

## Govt forces attack

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east of Tripoli, and the oil port city of Ras Lanuf, 660 km east of the capital.

Government spokesmen said Gaddafi's forces won a series of swift victories, but many of the towns remained in rebel hands, Reuters reporters at the scene and witnesses said.

The rebels said they had withdrawn from the coastal town of Bin Jawad, occupied Saturday in an advance westward on Sirte, Gaddafi's home town, after clashes which doctors said left two dead and around 50 wounded.

It was the first time since the uprising against the Libyan leader began on February 15 that the rebels have admitted conceding ground to his forces.

Gaddafi loyalists were nevertheless jubilant over the reports and automatic gunfire reverberated around the capital.

Around 4,000 people flooded into Green Square. Military and paramilitary forces fired into the air, unconcerned about falling bullets.

"We are shooting to celebrate because we are beating Al-Qaeda. We have won, Al-Qaeda is gone," one soldier told AFP.

Women and children joined the crowds, and an AFP reporter witnessed children as young as seven firing pistols in the air.

AFP reporters in Ras Lanuf, taken by rebels early on Saturday, confirmed the town was still in opposition hands despite being hit by air strikes early yesterday.

But residents in Misrata said government tanks had begun shelling the town and warned of "carnage" if the international community did not intervene.

A rebel spokesman confirmed that Misrata was under intense fire from pro-Gaddafi forces and reported 'casualties' but insisted the city was still in rebel hands.

A rebel officer, Colonel Bashir al-Moghrabi, told reporters in Ras Lanuf rebels were also still in control in Zawiyah, west of Tripoli, where fierce battles took place on Saturday.

However, wounded streaming back from Bin Jawad to Ras Lanuf said Gaddafi loyalists lured them into a trap, secreting themselves in homes, mingling with civilians and hunkering down on rooftops.

France yesterday condemned the use of force against Libyan civilians and "pays homage to the bravery of populations subjected to violence, in Zawiyah and other Libyan localities," a foreign ministry official said.

A French journalist shot in the leg told AFP he had been driving with rebel fighters towards Bin Jawad when their vehicle was hit by a hail of bullets.

The rebels had vowed to march on Sirte from Bin Jawad, which was the furthest point AFP saw them deployed along the Mediterranean coast on Saturday.

Britain's Defence Secretary Liam Fox said yesterday that a "small British diplomatic team" was in Benghazi talking to rebels,

after reports the insurgents were holding a British special forces unit and a junior diplomat.

"We are in touch with them but it would be inappropriate for me to comment further on that for reasons I am quite sure you understand," Fox told BBC television.

The Sunday Times newspaper said the Special Air Service (SAS) soldiers, thought to be up to eight men, were captured along with the diplomat in the rebel-held east.

The rebels scored a diplomatic victory when France on Sunday hailed the creation of their "National Council", saying it supported its objectives.

The rebels formed the council on Saturday at a meeting in Benghazi, the rebel stronghold in the east of the North African country.

Meanwhile, Gaddafi's government asked the Arab League to reverse a February 22 decision suspending it from the organisation's meetings, Deputy Foreign Minister Khalid Kaaim said.

Gaddafi told the French weekly *Le Journal du Dimanche* he wanted the United Nations or the African Union to probe the unrest and promised: "We will let this panel work unhampered."

An estimated 100,000 mainly foreign migrants have crossed from Libya into Tunisia since February 20, Tunisian officials said. Many have been evacuated home in an international effort but thousands remain in temporary camps facing growing problems of hygiene.

## 6.2 magnitude earthquake hits northern Chile

AFP, Santiago

An earthquake measuring 6.2 hit an area of northern Chile early yesterday, the US government reported.

There were no immediate reports of damage or victims. The quake was deep, 87 kilometres underground. It was centred 93 kilometres east of Tacna, Peru and 1,060 kilometres southeast of Lima.

## Chinese state media slams calls for protests

AFP, Beijing

China's state media stepped up its criticism of calls for anti-government rallies yesterday, saying stability was key amid concern that unrest sweeping the Middle East could spread to the Asian nation.

The reports came a day after a similar comment piece was published for the first time in a state-run newspaper, amid renewed online calls for citizens to gather in dozens of cities to participate in "strolling" demonstrations yesterday.

"Firstly we must recognise that some people with ulterior motives at home and abroad are using various means to incite 'street politics'," a report on the front page of the *Beijing Youth Daily* said.

