercation with the lawyers and attacked them with sticks, injuring four of them," said advocate Shabbir Ahmed Liton.

Md Shafiqul Islam, secretary of Jewa, refuted the allegation.

Six pistols, 12 bullets seized in C'nawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in a drive seized six pistols, 12 bullets and four magazines from Mirzapur village in Shibganj upazila of the district yesterday afternoon.

On secret information, the border guards went to the village around 2:00pm, said Lt Col SM Salahuddin, commanding officer of BGB 59 Battalion.

Sensing presence of the BGB men, a man fled the area, leaving his a motorcycle, Salahuddin said.

After searching the motorcycle, the border guards seized the fire-arms, bullets and magazines, said the BGB official.

However, none was arrested in connection with the incident, he said.

2 robber suspects killed in mob beating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Two suspected robbers were killed in a mob beating at Charshibpur village in Bancharampur upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased were Sumon Miah, 27, and Al-Amin, 32, of Narsingdi Sadar upazila.

Additional Superintendent of Police Chitta Ranjan Paul said when a gang was entering the house of one Babul Mia of the village around 3:30am, sensing the presence of the robbers, family members informed their relatives about the matter over mobile phone.

Later, an announcement was made through a microphone from a local mosque about the robbery.

The villagers then chased the gang and caught two robbers. However, their cohorts managed to flee the scene.

The angry mob gave the two a good beating, leaving Sumon dead on the spot. Critically injured Al-Amin later died at the upazila health complex.

The bodies were sent to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Preparation to file a case was going on in this regard as of filing of this report around 6:00pm yesterday, said the police official.

PANCHAGARH ZILA PARISHAD

AL's Anwar wins by-poll

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

The by-election to the Panchagarh Zila Parishad chairman post was held yesterday with huge enthusiasm.

Awami League (AL) district unit General Secretary Anwar Sadat has been elected the new chairman of Panchagarh Zila Parishad.

All the 583 public representatives from two municipalities, five upazila parishads and 43 union parishads cast their votes at 15 polling centres.

Sadat, who contested the poll with electoral symbol 'motorcycle,' has bagged 317 votes.

The post fell vacant following the death of former chairman Amanullah Bachchu on January 9.

The district administration declared the election schedule on February 5.



Udichi Shilpi Gosthi brings out a procession in the Gaibandha town yesterday marking thirteenth conference of the cultural organisation's district chapter.

PHOTO: KM REZAUL HOQUE



Prime accused Amanur Rahman Khan Rana is being taken to Tangail General Hospital after he fell sick during hearing of the witnesses in freedom fighter Faruk Ahmed murder case.

PHOTO: STAR

FARUK MURDER CASE

Next hearing of witnesses April 4

Prime accused Rana falls sick after yesterday's hearing, hospitalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A court here yesterday set April 4 for next hearing of the witnesses in freedom fighter Faruk Ahmed murder case.

Maksuda Khanom, judge of First Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court, passed the order.

Seven out of 14 accused in the case, including main accused Amanur Rahman Khan Rana, former Awami League (AL) lawmaker from Tangail-3 (Ghatil) constituency, were in the dock at the time, said Monirul Islam, additional public prosecutor of the court.

Earlier, one more prosecution witness of the case—Nazmul Huda Nobin, former president of Tangail district

unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League—gave his statement to the court.

Rana's lawyers conducted their cross examination, said Monirul.

With him, 14 out of total 23 prosecution witnesses of the case gave their statements to the court so far, he added.

Meanwhile, Rana fell sick after the hearing and he was taken to Tangail General Hospital, said Anwarul Islam, court inspector.

The former lawmaker was admitted to the hospital due to different illness including high blood pressure and chest pain, said Narayan Chandra Saha, superintendent of the hospital.

The bullet-hit body of Faruk, also a

district AL leader, was found near his College Para house in the town on January 18, 2013.

Three days after the incident, Faruk's wife Nahar Ahmed filed a case with Sadar Police Station accusing unidentified criminals.

Police initially investigated the case, which was later shifted to Tangail DB police.

A charge sheet in the case was submitted on February 3 in 2016. Charges were framed against the accused in September the same year.

Four out of the 14 accused, including Rana, are in jail while three are on bail. Seven others, including three younger brothers of Rana, are still on the run.