

PM vows

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district headquarters today and in the capital on Tuesday. Its local unit will observe a day-long strike in Natore today.

The main opposition party accused the prime minister of provoking the murder of Babu, chairman of Boraigram upazila and president of Bonpara municipality BNP.

In a late-night development, Mahua Noor Kachi, wife of the slain chairman, filed a murder case with Boraigram Police Station, accusing 27 leaders and activists of local AL.

Contacted, Anwar Ali, officer-in-charge of the police station, said Mahua filed the case at around 11:30pm. None was arrested as of filing the report at 1:30am.

Earlier in the evening, Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker told The Daily Star they have already identified the suspected killers and ascertained the motive for the murder. The law enforcers were trying their best to arrest the killers.

The victim's family, however, alleged that those involved in the killing were still roaming freely at Bonpara Bazar. Some of them were even seen with the police after the murder, they claimed.

Local police said they could not arrest anyone, as no case was filed and they have yet to identify the culprits.

Rafiqul Islam, superintendent of police in Natore, said, "We could not collect any video footage and eyewitness accounts, as our main focus was on preventing further violence."

He also told The Daily Star that no case was filed yet, as Babu's family was busy burying him. "Once a case is filed, we will start looking for the accused."

Babu was beaten to death during a procession of his party at Bonpara Bazar on Friday.

ALCWC Meets
At the ALCWC meeting, Hasina said those who are trying to blemish the government's image through unlawful activities will be brought to book at any cost.

She said her government would take actions against the culprits behind the upazila chairman killing, irrespective of their political allegiance.

Meeting sources told The Daily Star that the prime minister herself spoke of the use of video footage to identify the culprits.

She observed that Natore is a politically-sensitive area where the BNP-Jamaat men tortured the AL men between 2001 and 2006.

AL, however, did not do anything in revenge after coming to power in January last year, she added.

During the news briefing after the meeting, Syed Ashraf said if the press publishes unlawful acts involving AL men, it helps the law enforcement agencies to take action.

BNP PROTESTS
BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain announced the agitation programme at a press briefing at the party headquarters at Nayapaltan in the capital.

Describing the killing as heinous and brutal, he alleged the government is killing BNP leaders one after another to eliminate the opposition.

"People will resist the misuse of the Awami League government by forging a tough movement under the leadership of Khaleda Zia," he added.

Delwar said the prime minister cannot evade responsibility for the killing, as she had provoked the killers by having the president grant mercy to the convicted killers of Gama in Natore.

After the briefing, BNP leaders and workers held a gayebana janaza in front of the party office.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Upazila Chairman and Vice-chairman Oikya Parishad yesterday demanded the government arrest the killers of their colleague immediately.

It said it will hold a rally in Natore tomorrow to protest the killing of Babu.

Parishad's convener Abdul Mazid made the announcement at a programme at the city's Engineers' Institute.

'Outlaw' killed in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A regional leader of outlawed Gono Bahini was killed in a 'shootout' between his cohorts and law enforcers at Bhedmari village of Mirpur upazila early hours yesterday.

The deceased, Amzad Hossain Mollik, 42, was working to regroup the party cadres in the area, police claimed. He was accused in five cases, including three murder charges.

A joint team of Mirpur Police Station and Detective Branch (DB) of police raided a village field where Amzad and his associates were holding a secret meeting around 12:15am.

The gang threw two bombs at them which prompted the police to retaliate with gunshots, added police.

"The law enforcers found Amzad's body on the field after the firefight," said Assistant Superintendent of Police of Kushtia, Chokdar Abdul Halim. However, his accomplices managed to flee the scene.

Police recovered an LG, 16 rounds of bullet and four bombs from the spot.

With this, a total of 12 'crossfire' incidents took place in Kushtia in last nine months since January 1, leaving 13 alleged offenders dead. The figure was 42 in 2009.