"They are using the Internet to create and disseminate false information, incite illegal gatherings in a bid to bring the chaos in the Middle East and North Africa to China, to mess up China."

A report in the *Jiefang Daily*, the official Communist Party mouthpiece in Shanghai, carried a similar opinion piece, urging people to "maintain social harmony and stability."

"People must... highly cherish and consciously maintain hard-won stability like they take care of their own eyes," it said.

The anonymous calls for rallies each Sunday, inspired by popular uprisings in the Arab world, have heightened official concern about unrest in China amid growing resentment at issues such as a yawning wealth gap and corruption.

## Stalker stabs

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He also tried to make advances to Hira when her parents were away at work, she added.

Six months ago Jamal, driver of a CNG-run three-wheeler, came up with a marriage proposal on behalf of Mamun, Hira's mother, a domestic help, told *The Daily Star*.

"We were shocked that Mamun, being a married man and father of a child himself could behave so outrageously," she said.

We informed locals who beat up Mamun and drove him and Jamal away from the area," added Hira's mother.

However, Mamun reappeared a few days ago and threatened to pour acid on Hira if his proposal was not accepted.

Enamul Huq, officer-in-charge (OC) of Hazaribagh Police Station, said they were trying to arrest Mamun. A case would be filed against him soon under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, headed.

## India allows

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Communications and IT Sachin Pilot told reporters here yesterday.

The minister, on the last leg of his three-day visit to border districts of Rajasthan, said "We will improve our signal strength in the border areas as it is important for the security point of view."

On reports of Pakistani mobile network being used near the border areas of Jaisalmer and Bikaner, he said "We have taken strict action whenever we came across the incident of people using Pakistan mobile network in the border areas. Ministry of Home, Defence and Department of Telecom are working together to counter such activities."

## DU students go berserk

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night formed a five-member committee to probe the incidents.

The meeting also decided to give Tk 2 lakh to the family of Redowan and file a case with Motijheel Police Station in connection with the incident.

Around 10:30am, hundreds of students thronged Shahbagh intersection and set fire to a Mirpur-bound bus near Shishu Park.

A panic spread through Shahbagh, Shishu Park, Nilkhet and Kantaban and the areas near Sheraton Hotel and Engineers' Institution of Bangladesh as the students ran wild ransacking vehicles.

Police lobbed around 25 teargas canisters and baton-charged to disperse the students who retaliated with brickbats and demonstrated burning tires on roads.

Krishnapanda Roy, Ramna division deputy commissioner, said several policemen suffered minor wounds when they tried to take the situation under control.

Shahbagh police officer-in-charge Rezaul Karim said over 60 vehicles had been damaged at Shahbagh, Shishupark and DU areas and near Hotel Sheraton.

The Shahbagh OC also said they detained Rahmat Ullah, a student of Islamic Studies department of DU.

Owners and drivers of several damaged vehicles filed general diaries with the Shahbagh Police Station, the OC said.

During the clashes, traffic on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, and on roads from Press Club to Palashi via Shahbagh, Kantaban and Nilkhet was halted for over two hours.

However, police also did not let any vehicle enter the DU campus.

**THE DEATH**  
Friends and classmates of Redowan said some DU students became embroiled in a quarrel with the workers of a Himalaya Paribahan bus at Motijheel Saturday night.

The students were returning from Sonargaon by the bus.

The argument escalated into a fight and the bus workers had an upper hand. The students later mobilised others including Redwan from campus to fight back.

Ozayer Hossain, a student of Arabic department, who claimed to have witnessed the Saturday night's incident, told *The Daily Star*, "During the clash at Motijheel some policemen had detained Redwan, Zisan and Mostakim."

"But some of the workers snatched Redowan and Zisan from the law-enforcers."

"They pushed Redwan under a running truck after beating him up and pushed Zisan into a drain. Mostakim however escaped."

Mostakim, a student of the same department, said, "The workers beat Redowan and Zisan mercilessly but I managed to flee."

Injured Zisan, who is also an Arabic department stu-

dent, was admitted to Combined Military Hospital, Dhaka.

Sources said during the clash between students and bus workers, some of the students forced the driver of Himalaya Paribahan to take his bus from Motijheel to Mohsin Hall of DU.

