

Strong quake strikes Crete

AP, Athens

A strong earthquake struck the southern Greek island of Crete Friday, rattling buildings as far away as Egypt and Turkey. Local police said they had no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

The quake had a preliminary magnitude of 6.2 and struck off the southern coast of Crete at 4:29 pm, the Athens Geological Institute and the German Research Centre for Geosciences in Potsdam, Germany, said. The US Geological Survey gave a slightly lower preliminary magnitude of 5.9. Magnitudes recorded by geological institutes often differ.

Police in Ierapetra, a town on the southern coast of Crete closest to the epicentre, said it was strongly felt but that they had no initial reports of damage or injuries.

The quake was felt as far away as Cairo across the Mediterranean Sea, and the Turkish news agency Anapolia said it also caused panic in the Turkish resorts of Bodrum, Fethiye and Marmaris.

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other supplements dwelt on Constitution, Parliament and Democracy; Economy and Development; Agriculture, Industry and Business; Foreign Policy, Connectivity and Regional Approach; and Energy, Infrastructure and Environment.

These have been well received by our readers, patrons and well-wishers who have generously expressed their appreciation for our efforts. We greet it with gratitude.

We are pleased to announce that we are bringing out the last three supplements, two 48-page each on April 4 and 7 and the last one, 64 page on April 11, to draw the curtain on the special series.

The subjects for the last three supplements are: Empowerment, Health, Population and Finance; Media, Civic Issues and Food Security; and Education, Culture and Art.

We hope the special series will have met readers' expectations in full measure.

-- EDITOR

31 more cross Libya border

Says foreign ministry

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-one more Bangladeshis, including one family with children, have fled to Tunisia crossing the Ras Jdir border from Libya on April 1, according to the foreign ministry.

However, there was zero inflow of Bangladeshis yesterday at Al Salloum border point in Egypt while 553 workers are now awaiting repatriation in Tunisia, said a press release.

But the foreign ministry's consular team has been asked to stay at Al Salloum border to facilitate repatriation arrangements of Bangladesh nationals crossing over into Egypt.

In order to repatriate the new arrivals in coordination with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), one director from the foreign ministry reached Djerba in Tunisia to join the consular team of the ministry.

Bangladesh Biman is providing extra flights to bring back the rest of the Bangladeshis, the ministry said.

One Bangladeshi, who was among the 49 that jumped from a ship while being repatriated, remains missing at Hania, Crete Island in Greece.

To this day, 33,641 Bangladeshis who were employed in Libya have been repatriated to Bangladesh. Of them, the return of 3,831 persons has been arranged by their employers while some have returned on their own arrangements and 27,010 persons have been repatriated by the IOM.

A total of 2,800 have been bought by Bangladesh Biman flights.

As per the flight schedule, 310 Bangladeshis were due to return home yesterday from Tunisia by Biman flights while another Biman flight is scheduled to carry 310 more from Tunisia today.

India bathe in WC glory

FROM PAGE 1
to chase down Sri Lanka's fighting total of 274 at the loss of four wickets in 48.2 overs. There could have been nothing better than the way Indian skipper Dhoni finished the game by whacking a six over long-on against Nuwan Kulasekara and got the man-of-the-match award for his scintillating batting in the grand finale.

All eyes however were fixed on local hero Tendulkar as the pre-match talk centred on the little master and spin legend Muttiah Muralidaran. But one thing was for sure that people would not remember the 2011 final for these two great cricketers but for the gutsy Indian captain.

Dhoni, in a way, gave the perfect gift to Tendulkar and completed the genius's legacy, giving him the trophy he craved for so long.

The master blaster failed to live up to the big occasion to craft his hundredth international 100 as the 37-year-old batsman was dismissed for only 18 runs, rather it was Gambhir and Dhoni who overshadowed Mahela Jayawardene's classy unbeaten hundred to guide their side to the world's top prize.

