

## Delwar's

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Mujahidul Islam Selim, among others, placed wreaths on his coffin at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque, Supreme Court Bar Association President Khandaker Mahub Hossain and lawyers attended the second janaza on the High Court premises at about 10:00am.

Later, his body was taken to the south plaza of the parliament building where the third janaza was held around 11:00am.

Ministers, parliamentarians and party leaders including Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam and Joint Secretary General Mahubul Alam Hanif, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Party Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawlader, Chief Whip Abdus Shahid, Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Farooque and BNP leader Moudud Ahmed attended the namaj-e-janaza.

On behalf of AL, Syed Ashrafur Islam and Mahubul Alam Hanif laid wreaths on his casket.

BNP leaders Moudud Ahmed, Jamiruddin Sircar and MK Anwar placed wreaths on behalf of the opposition leader.

Delwar was elected parliament member five times, and he served as chief whip in the fifth, sixth and eighth parliament. He was the opposition chief whip in the seventh parliament.

The fourth janaza was held at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque after Juma prayers and the fifth in front of BNP's central office at Naya Palatan in the capital after Asr prayers.

His first janaza was held at Armanitola Maidan after Esha prayers on Thursday night.

## Yunus gets

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providing access to financial services for low income population, is regarded as a prominent citizen," they said.

Prof Yunus represents not only Bangladesh but the whole of the world, said the executives.

They said the international public opinion highly appreciated the efforts and achievements of Yunus awarding him the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize.

"The Nobel Prize Committee awarded Yunus and Grameen Bank headed by him for the contribution to eliminating poverty and creating the foundation for social and economic development from below."

The statement issued on March 14 from Moscow referred to the notes of the Committee and said the Nobel Prize was awarded to Yunus for the efforts to create a new source for social and economic development, and introducing the system of microcredit for the poorest strata of Bangladesh population and the people of other countries of South Asia.

"This assessment of Yunus and Grameen Bank actively allowed to rapidly develop microcredit programmes in different countries of the world and achieve feasible results in eliminating poverty and developing small business," they said.

The executives hoped that "the current problematic situation will be resolved in the near future in a fair and legitimate manner."

"Retaining independence of decision-making by the top management of the Bank is a major precondition for the Bank's further successful development," they observed.

M Mamata, president of the National Partnership of Microfinance Market Stakeholders; G Tosunyan, president of the Association of Russian Banks; S Borisov, president of the All-Russian Public SME Support Association; A Aksakov, deputy of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation; M Nikolaev, counselor of State of Republic of Sakha (Yakutia); V Solodkov, director of the Banking Institute of the State University-Higher School of Economics; and N Cherkasova, chairman of the Board of the National Bank TRUST signed the statement.

## Nuke alert level

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the crippled nuclear plant in sand and concrete may be a last resort to prevent a catastrophic radiation release, the method used to seal huge leakages from Chernobyl in 1986.

But they still hoped to solve the crisis by fixing a power cable to two reactors by today to restart water pumps needed to cool overheating nuclear fuel rods. Workers also sprayed water on the reactor 3, the most critical of the plant's six.

It was the first time the facility operator had acknowledged burying the sprawling 40-year-old complex was possible, a sign that piecemeal actions such as dumping water from military helicopters or scrambling to restart cooling pumps may not work, Reuters reports.

"It is not impossible to encase the reactors in concrete. But our priority right now is to try and cool them down first," an official from the plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co, told a news conference.

That is little solace for about 300 nuclear plant workers toiling in the radioactive wreckage, wearing masks, goggles and protective suits with seams sealed off by duct tape to keep out radioactive particles. "My eyes well with tears at the thought of the work they are doing," Kazuya Aoki, a safety official at Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency, told Reuters.

Even if engineers restore power at the Fukushima Daiichi plant, the pumps may be too damaged from the earthquake, tsunami or subsequent explosions to work.

The first step is to restore power to pumps for reactors 1 and 2, and possibly 4, by today, said Hidehiko Nishiyama, Japan's nuclear safety agency spokesman. By tomorrow, the government expects to connect electricity to pumps for its badly damaged reactor 3 -- a focal point in the crisis because of its use of mixed oxides, or mox, containing both uranium and highly toxic plutonium.

Asked about burying the reactors in sand and concrete, Nishiyama said: "That solution is in the back of our minds, but we are focused on cooling the reactors down."