Kataban

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In response, Vice-Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique said he would tell the traders that if they continue this illegal trade in wildlife, their permission to runshops would be cancelled.

Later, the vice chancellor released some doves, munias and parakeets. The forest department took others to release them in specified forests that would give them proper habitat.

Prof Anwarul Islam said the illegal wildlife traders at Kataban are influential and they must be stopped to save the wildlife of the country.

Tapan Dey said he would do everything to stop the illegal trade at Kataban and said his department would keep an eye on the situation there.

Lashkar's

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four are locals and the rest are Pakistanis.

A joint team of Rab intelligence wing and Rab-1 made yesterday's arrests around 12:15am from Abdullahpur, Uttara after a tip-off from LeT man Maulana Mohammad Imran, another Pakistani arrested on September 29 in Narayanganj.

Another Rab team recovered huge explosives from a house at Shahibagh, Savar on October 6 acting on Maulana Imran's information, Sohail added.

Wazed Khan came to the country on April 7 this year with a tourist visa on orders from a top LeT leader, Abdul Kuddus alias Abdul Karim Tunda alias Babaji.

Wazed while a Lahore Islamic University student received training on explosives from Abdul Kuddus.

Sohail said, Abdul Kuddus alias Tunda, who is now detained in a Pakistani jail, visited Bangladesh and held meetings with JMB chief Shaikh Abdul Rahman, who was later executed.

In Bangladesh Mohammad Imran received Wazed and introduced him to Bakkar, the owner of Anika Chemical, Sohail said adding, Bakkar arranged Wazed's accommodation at his residence in Turag Housing.

Maulana Imran and Bakkar provided Wazed with different chemicals to produce explosives. The bomb expert was asked to handover the finished explosives to Maulana Imran, said Sohail.

During interrogation, Bakkar admitted he had bought the chemicals from Lalbagh, Old Dhaka.

In 2007 Bakkar got acquainted with Maulana Imran while Bakkar was residing at a rented house in Mirpur. The two became involved in the business of fake Indian currency.

Several Pak operatives of LeT are active in the country and they have made explosives. But their targets are yet to be known, said Sohail.

The Pak operatives were not given the address of the other LeT teams for their safety. The law enforcers could not learn how many of them are now in Bangladesh.

Sohail said the LeT has no unit in the country. But it is trying to use the country as a haven for running business of fake currencies and making explosives.

Rab personnel also seized passports of the two detainees. The passport of Bakkar shows he made eight trips to Pakistan and three trips in India recently.

Veteran AL leader

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of relatives to mourn his death.

Kaiser, an organiser of the Liberation War, sustained severe injuries in a road accident in Ramu upazila of Cox's Bazar on August 28. After the incident, he underwent treatment at CMCH and Apollo Hospitals in the capital. He later flew to Singapore to have better treatment.

Family sources said Kaiser was admitted to Apollo Hospitals again after he returned to the country and from October 03 he was at CMCH.

The deceased was taken to his Chandanpura residence in the city yesterday.

His first namaz-e-janaza will be held at Ershad Ali High School at his village Barkhain in the district at 11:00am today.

His family members will bury the body at the family graveyard at Chandanpura after second namaz-e-janaza at the city's Jamiatul Falah Jame Masjid around 5:00pm, said his younger brother Anwarul Islam Khan Sawgat.

Meanwhile, a sombre atmosphere was prevailing at the residence when the body was brought there. People from all strata of life rushed there to express sympathy to the bereaved family. Awami League leaders including AZM Nasir, Chittagong city AL president and former mayor

India slams 'racist' Australian police emails

AFP, New Delhi

India yesterday slammed "racist" emails circulated by Australian police with video an Indian man being electrocuted on top of a train and summoned the country's ambassador.

The foreign ministry had complained about the video to Australian high commissioner Peter Varghese and demanded action, a top ministry official said.

The internet video shows graphic images of a man being jolted by overhead power lines as onlookers screamed, and did the rounds among officers in Melbourne following a series of violent attacks against Indians, Australia's Herald Sun newspaper said on Saturday.