The full-house partisan crowd cheered every success of the Indian team in the field and apparently the home support inspired Dhoni's boys to lift the trophy but for one occasion the crowd was silent when Tendulkar became second victim of Lankan paceman Lasith Malinga, edging the ball to keeper Kumar Sangakkara, who gave the first breakthrough removing dangerous Virender Sehwag for a second-ball duck.

India however proved their point why they are considered the best batting line-up in the world. Young Virat Kohli joined Gambhir to steady the ship associating 83 runs in the third wicket stand as well as bring back the enthusiasm among the jubilant fans. Occasional spinner Tillakaratne Dilshan brought his team back in contention by taking a superb return catch to send back Kohli for 35 runs, but that only brought the Indian skipper to the middle to take the game away from the islanders.

But Sri Lanka captain Sangakkara must rue for missing the stumping of Dhoni off Dilshan on the very second ball while Ruwan Kulasekara dropped Gambhir, who missed the hundred for only three runs after being bowled by Thisara Perera, at long-off while the batsman was on 30.

Man-of-the-tournament Yuvraj Singh then came to finish the job in style with his skipper, who led from the front with a 79-ball 91 that contained eight

boundaries and two big sixes.

Earlier it was former Sri Lanka skipper Mahela Jayawardene who stood tall in the big occasion to give his team a defendable total on a hard and true surface. The experienced campaigner played his best innings in the tournament when his team needed it most after a sluggish start. The right-hander's price-less unbeaten 103 came from 88 deliveries and contained 13 boundaries.

Jayawardene showed pure class during his well-composed knock and reached the magical figure in style by hitting two consecutive boundaries against Zaheer Khan, who bowled an impressive first spell with three consecutive maidens in first three overs.

He executed the first boundary by cutting it over and in the gap between short thirdman and point and then smashed the second one over mid-off to prove that he saved his best in the tournament for the big day.

Sri Lanka made maximum use of the batting Powerplay, which they took in the last five overs, by hitting 63 runs, and Perera deserved some praise beside his senior partner for his 9-ball 22 and he finished the job with a last-ball six that was battered from a good length over mid-wicket.

Captain Sangakkara, dashing Dilshan, Tilhan Samaraweera and Nuwan Kulasekara came up with some contribution but Jayawardene, only the sixth man to hit a hundred on the game's biggest stage, almost single handedly controlled the Sri Lankan innings.

After a little drama, Sangakkara won the second toss and has decided to bat first but Zaheer's brilliant opening spell jittered the Lankan innings as they amassed only nine runs from first five overs. Upul Tharanga struggled from the very beginning and finally was caught by Virender Sehwag at slip off Zaheer.

Sangakkara joined Dilshan to repair the damage by associating 43 runs in the second wicket stand before the latter was being bowled by Harbhajan Singh. With 60 for 2 on the scoreboard in 16.3 overs, Jayawardene came to bat with his skipper Sangakkara and they calmed down the innings by sharing 62 runs in the third wicket stand. But the Lankan innings lost its way and suffered a huge blow when captain Sangakkara was caught behind off Yuvraj Singh for a 67-ball 48, the second highest score in the innings that featured five boundaries.

Finally the tail-enders gave Jayawardene tremendous support to ensure a competitive total on the

boundaries and two big sixes.

Zaheer conceded only six runs in his first five overs but completed with an expensive figure of 2 for 60. Two wickets haul however helped him to share the top bowling spot in the competition with Pakistan skipper Shahid Afridi as both claimed 21 wickets.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Cup final between India and Sri Lanka at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Saturday:

SRI LANKA

Tharanga c Sehwag b Zaheer	2
Dilshan b Harbhajan	33
Sangakkara c Dhoni b Yuvraj	48
Jayawardene not out	103
Samaraweera lbw b Yuvraj	21
Kapugedera c Raina b Zaheer	1
Kulasekara run out (Dhoni)	32
Perera not out	22

Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-6, nb-2) 12
Total (For 6 wkts in 50 overs) 274
Did not bat: Malinga, Randiv, Muralidaran

Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-60, 3-122, 4-179, 5-182, 6-248

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zaheer	10	3	60	2
Sreesanth	8	0	52	0
Patel	9	0	41	0
Harbhajan	10	0	50	1
Yuvraj	10	0	49	2
Tendulkar	2	0	12	0
Kohli	1	0	6	0

INDIA

Sehwag lbw b Malinga	0
Sachin c Sangakkara b Malinga	18
Gambhir b Perera	97
Kohli c b Dilshan	35
Dhoni not out	91
Yuvraj not out	21
Extras: (b-1, lb-6, w-8)	15
Total: (For 4 wkts in 48.2 overs) 277	
Did not bat: Raina, Harbhajan, Zaheer, Munaf, Sreesanth	
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-31, 3-114, 4-223	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Malinga	9	0	42	2
Kulasekara	8.2	0	64	0
Perera	9	0	55	1
Randiv	9	0	43	0
Dilshan	5	0	27	1
Muralidharan	8	0	39	0

Result: India won by 6 wickets.

Man-of-the-final: MS Dhoni.

Man-of-the-tournament: Yuvraj Singh.

Baby girl

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Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

The child was bleeding profusely when she was brought in but her condition is stable now, Dr. Bilkis Begum, coordinator of OCC told The Daily Star, yesterday.

The victim, daughter of a day-labourer, lived next door to Mosleh who resided with a group of men.

Quoting the victim's mother, Enamul Haq Enam, officer-in-charge of Kalabagan Police Station said Mosleh took her daughter out for an ice-cream around 9:00pm. After 30 minutes, locals heard the child screaming in pain.

They rushed to the spot and caught Mosleh red-handed. Later, police came and arrested him and sent the injured girl to OCC.

A case was filed against him under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

Mosleh worked as a driver in Dhaka while his wife and children lived in Bhola district.

Dhaka rivers

FROM PAGE 1
commitment of all the parties to ensure sustainable development of this sector.

"It has become a political culture to shun most development projects taken by the previous government," observed the minister.

Khan said his ministry has formed different committees to monitor the work done to protect the rivers.

He also blamed the officials of Local Government Engineering and Roads and Highways departments for constructing unplanned bridges and culverts, which ultimately obstruct flows of rivers and help gather silt.

Lauding the private sector for investing in river dredging, the minister said their cooperation has boosted the dredging activities.

At the workshop, prime minister's Adviser for Economic Affairs Mashiur Rahman said the government is trying hard with its limited resources to protect the rivers.

About navigability of different trans-boundary rivers, he said India will take necessary steps for maintaining navigability of those in their self-interest, if we allow transit and transshipment to them.

Shipping Secretary Abdul Mannan Hawlader said experts should come up with comprehensive recommendations to restore the navigability of rivers.

Presenting the keynote paper, Prof Rezaur Rahman of Institute of Water and Flood Management of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) said rivers gather silt, salinity of water increases and the flows also get restricted due to human intervention in rivers.

He suggested forming a three-tier water management organisation.

Moderated by the Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, the session was also addressed by Ghyas Uddin Ahmed, member of the parliamentary standing committee on Ministry of Environment and Forest and representatives of different organisations related to river transport sector.

Earlier in the inaugural session, Maminul Haque Sarker, deputy executive director of Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services, in a keynote paper showed that human intervention like construction of roads, bridges, embankments and shrimp cultivation changed courses of rivers and also caused navigability crisis over the last couple of decades.

He recommended treating the problem as a national issue and conducting a comprehensive study involving different government and non-government agencies to find out the causes of deterioration in navigability and ways to resolve it.

'800 killed' in Ivory Coast

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the palace throughout the morning.

Gun battles and the sounds of heavy weapons fire rang out across Abidjan as the country's former rebels pressed an offensive to oust Gbagbo, who has refused to concede power.

Residents said they heard loud explosions near Agban base, the city's largest, in the Adjame neighbourhood near Cocody where Gbagbo has his official residence.

