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5 dead as nor’wester sweeps thru several dists

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and hundreds of earthen houses damaged as the Nor’wester swept over the country yesterday morning.

At least a thousand trees were also uprooted during the storm.

In Mymensingh city’s Chinamou area, a rickshaw van-puller and his passenger were electrocuted when a live electric wire snapped and fell on them.

They died on their way to Mymensingh city around 6:00am, said Shah Kamal Akanda, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

The victims were identified as van-puller Monto Mia, 36, of Char

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A family takes temporary shelter in a boat in the daytime as their house lies inundated in floodwater at Islampur union in Sylhet’s Companyganj upazila. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASTIR

FLOODS IN NORTHEAST Crops damaged, fish farms washed away

DWOHA CHOWDHURY and MINTU DESHWARA

With rivers in Sylhet and Sunamganj still flowing above the danger level, fisheries and crop farms have been bearing the brunt.

Thousands of fish farmers have lost their fish, while hundreds of farmers lost their crops.

At least 8,772 fisheries, including ponds and hatcheries, have been washed away, while 2,534 hectares of Boro are also under water.

On top of these losses, 1,674 hectares of Aush were completely damaged, along with 1,541 hectares of vegetables and 75 hectares of peanuts.

Monowara Begum of Azampur village in Dowarabzar upazila in Sunamganj said, “I spent Tk 20,000 on peanut farming after taking a loan from an NGO. Now all the peanuts are damaged in the floods and I don’t know how to repay the loan.”

For Shafiqul Islam in Shaktiarkhola of Sunamganj’s Bishwambarpur upazila, it’s a double blow. “My Boro harvest has been damaged in the floods, while the fish in my pond has washed away. Now I have nothing left.”

In Sylhet district, 8,322 fisheries are currently submerged in 11 upazilas. The fish farmers are fearing

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MONEY LAUNDERED TO US, CANADA FBI to help ACC bring it back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation will help the Anti-Corruption Commission of Bangladesh bring back the money laundered to the USA and Canada.

FBI officials said this at a three-day training organised by the US Embassy in Dhaka to improve the skills of the ACC investigators for dealing with money laundering.

The training session was titled “Protecting Public Integrity: Investigating and Prosecuting Complex Corruption Cases”.

Quoting the trainers, an ACC official who participated in the training, said, “They told us that the ACC can form a joint investigation team with the FBI to deal with complicated graft cases.

In such case, the FBI will help recover and freeze money laundered to the USA and Canada or sent through illegal channels. It will also send related documents to the ACC,” he told The Daily Star.

The official said the FBI would send information from the USA quickly.

A total of 20 ACC investigators took part in the training that began on May 19.

FBI’s supervisory special agents John Pae and Shannon Bieniek, Principal Assistant Deputy Chief of the fraud section of the Department of Justice Mark Cipolletti, trial attorneys of the Office of International Affairs of Criminal Division of Department of Justice Terry Eaton and Fred Sheffield and officer of National Crime Agency of IACCC Simon Leigh conducted the training.

... the FBI will help recover and freeze money laundered to the USA and Canada or sent through illegal channels.

Only talks can end war

Says Ukraine; Russia cuts gas supply to Finland over payment row; Moscow declares victory in Mariupol

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday warned that only a diplomatic breakthrough rather than an outright military victory could end Russia’s war on his country, as Moscow cut gas supplies to Finland.

“There are things that can only be reached at the negotiating table,” Zelensky said, just as Russia claimed its long-range missiles had destroyed a shipment of Western arms destined for Ukraine’s troops.

After just over 12 weeks of fierce fighting, Ukrainian forces have halted Russian attempts to seize Kyiv and the northern city of Kharkiv, but are under renewed and intense pressure in the eastern Donbas region.

Moscow’s army have flattened and seized the southeastern port city of Mariupol and subjected Ukrainian troops and towns in the east to a remorseless ground and artillery attack.