Comments including "this might be a way to fix the Indian student problem" were added as the video was emailed around, thereportsaid.

"We have sought for an explanation and also want to know what steps will the Australian government take against the racial slur," the Indian official told AFP.

The video was uncovered in a sweeping internal probe into offensive emails launched in March which the Victoria state police chief Simon Overland has acknowledged involves a "large number of police," including some of senior rank.

"This is completely offensive and contrary to the views and values at the heart of the Victorian community - tolerance and respect," Victoria state Premier John Brumby was quoted as saying.

Overland described the material as "disturbing, offensive and gross".

Australia's ties with New Delhi were strained earlier this year after a wave of violent crimes against Indians, including the stabbing-to-death of a man and a number of muggings and beatings.

to ensure children's safety at workplace.

Referring to a spate of recent fire incidents in chemical factories, speakers observed that experts should be consulted to formulate a set of guidelines on how chemicals should be handled to minimise threats to human lives and properties.

They said ward councillors, especially in old town, have a responsibility to monitor the industrial and commercial units in their areas to ensure that these factories do not pose a threat to the residents.

Representatives of chemical factories, on the other hand, urged the authorities to identify combustible chemicals before taking action against them.

"Not every chemical is combustible. We consume many chemicals and use them in our everyday lives," said Enam Uddin, vice-president of Dhaka City Plastic Factory Workers and Labourers' Union.

Other discussants demanded that Rajuk enhance monitoring to ensure that industrial units do not operate in residential areas.

Chemical death trap

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the one in Nimtoli in June or the one in Jatrabari last week.

"In the factory, we work with fire all the time with inflammable materials like petrol and kerosene lying all around," he said at a roundtable at the Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

Nearly 15,000 such small and big industrial units are set up on the ground floors of residential buildings in Old Dhaka, and most of them do not have fire-fighting equipment, said Shaifur Rahman Bhuiyan, a researcher at Corporate Social Responsibility Centre.

"Many of the chemicals stored in these factories cause physical complexities such as vomiting, headache, burn injuries and skin scorching," he said presenting the keynote paper.

Smart Business Initiative (SBI) Alliance, an advocacy group working against child labour, organised the roundtable on chemical hazards on working children.

The roundtable stressed the need for enforcing existing laws

WB pledges

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The WB president lauded Bangladesh's achievements in development fields, particularly her performance in economic and social sectors. He mentioned her impressive success in enrolment in schools, women empowerment and in reduction of child mortality.

He also mentioned the significant increase of revenue collection, improvement in the management of public finance, strengthening of various institutions and initiative for expanding regional cooperation.

Encouraged by the present government's commitment and performance, Zoellick assured that the WB will finance in these areas in future to help sustain the progress already made.

The finance minister informed that despite recent global economic meltdown, Bangladesh was successful in avoiding its negative fall-out in its exports due to prudent policies taken by the government, which was further boosted by remittances sent by Bangladeshi expatriates.

Initiatives taken by the present government to expand regional cooperation also added impetus in the region's economic cooperation, he said.

On ensuring good governance, the finance minister mentioned various legal steps including enactment of Money Laundering Act, Anti-Terrorism Act and formation of National Human Rights Commission.

The WB president agreed to undertake a visit to Bangladesh when the minister invited him to visit the country.

1 killed

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critically injured and fled the scene. He was rushed to a local clinic where doctors declared him dead.

Police later sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with Ashulia Police Station in this connection.

In another incident, Himel and Ridoy, members of a family, sustained bullet injuries when a gang of armed robbers opened fire on them at Baroipara village in Sirajdikhan upazila of Munshiganj.

The gang broke into Abul Hossain's house yesterday and fired on the family members when they tried to resist the robbers, locals said. The boys fell victim to the firing. The gang members also beat up four others of the family.