"Mortar fire has been heard since late last night around the gendarmerie. It is very loud and we're taking shelter in our homes," said Jules Konin, who lives nearby.

"The gendarmes from the camp are fighting the insurgents," said another resident, Adi Saba.

DUEKOUÉ 'MASSACRE'

Staff of the ICRC, who visited the western city of Duekoue, said the scale and brutality of the killings were shocking.

The city was captured by fighters supporting Mr Ouattara this week and has seen fierce fighting, reports BBC.

Aid agencies have warned repeatedly that civilians were being subjected to major violence.

The ICRC said delegates and volunteers from the Ivorian Red Cross had visited the city on Thursday and Friday to gather evidence of the killings, which are believed to have taken place on Tuesday.

Tens of thousands of women, men and children had fled fighting in Duekoue since Monday, they said.

It is not clear whether Mr Ouattara's forces were involved in the killings.

The United Nations human rights office says it has received reports of major human rights violations committed by both sides in the conflict.

West Africa's second biggest economy has been brought to its knees by the conflict, which has sent global cocoa prices spiralling upwards. Ivory Coast is the world's largest cocoa producer.

BROADCAST BUILDING

Pro-Gbagbo forces retained control of state broadcaster RTI, which came back on air late on Friday after heavy fighting took it down, showing pro-Gbagbo rallies and file footage of his swearing in ceremony after the contested November election.

An army officer shown surrounded by his troops announced over RTI on Saturday morning that all members of Gbagbo's security forces should mobilize to counter the offensive by Ouattara's soldiers.

The military "calls on all members of the national army, the gendarmerie, the national police, border patrol, and navy to join up with the following units," he said before listing bases around Abidjan.

A flashing scroll said Gbagbo's youth leader Charles Ble Goude would give an order soon.

The army handed out weapons to hundreds in the group this week and they have killed a number of civilians, particularly West African immigrants whom

state TV blames for the rebellion.

Gbagbo, who has refused to quit after a November 28 election that U.N.-certified results showed he lost, has been hit by a number of high-level defections in the military since pro-Ouattara forces marched on Abidjan, but his camp says he remains in Ivory Coast and will not surrender.

Ouattara's government spokesman Patrick Achi told Reuters by phone that Gbagbo's fall nonetheless was imminent.

"I'm not worried at all. Where is he going to go? He doesn't control the army or the gendarmerie. They will be exhausted. They are running out of ammunition," Achi said.

"Where can they go from here? All their generals have surrendered. They aren't much of a force."

The African Union, former colonial ruler France, the United States, and U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon all have called on Gbagbo to step down immediately.

Forces supporting Ouattara, recognized as winner of the November election by African nations and Western powers, marched into Abidjan on Thursday after a swift push south that initially met with little formal resistance.

But they now face Gbagbo's most reliable fighters, the roughly 2,500-strong elite Republican Guard, clustered in Abidjan along with remaining regular army troops.

Construction sites

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approved designs. It does not look into workers' safety.

According to Safety and Rights Society, an organisation working with work-place accidents, said a total of 142 workers' death at construction sites of Bangladesh were reported in newspapers in 2010.

However, quarters concerned said the number of deaths at construction sites is much higher than the reported figure as the Dhaka Medical College morgue and its emergency department alone receive one or two such victims every day.

As there is no government authority to monitor safety for workers and safety measures at construction sites, the owners are indifferent in this regard.

The code (part-7 of construction practice and safety chapter) say that basic precautionary measures like safety anchor belts for workers and canopy or protective scaffolding around an under-construction building is required to ensure public safety.

In most cases, the workers are not provided helmets, gloves, boots, anchor belts or

uniforms recommended by the code, said Programme Director Sekender Ali Mina of Safety and Rights Society.

It also noticed that the scaffoldings were made in traditional ways without ensuring proper safety.