Burying the reactors would leave part of Japan off-limits for decades. "It's just not that easy," Murray Jennex, a San Diego State University in California professor said when asked

## Gowher rejects

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Moriarty on January 10 that he "sabotaged" the PM's planned stopover in Kolkata during a "transformational" 2010 visit to India as he believed any delay in returning to Dhaka would give her opponents time to "put their spin" on the visit before she had a chance to tell the nation about it.

In response, Rizvi said schedules of the prime minister's visit are made by the foreign ministry. "I had absolutely no role in planning her schedules."

Asked whether he met the US ambassador before or after the premier's visit, the PM's adviser said, "I've close personal and social relations with him. I've met him on and off ever since he first arrived in Bangladesh and I continue to meet him whenever necessary for both social and work related matters."

"I am at a loss and hoping investigative journalists would find out whether it (WikiLeaks' information) is genuine or wrong," he said.

WikiLeaks, disclosure of Moriarty's diplomatic cable was published in some national dailies in Dhaka and New Delhi.

## 6 buses

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vehicles, said the OC, adding that police are investigating the reasons behind the fire.

A general diary (GD) has been filed in this connection, the OC added.

Earlier in January, eight other buses were similarly burned at the same place.

about the so-called Chernobyl option to bury the reactors.

"They are kind of like a coffee maker. If you leave it on the heat, they boil dry and then they crack," he said. "Putting concrete on that wouldn't help keep your coffee maker safe. But eventually, yes, you could build a concrete shield and be done with it."

## 25 return

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caused blasts in several nuclear reactors, said the returnees.

As foreigners are rushing to leave the developed nation of Asia, regular flights fell short for them.

There are some 15,000-20,000 Bangladeshis in Japan and many of them are students.

Asif Ahmed Anik, who returned from Tokyo, said on the day of the earthquake, he was in a multi-storey building. When the building started shaking, all people inside rushed out.

But there was no transport so he had to walk to his residence, 19 kilometers from the office.

Earthquake is quite a usual event in Japan, but this time it was a big one.

"Yet now, Tokyo is safe, but experts could not say yet for sure if the radiation would reach Tokyo," said Anik, who studied at Tokyo University and works as an information management engineer at a multi-national company, Schlumberger.

Following the tsunami, people rushed to the supermarkets to buy food so the stores are empty now, he told The Daily Star.

Abid Hasan Laskar, Bangladesh student who was staying in Sendai, a city hard hit by the tsunami, said he and many others from there were relocated immediately after the disaster. Buildings and streets cracked while tremors continued to occur there, said Laskar.

## Call for int'l

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appeal to the international communities to come forward with funds and logistical assets for the second phase of the massive operation to avert humanitarian catastrophe," said the communiqué.

Meanwhile, the IOM director general directed his office to use its emergency fund to continue with the evacuation and repatriation of migrant workers from Libya.

The joint plea comes on a day [yesterday] when the IOM and UNHCR were supposed to meet the representatives of donors and developed western countries in Geneva.

IOM sources in Zarzis told The Daily Star that the meeting did not take place for unknown reasons.

Meanwhile, repatriation of more stranded migrant workers, including thousands of Bangladeshis, has brought the number of refugees at Choucha camp down to 9,000 from 17,000 till yesterday.

According to UNHCR, after today's repatriation, 6,010 Bangladeshis at the camp will still be expecting repatriation.

António Guterres, UN high commissioner for refugees, said in the communiqué that the humanitarian crisis involving Libyan uprising was far from over. 300,000 people have already fled Libya and needed assistance to be evacuated and repatriated because a war situation prevails there.

"We are trying to find a solution to that problem as well," he said.

Unavailability of aircraft has reduced the number of flights for the Bangladeshis from Djerba airport today, according to the control room there set up by the IOM.

"There is only one flight carrying 234 people to Bangladesh," said Pierre King of IOM, adding, "there should be some efforts from the Bangladesh government to chip in for more flights to take its nationals home," he said.

## Bangladeshi

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first attacked BA's computer systems and then attempted to obtain a job as a cabin crew member to plant a bomb on a plane, but he was arrested before an attack could be carried out.

The judge told Karim: "The offences were of the utmost gravity."

"You are and were a committed jihadist who understood his duty to his religion involves fighting and, God-willing, dying and then being rewarded in the afterlife."

He added: "It is a feature of this case that none of those who worked with you at British Airways had even the slightest notion of what was going on."

The prosecution said Karim started to communicate in late 2009 with Awlaki, who encouraged him to find ways of smuggling a bomb on board a plane.