The officer-in-charge of Sirajdikhan Police Station said that after looting Tk 15,000 and ornaments from the house the gang members fled the scene.

The injured boys were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where their condition was stated to be critical.

Mo said the award would be a "huge encouragement and support for those who share the basic values" of the jailed dissident.

Very few Chinese have been awarded Nobel Prizes, not only the peace prize but even the other prizes like in the sciences, Mo said.

Liu Xiaobo was educated in China and although he is in prison, he lives on the Chinese mainland. This makes him unique and special. This is why Chinese should take pride in this and be proud of him."

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China fumes

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reach her. "I have no way of knowing where she is," Shang told AFP.

Beijing kept up its denunciation of the decision to award the prize to Liu, issuing a harsh commentary in state media accusing the Nobel committee of arrogance and prejudice.

An editorial in the English and Chinese versions of the Global Times newspaper said the committee had "disgraced itself" and suggested the peace prize had been "degraded to a political tool that serves an anti-China purpose".

"The Nobel committee once again displayed its arrogance and prejudice against a country that has made the most remarkable economic and social progress in the past three decades," the newspaper said, alluding to the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, who won the prize in 1989.

"Neither of the two are among those who made contributions to China's peace and growth in recent decades."

News of the granting of the award to Liu -- whom Beijing has repeatedly branded a criminal following his December 2009 jailing for 11 years for subversion -- was carried by Chinese-language state media, but only in the form of the government's angry reaction.

Internet searches using the key words "Nobel Peace Prize" and "Liu Xiaobo" brought up no results on Chinese web portals Sina and Sohu, while similar searches on Weibo, a Twitter-like service, also drew a blank.

Some web users got around the army of censors by not mentioning Liu's name in their postings on Weibo.

Friday's evening news on China Central Television made no mention of Liu while broadcasts on Liu by international television networks CNN and French TV5 were blocked by government censors.

Leading human rights lawyer Mo Shaoping, who heads the firm that defended Liu, told AFP China should be proud of one of its citizens winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

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But the Global Times editorial sounded a defiant note, saying China would resist attempts to "impose Western values" on the country.

China's rights community yesterday savoured the Nobel Peace Prize given to jailed dissident Liu Xiaobo but warned the award could spell trouble after police rounded up activists celebrating the win.

Authorities detained dozens of Liu's supporters in Beijing, Shanghai and other cities on Friday night as they gathered to toast his prestigious award, rights activists and a journalist from a Hong Kong newspaper told AFP.

"Last night some people were taken in by police. They don't want people gathering and celebrating over this," well-known human rights lawyer Teng Biao told AFP. "This is a big headache for the government. They don't want people to know this matter."

Seven Chinese intellectuals have signed an open letter congratulating Liu on his award, calling him a standard-bearer for non-violence in China, one of them told AFP.

The awarding of the prize to Liu -- the co-author of a bold manifesto calling for political reform in communist-ruled China -- offers "hope and support for a peaceful transformation in China," the letter says.

Meanwhile, President Barack Obama urged China to free his successor as Nobel Peace Prize winner, activist Liu Xiaobo, in a new test over the place of human rights in delicate Sino-US relations.

Obama, who has faced accusations of ignoring human rights concerns in his quest for better ties with China, issued a written statement welcoming Friday's Nobel prize for Liu, a 54-year-old writer and democracy campaigner.

"Last year, I noted that so many others who have received the award had sacrificed so much more than I," Obama said.

"That list now includes Mr Liu, who has sacrificed his freedom for his beliefs."

Obama noted that over the last 30 years, China had made "dramatic progress in economic reform and improving the lives of its people, lifting hundreds of millions out of poverty."

"But this award reminds us that political reform has not kept pace, and that the basic human rights of every man, woman and child must be respected."

"We call on the Chinese government to release Mr Liu as soon as possible."

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton issued her own appeal for his release, saying "Governments should recognise the constructive role that citizens such as Liu Xiaobo play."

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