Zelensky’s Western allies have shipped modern weaponry to his forces and imposed sweeping sanctions on the Russian economy and President Vladimir Putin’s inner circle.

But the Kremlin has responded by disrupting

European energy supplies, and yesterday cut off gas shipments to Finland, which angered Moscow by applying to join the Nato alliance.

Against this backdrop, Zelensky told Ukrainian television the war would end “through diplomacy”.

The conflict, he warned, “will be bloody, there will be fighting

Finland and neighbouring Sweden this week broke their historical military non-alignment and applied to join Nato, after public support for the alliance soared following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

but will only definitively end through diplomacy” -- promising only that the result would be “fair” for Ukraine.

“Discussions between Ukraine and Russia will decidedly take place. Under what format I don’t know -- with intermediaries, without them, in a broader group, at presidential level,” he said.

In order to side-step financial sanctions and force European energy clients to prop up his central bank, Putin has demanded that importers from “unfriendly countries” pay for gas in rubles.

Russian energy giant Gazprom said it had halted supplies to neighbouring Finland as it had not received ruble payments from Finland’s state-owned energy company Gasum by the end of Friday.

Gazprom supplied 1.49 billion cubic metres of natural gas to Finland in 2021, about two thirds of the country’s gas consumption but only eight percent of its total energy use.

Gasum said it would make up for the shortfall from other sources, through the Balticconnector pipeline, which links Finland to Estonia, a fellow European Union member.

Moscow cut off gas to Poland and Bulgaria last month in a move the European Union described as “blackmail”, but importers in some other EU countries more dependent on Russian gas plan to open ruble accounts with Gazprom’s bank.

Finland and neighbouring Sweden this week broke COL 5

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9 Bangladeshis jailed for gang rape in India

Delhi hands over victim to Bangladesh authorities

STAR REPORT

A special court in India’s Bengaluru city has convicted nine Bangladeshis and punished them with sentences ranging from five years to life imprisonment in connection with the gang-rape of a Bangladeshi woman in May last year.

In a judgement pronounced yesterday, the court sentenced Chand Miya, Mohammed Rifakdul Islam, Mohammed Al Amin Hossain, Rakibul Islam, Mohammed Babu Sheik, Mohammed Dalim and Azim Hossain to rigorous imprisonment for life, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Among the other convicts, Taniya Khan was sentenced to 20 years in prison while Mohammed Jamal to five years.

Two other Bangladeshi nationals were convicted of offences under the Foreigners Act and sentenced to nine months of simple imprisonment.

Eleven, out of the 12 arrested and charge-sheeted, as well as the victim, were Bangladeshi nationals who had entered India and lived in Bengaluru illegally. And another arrestee is an Indian who was acquitted as he turned into an approver in the case.

The charge sheet in the case was filed within 28 days of the crime and the trial was completed in three months.

The incident came to light after a video of the

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Australia ousts Conservatives

Anthony Albanese set to be PM; Morrison concedes defeat, to quit as Liberal Party leader

REUTERS, Sydney

Australia’s Labor Party was set to end almost a decade of conservative rule as the government was swept away in yesterday’s election by a wave of support for candidates who campaigned for more action on climate change and may hold the balance of power.

Partial results showed that while Labor had made small gains, Prime Minister Scott Morrison’s Liberal-National coalition had been punished by voters in Western Australia and affluent urban seats in particular.

The Greens and a group of so-called “teal independents”, who campaigned on policies of gender equality and tackling climate change, put on a strong showing, tapping voter anger over inaction on the environment after some of the worst floods and fires to hit Australia.

“Tonight, I have spoken to the leader of the opposition and the incoming prime minister, Anthony Albanese. And I’ve congratulated him on his election victory this evening,” said Morrison.

Albanese, speaking as he headed to his party

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The construction work of a footbridge over Foudjarhat-Bayezid Link Road remains unfinished for a long time as Chattogram Development Authority kept its height less than what mentioned in the Railways Act.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

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