Awlaki, who is believed to have been hiding in a remote area of Yemen since 2007, was recently described by a senior US security official as "probably the most significant risk" to the United States.

## Talks go

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Joydeevpur to Dhaka in the afternoon. Three soldiers were badly wounded in the clashes. Two Bangladeshis were killed and five wounded when the soldiers fired into the crowd. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman condemned the army firing and stated, "If they think they can suppress people's struggle by bullet and force, they simply live in a fool's paradise."

On the day, Bangabandhu had a fresh round of talks with President Yahya Khan. He reiterated his earlier demands for a transfer of power and proposed that a mechanism be arrived at for a provisional period to work out the modalities for a handover of political authority from the junta to the elected representatives of the people. Mujib added that such a step could be taken through a presidential proclamation. In the evening, the advisers of the president had another session of talks with the Awami League team of advisers.

It was becoming gradually clear that the talks between the Awami League and the regime were going nowhere, that indeed there was a danger that they would soon collapse. On his way out of the President's House, Bangabandhu put up, as always, a brave face on the situation all but at the same time repeated his warning that Bangladeshis would need to be prepared to offer greater sacrifices for the attainment of their goals.

## Honouring

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live. Rokia Afzal Rahman, former adviser to a caretaker government, handed over the certificates and medals to the future nation builders.

Speaking as the chief guest, she said, "The first step to do anything is to make a plan, which is the most difficult part, and you [students] have taken your first steps towards success. In the future, you will strive for bigger goals and the success would be greater."

The former adviser, also the president of Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs, urged the students to serve the country.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said, "Acquire knowledge but please come back to serve the country."

"Although Bangladesh has made a lot of progress over the years, the country still has a lot of problems, issues and backwardness. This is why, we need you," he said.

Addressing the students as special guests, British High Commissioner Stephen Evans said, "I see the next generation of scholars, writers, journalists, filmmakers, policymakers and intellectuals among you."

David Davies, international portfolio manager of Edexcel, UK, and Syed Mahubul Rahman, managing director and CEO of Brac Bank Ltd, also congratulated the students on their achievements and thanked the teachers, parents and the schools for their role behind this success.

## West threatens attack

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Moussa Koussa said Libya was ready to open dialogue with all parties, without specifying who. He added the no-fly zone would increase the suffering of Libyans and said authorising military action was "unacceptable."

US President Barack Obama threatened Gaddafi with military action unless he met specific, "non-negotiable" demands for a ceasefire, a halt to attacks on civilians and a retreat from rebel strongholds.

France, which has been at the forefront of calls for a no-fly zone and military action, said it remained cautious after Koussa's comments, saying the threat on the ground in Libya had not been lifted, reports Reuters.

**ABLUFF?**  
The commander of the rebels fighting to overthrow Gaddafi dismissed any ceasefire offer as a bluff, accusing the strongman of being a liar.

Khalifa Hefir told a press conference, the ceasefire "is not important to us" and that Gaddafi is "bluffing."

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said reports of a ceasefire would be judged on "action" not words.

More than two hours after the announcement there was no confirmation that assaults on rebel positions had stopped.

An AFP correspondent in Tripoli reported hearing loud, distant explosions, but could not pinpoint them or say what caused them.

Abdulbasid Abu Muzairik, a resident of Misurata, told Al Jazeera there was shelling from artillery and tanks.

**RESOLUTION '73**  
Meeting on Thursday, the UN Security Council voted to permit "all necessary measures" to establish a no-fly zone, protect civilian areas and impose a ceasefire on Gaddafi's military.

Five countries on the 15-strong council abstained, including permanent members China and Russia, who did not use their veto power. India and Brazil also abstained in addition to Germany.

Resolution 1973 outlines the "responsibility of the Libyan authorities to protect the Libyan population" and stresses the regime bears the responsibility to "take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of civilians."

**UN CHIEFWARNS**

## Thank you Tunisia

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workers there. They fled towards the borders of Egypt, Tunisia and Niger. How most of these workers were subjected to torture, robbery and rape while travelling through Libya to reach the borders is a different story.

First wave of people to cross the Ras Jdir border were the Egyptians, then came the Chinese and in the third wave came the Bangladeshis in their thousands.

Tunisia, recovering from a stunning popular uprising in December, 2010, that ousted the 23-year-old corrupt regime of president Zin el Abedin Ben Ali on January 14, 2011, had never experienced anything like this in its history. When thousands walked into its soil to flee Gaddafi's atrocities, the hard working and hospitable Tunisians were busy picking up from the scratches of the "revolution" that claimed the lives of nearly 250 people.