Himalaya Paribahan authorities could not be contacted immediately and the reason behind the argument is still unknown.

However, Motijheel Police Station OC Tofazzal Hossain said "The student was run over by a truck when he tried to cross the road running."

"We took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition," said the OC.

Asked, the OC, however, said he was not aware of any incident that injured some other students.

Shahbagh OC Rezaul Karim said they seized a bus from the playground of Mohsin Hall and rescued its driver Mizanur Rahman.

As there was a huge rush at DMCH, Redowan was taken to the intensive care unit of Anwar Khan Modern Medical College and Hospital in Dhanmondi where he died at 2:05am yesterday.

Muhammad Redowan was laid to rest at their family graveyard in Angaria village of Jhalakathi last night. He was the second among three sons and a daughter of Muhammad Alauddin.

## Khaleda

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the institution and the poor will be deprived of the privileges," she said in a statement signed by her Press Secretary Maruf Kamal Khan.

The opposition leader called upon people of all walks of life, including members of the bank, to play a courageous role against this vindictive conspiracy of the government.

"Grameen Bank is engaged in the development of the rural poor, especially women, and both national and international research and audits have recognised this bank's success," she said.

"Micro credit projects have also been used as a weapon to alleviate poverty in Africa, South America, and even in the United States," she added.

The former premier said disrespect towards Dr Yunus revealed the ignorance of some government top officials about his contributions. This attitude of the government is being condemned both within and outside the country.

The BNP chairperson, in her first ever reaction on the issue, said, Dr Yunus wanted time and opportunity to leave his post at Grameen Bank in a decent way, but he did not get that chance.

## UK to arrange

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situation on the Libyan border with Tunisia," said Andrew Mitchell, the International Development Secretary.

"I vowed that we would do everything possible to give those stranded shelter and get them back home as quickly as possible," Andrew Mitchell added.

According to foreign ministry sources, over 15,000 Bangladeshi citizens who fled Libya have been stranded in Tunisia.

Reports from Tunisia said the British minister, during his visit to the transit camp just beyond the border area near Rad Ajdir on Friday, met some of the 191,693 displaced migrant workers, including many from Bangladesh.

Following his visit, the British government decided to provide three commercial charter planes to fly 500 Bangladeshi home. The planes were due to leave Tunisia's Djerba airport for Dhaka yesterday.

Andrew Mitchell said, "We have already evacuated more than 6,000 Egyptians and this early action has so far prevented a humanitarian crisis. But Britain is not complacent, that is why we are acting now to get 500 Bangladeshi home safely."

"Unless we continue to relieve the numbers in border camps, there is still a real danger, the situation will deteriorate rapidly. We are prepared for further surges of people who may be on the other side of the border."

"But the rest of the world must join Britain in giving their assistance to help transport them back home to restart their lives."

## HC asks

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On January 19, the HC issued the suo moto rule against Kashem, asking him to explain why he should not be punished on contempt of court charges for breaking ships violating its order.

The court, however, exempted him from the contempt charge, as he apologised to the court yesterday.

The suo moto rule followed the deaths of four workers of MAK Corporation in an explosion on January 18. The bench also directed the government to stop all kinds of scrapping of ships in the country until further order.

Following a writ petition by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela), the HC in March 2009 ordered the government not to allow any ship to enter the country without cleaning its in-built toxic substance.

## 3 drown in Greek waters

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About 49 evacuees, mostly Bangladeshi nationals, were on board the Ionian King that docked in the port of Souda late Saturday. The ship sailed with 1,288 evacuees from Tripoli in Libya, reports news agency AP.

Nearly a dozen Greece Coast Guard and Navy vessels, a military helicopter and fishing boats were scouring the waters off the coast of Crete in search of the missing, the Merchant Marine Ministry said.

It was unclear why the men jumped, but authorities said they might be trying to avoid being sent back to Bangladesh.

Ships have been ferrying thousands of evacuees from Libya to Crete. The latest arrivals were the Ionian King and the Nissos Rhodes that were carrying mostly Bangladeshi workers fleeing the fighting in Libya.

Locals alerted the Greece authorities after seeing people in the water and on a beach near Souda in the early hours of Sunday. The Coast Guard found 29 men there.

Four were treated in a nearby Naval Hospital and the rest, mostly suffering from hypothermia, was taken to a hospital in the city of Chania, the ministry said.