Rashedul Islam, 16, died after falling down from the seventh floor of an under-construction building in the city's Banani on February 6.

On a spot visit, The Daily Star reporter saw that safety measures were poorly maintained. Very thin bamboos were being used for making a platform on which several workers stand with construction materials.

Even bamboo supports behind the platforms were not properly tied together.

Witnesses also told him that Rashedul had no anchor belts, helmet or anything.

Such indifference to safety measures by authorities concerned causes deaths and injuries not only to workers but also people around the sites.

On January 24, four-year-old Tawhid Hossain died on the spot while the scull of six-year-old Maruf was damaged as bricks fell on them from an under-construction building.

They were playing near the building at East Rampura.

No precautionary measures were used at the site.

The HC directives asked the government to establish the National Building Code Enforcement Authority in accordance with the Bangladesh National Building Code, 2006, within one year of the receipt of the judgement.

Until the National Building Code Enforcement Authority is established, respondents were directed to designate Rajuk, Chittagong Development Authority, Khulna Development Authority, Barisal City Corporation, Rajshahi City Corporation and Sylhet City Corporation as the code enforcement agency within three months of the receipt of the judgement.

And it also asked to submit progress report to the court every three months on the performance and functions of the interim code enforcement agency. The report should also include the status of implementation of the National Building Code all over Bangladesh and the progress of establishing a fully fledged authority.

Thai flood toll climbs to 35

AFP, Bangkok

Flooding across southern Thailand has killed at least 35 people, officials said yesterday, as unseasonably wet weather deluged the homes and businesses of around two million people.

Victims were either swept into the rising waters or buried in mudslides as the heavy rains inundated homes and washed roads and bridges away in what should be one of the hottest months of the year.

Flood waters, more than two metres deep in some places, have continued to spread despite easing rain fall in recent days, while waterlogged soil has heightened the risk of landslides.

Thousands of people have been forced to move into temporary shelters as the military continued to help evacuate those most at risk yesterday.

Mudslides have swamped at least one whole village in Khao Phanom district, Krabi province, and officials said five people are still missing in the area.

Help find

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auditorium. Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), a human rights organisation, arranged the workshop on how to establish justice in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

The chief justice said he has been working against corruption but no one has come up with allegations. "We will investigate and take action if anyone comes with specific allegations."

Talking about the legal system in the CHT, Justice Khairul said the judicial system in the hilly region is weak. He called upon lawyers in Chittagong to solve cases in line with the existing laws.

The hills' people are very simple in manner and they should not be harassed in the court, the chief justice urged lawyers and judges.

"Our constitution has given equal rights to all citizens of the country and that should be upheld in the hilly areas," he noted.

About the crisis of logistic and manpower support in the judiciary, the chief justice said construction works of court buildings in different districts are going on and appointment of a hundred judges is underway. Another 250 judges will be appointed after this.

He urged the judges and lawyers to work hard so cases do not remain pending with the courts for a long time.

Presenting the keynote paper at the workshop, Jewel Dewan, coordinator of Rangamati BLAST unit, recommended appointing more judges in each hill district for well management of cases.

Raja Debashish Roy Chakma circle king, Supreme Court justices SK Sinha and Mozammel Hossain, among others, spoke at the programme chaired by Shamsul Bari, member, board of trustees of BLAST.

Woman killed

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Mirpur-1 residence except for a domestic help who stayed over occasionally, said Anisur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Shah Ali Police Station. She lived on the second floor of the five-storey building which she owned.

Her son Alauddin Badal, who lived in the next building, was away at Chittagong on business during the incident. On being informed that his mother was not seen since Friday afternoon, Alauddin rushed to Nurjahan's house around 1:00am and broke into the bathroom to find her slain body.

The gold bangles and earrings, Nurjahan used to wear regularly, were missing, police quoted Alauddin as saying. Also, the locker was found empty of any valuables though it was not broken, the OCC said.

Police detained the domestic help for questioning.

Alauddin filed a murder case with Shah Ali Police Station.