The news of thousands of workers arriving on their soil spread throughout the Tunisian territory of 165 square kilometres and to its 12 million people.

The spirit of the just-ended revolution rose again among the people. This time for the welfare of others who are in need of food and shelter. Before the international aid workers reached the crisis area, about 60,000 displaced people were there in Ras Jdir under the open sky.

From every corner of Tunisia, men and women rose to the need of the moment. They raised money, food, clothes, tents, water and rushed there to help. Thousands of families in the two adjacent districts, Medenine and Tataouine, cooked food at home and drove their own transports over a 100 kilometres to the border to feed the Bangladeshis, Egyptians, Chinese, Somalis and others. In Zarzis, under Medenine district, 100 kilometres away from Ras Jdir border, people opened up schools, youth centres and doors of their own homes to the fleeing thousands.

Gilbert Greenall, leader of the United Nations Disaster Assessment Coordination Team in Choucha camp, arrived on March 2. When he arrived, up to 15,000 people of different countries were crossing into Tunisia every day through Ras Jdir.

"In my 30 years of experience in different countries of the world, I have never seen a public response as generous as the Tunisians towards the displaced people," said Greenall. "It was definitely the spirit of their revolution that raised the entire people to start an amazing gesture of generosity."

Aida Bouslene, an IT expert working at a hotel at the tourist town of Zarzis, narrated how the Tunisian people reacted to the events in Libya.

There are instances during the first days of the exodus from Libya when every shop in Tunisia asked its clients for donation for the displaced people. Then they arrived in Choucha in trucks and other vehicles with relief, Aida said.

"One of my maternal uncles works as a chef. He took leave from his job to open a kitchen in Choucha to feed the hungry people arriving there," Aida said. "We knew we had to help, we did not hesitate despite our own struggles in day to day life."

The Tunisian revolution that ended on January 14 with the departure of president Ben Ali, triggered uprising throughout the Arab world ruled by dictators decade after decade. Tunisians had to wait for 23 years

UN chief Ban Ki-moon has warned the Libyan regime that anyone responsible for attacks on unarmed civilians will be "brought to justice."

"It is absolutely necessary for the Libyan authorities to immediately cease all hostilities against the civilian population," he told joint a news conference with Spain's Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

**MILITARY PREPARATIONS**  
So far Belgium, Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Qatar and the United States have said they will help to implement the no-fly zone.

Meanwhile, Nato said it would discuss what role the alliance may take, and the Arab League said Ban Ki-moon will attend a high-level meeting of European Union, Arab League and African Union officials in Paris today.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said London would deploy Tornados and Typhoon warplanes as well as air-to-air refuelling and surveillance aircraft to airbases "from where they can take the necessary action."

Britain has an airbase on the eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

The United States was expected to play a key role in the operation while Canada announced that it would deploy CF-18 fighter jets.

Italy has offered its air bases to third countries to impose the no-fly zone.

The intervention bans military aircraft from flying in Libyan airspace, but not commercial or humanitarian flights.

The Arab League has reiterated its support for the no-fly zone, but it is not clear to what extent Arab nations will be involved in the operation.

Paul Brennan, Al Jazeera's correspondent in London, said the military preparations by international forces were going to continue regardless of Koussa's announcement.

Eurocontrol, Europe's air traffic agency, said earlier the Libyan government had closed its airspace to all traffic in response to the UN resolution. Egypt also confirmed that it had begun to enforce the no-fly zone and that all flights to Libya from Egypt have been halted.

for the ignition that set off the revolution.

The story of the revolution goes back to a small town called Sidi Bouzid where Bou'aziz, a university graduate, discovered that his degree was not enough to secure a decent employment. Bou'aziz turned to selling fruit and vegetables for a living but when security forces confiscated his vending cart, on December 7, 2010 he torched himself with gasoline in public in front of the local government building. Bou'azizi's death ignited a series of protests across Tunisia and brought down the government at an incredible speed.

At the Choucha camp yesterday, where currently 15,000 displaced people, including 6,200 Bangladeshis, are sheltered, the number of Tunisian volunteers working long shifts is simply overwhelming. Different Tunisian private organisations have joined the 80 aid organisations here with anything from portable toilets, rubbish bins, tents, and food and water. On the main road between Zarzis and Choucha, convoys of relief materials were seen yesterday heading for the camp.