One died on the way to hospital, while authorities

recovered the bodies of two more men in the water.

Four more people were rescued on Sunday morning, reports AP.

Meanwhile, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said it strengthened evacuation of the Bangladeshi nationals, who took shelter in border areas in Egypt and Tunisia after fleeing Libyan conflicts.

The IOM registered around 7,000 Bangladeshis on Tunisia border and 6,500 more on Egypt border. But another 14,000 are yet to be registered with the organisation.

"Nearly 80 percent of foreign nationals at the two borders now are Bangladeshis," said an IOM spokesperson in Dhaka.

The IOM now focuses on flying the Bangladeshis home, as repatriation of other nationals from Libya neared to a close.

"IOM is trying to charter flights with more seating capacity," he said.

The IOM spokesperson said on an average, at least 500 Bangladeshis would be flown back home every day. The number could go up to 600, he said.

About 3,994 Bangladeshis were repatriated from Libya until yesterday. Of them, the IOM repatriated 1,432 while

the rest returned home either with the help of their companies or on their own, said the foreign ministry.

Around 1,300 more Bangladeshis will be brought back home by March 10 under IOM's arrangement, said the spokesperson.

Those returning home from Tunisia and Egypt said they were in dire straits in the cold and windy desert.

The IOM said the UN refugee agency has set up camps and is providing the evacuees with food. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is giving them medicine.

The number of evacuees is high but the international agencies are trying their best to take care of the refugees, it said.

The international agencies now do not have access to Libyan cities, except Benghazi, the IOM said.

The United States on Saturday announced a \$3 million contribution to IOM as part of a joint US-IOM partnership to strengthen efforts to repatriate thousands of foreign nationals taking shelter on the Egypt and Tunisia borders.

The ICRC is appealing for \$25.7 million to assist more than 200,000 people affected by the crisis in Libya for the next two months.

## Hospital in need of care

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logistics to offer all the supports. HIV patients have to go to ICDDR,B for pathological tests, as we don't have any modern equipment here," said Jagodish Chandra, senior consultant at IDH.

The hospital has no surgical and intensive care units. "Patients here are expected not to be requiring any surgery or any other urgent medical intervention," he added rather sarcastically.

If one's condition deteriorates or if they suffer a heart attack, stroke etc, they are moved to other hospitals, added Dr Jagodish.

Hasibul Haque, a medical officer at IDH, said, "This hospital seems to have become a treatment centre for only rabies patients."

It treats on average 250 patients a day at its outpatient department. Bed occupancy rate at this 100-bed hospital is 55 percent, said IDH sources.

Though patients here are supposed to get blood and injections free of cost, they have to buy everything.

Things get even worse when in-patients develop various complications. As the hospital does not have the facilities to continue their treatment, those patients

have to turn to other hospitals or clinics.

However, most hospitals do not want them because they do not have proper quarantine facilities, said Habiba Akhter, executive director of Ashar Alo Society, an NGO working for the people living with HIV/AIDS.

Citing an example, she said an HIV patient who developed cancer while under treatment at IDH had to be shifted to International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), as this hospital was not equipped to handle him.

That patient, an elderly man, told *The Daily Star* that he had been given nominal treatment and care at IDH.

"They could not even diagnose my cancer. I had to go outside for X-rays, electrocardiogram and ultrasound and suffer a lot just because they [IDH] don't have these services."

He also said the doctors and nurses at IDH are not sincere at all as caregivers. "They came wearing masks and talked to us from afar."

Another IDH patient diagnosed with cancer recently said he had to receive radiotherapy from the National

Institute of Cancer and Research Hospital, hiding that he is HIV positive.

According to the IDH sources, the hospital does not have machines for Cluster of Differences 4 count (immunity test). Though there is an X-ray machine, it seldom works. Apart from some routine blood tests, nothing can be done.

Mohammad Moshtaq Pervez, assistant scientist at ICDDR,B, said IDH is supposed to address all the problems of its patients. For the HIV patients, there must be an isolation corner.

IDH authorities said they do not have enough resources and manpower for setting up new machines and facilities.

Ashar Alo director Habiba Akhter said this should not be the case. State-owned infectious diseases hospitals abroad provide all the supports necessary for patients. "In India, they even give expensive anti-retroviral to patients."

She noted that since the number of people living with AIDS is increasing every year, the government should have a sound infrastructure and system to better tackle the situation.