Mona Alouane, a third-year student at the Tunis University of Fine Arts came to Choucha, 700 kilometres from home with seven of her friends to help the Bangladeshis, for what she thought, the most helpless people of the lot in Choucha camp.

"When I asked for a shift to work at the camp, the authorities told me I could work from 8:00pm to 2:00am which I accepted with pleasure," said Mona. "This experience has taught me that there are more desperate people in this world than I."

Firas Kayal, the UNHCR spokesperson at Choucha camp, said during the eight years that he has been working with UNHCR at different places, he has never seen such generosity from the locals.

"In the beginning of the crisis had the Tunisian people not come forward to help, there would have been a humanitarian catastrophe," said Kayal.

A Tunisian telecommunication company called Etisalat along with a French company Telecoms Sans Frontieres opened up booths for the displaced people at the Choucha camp so that they can call toll-free to their countries.

"You have to thank the Tunisian government first that allowed in these thousands of people many of whom without any travel documents," Kayal said. "The Tunisian army has been doing the magic job of maintaining law and order in the camp as well," Kayal added.

There are others too in the unprecedented race to help in this part of the world. The Muslim Hands, a charity organisation from UK, has opened a kitchen for the hundreds of stranded workers who have to spend up to 24 hours at the Djerba International Airport before boarding flights for their countries. They are serving 10,000 meals a day at the airport, Aslan Nursat of the Muslim Hands said.

For the Tunisians, hope had been a rare commodity before Bou'azizi's revolution. Bou'azizi's sacrifice has brought back hope not only for Tunisians alone but also for many people, including the distressed Bangladeshis here. But just as the power of hope should not be underestimated, neither the danger of hope unfulfilled.

## Bribery claim

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support of lawmakers.

Singh said people who have been named in the diplomatic cables written by an American diplomat in the Indian capital New Delhi and released by whistle-blower WikiLeaks have expressed doubts about the accuracy of the cables.

The American embassy official's cables said an aide to Congress leader Satish Sharma showed an embassy employee "two chests" containing Rs 50 crore for use of pay-offs to win the support of lawmakers.

The WikiLeaks report front-paged by "The Hindu" newspaper on

Thursday is the latest addition to a long list of government scandals, led by the charges against former Telecoms Minister A Raja, who has been arrested over graft in selling mobile phone licences.

The opposition led by BJP and left parties have used the WikiLeaks disclosure to launch a frontal attack on the government.

While BJP demanded that the government quit, left parties asked the prime minister to answer questions in parliament.

"It's the same government that is in power, the same prime minister heads the government. Therefore, it is the moral responsibility of the government to probe that they are clean," said Sitaram Yechury, leader of Communist Party of India (Marxist).

"We would like the prime minister to come to the House and announce that he has decided to resign in the light of the new revelations," said senior BJP leader L K Advani.

Congress sought to dismiss the WikiLeaks disclosures terming it "nothing more than unverified, unauthenticated hearsay."

Congress leaders, however, privately admit the WikiLeaks revelations could not have come at a most inopportune time when the party faces crucial assembly elections in five states including West Bengal, Assam, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

## Robert Blake

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government officials consider Blake's Dhaka visit to be vital with context to the US government's concerns over the removal of Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus from Grameen Bank's managing director post.

Blake will hold a meeting with Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia today. He will meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni tomorrow.

Sources said Blake is expected to hold an exclusive meeting with Prof Yunus, and the issue of Yunus's removal would dominate his discussions with top government leaders, opposition leaders and civil society representatives, sources added.

During his visit from March 19-23, Blake will also hold a summit meeting with the high-level US government officials from the South and Central Asian regions, including India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

He will also attend a Regional Strategic Initiative programme at the US Embassy in Dhaka.

Besides, Blake will visit Benapole to get a briefing on the immigration and trafficking issues and will visit the American Corner in Jessore, said a US Embassy press release.

He will depart on March 23.

According to a US State Department announcement, Blake's visit to Dhaka is part of his three-nation travel plan to China, Bangladesh, and Kazakhstan from March 16-26.

Blake led the US government delegation at the US-China Sub-Dialogue on Central Asia held in Beijing on March 17-18. He also held discussions on regional issues with Chinese government officials and scholars.

Ending his visit to Bangladesh, Blake will visit Astana in Kazakhstan on March 24-25 where he will lead the US delegation to the second Annual Bilateral Consultations.