

2 killed

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died on the spot while seriously injured van driver Firoj succumbed to his injuries after being taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

The injured rickshaw passengers Rokeya Begum, 55, and Jannatul Ferdous, 25, had been undergoing treatment at CMCH in critical condition, police sources said.

Locals captured the truck and handed it over to police, but its driver managed to flee.

A case was filed with Bayejid Police Station.

Dulal Hossain, sub-inspector of the police station, told The Daily Star "We are conducting a drive to nab the driver."

Tortured

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couple in this connection.

SI Moniruzzaman of Sabujbagh quoting the hospital said Trisha was rushed to the hospital Thursday evening with injury marks all over her body, including her privates. The couple identified Trisha as their daughter, he said.

The SI said Fahmida claimed that Trisha fell down in their bathroom two months back.

Trisha's mother Nasima Begum last night filed a murder case against the couple with Sabujbagh Police Station. She claimed Trisha was tortured to death.

DCC looking

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SM Salehuddin, additional executive director of Dhaka Transport Coordination Board, said they know nothing about the relocation.

Before taking the final decision, the DCC should seek suggestions from all the agencies concerned and do it in a planned way, he noted.

Moving Mohakhali bus terminal is very important, but relocation of Gabtoli and Sayedabad terminals is not necessary right now, said Salehuddin, adding the bid would not be wise as it will require huge finance.

He suggested that the DCC should increase the lanes of roads and east-west road connectivity as per recommendations by Strategic Transport Plan for safer and more efficient transportation system.

However, DCC officials said infrastructures to reach the terminals from the city would also be developed under the plan.

Mahmudunnabi Kumar, a government official who travels every week to Sirajganj, said the shifting will make the passengers suffer as they will have to get another transport to and from the terminals.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on July 28, 2009 asked DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka to shift bus and truck terminals.

The DCC has already issued letters to the deputy commissioners of Dhaka, Narayanganj and Gazipur, asking them to find out suitable locations, according to sources in DCC.

Ahmed Ali Shah, DCC executive engineer, said they were yet to conduct a survey in this regard.

"We will conduct a feasibility study once the sites are selected. We are working to prepare a Development Project Proposal on it," he added.

NIGERIA POST-POLL RIOTS

Thousands displaced

AFP, Kaduna

Nigeria has wrapped up a landmark election season, but thousands remain displaced by post-poll riots, living in increasingly squalid conditions and shaken by narrow escapes from armed mobs.

Camps for the displaced have sprung up at military and police barracks across northern Nigeria. And while some of the displaced have returned home, others no longer have homes since they were torched in the rioting believed to have killed hundreds.

The displaced speak of worsening conditions at camps and a lack of relief supplies from the government, also recounting the nightmarish events that saw mobs burn houses and hack victims with machetes.

Ultimate truth

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the edge of 'insanity' lashed by the winds -- gather to affirm their universal brotherhood. And they search their inner self.

The huge open field becomes a sea of people. Huge sound boxes have been carted all the way from Dhaka and electricity arranged. Bauls -- a blend of mystic Sufism, Tantrik, Vaishnavism and Bhuddism -- sit patiently under a marquee and get into a higher level of consciousness when they do not see anything but their inner existence.

"This is us," says Abdul Aziz Sai, who left his family and everything and went on the path of Alek -- the ultimate truth, the incomprehensible one. His long hair and moustache flows in the wind. "I am trying to know myself for the last 27 years. I am trying to go from one Alek to another. I know nobody can explore himself in its entirety. The redemption never comes. We can only try."

What was supposed to be a protest against harassment by some influential villagers who early this month harangued the Bauls who were performing their rituals has tonight become a search for inner soul and reunion with the Supreme Being whose eternal abode rests within man himself. The 'mad men' look lost in their endeavour, when they would know themselves only then they would be totally free from the early and the mundane. But they don't find the end to their spiritual quest.

"The quest will end when we can give up all our lust for the earthly things," says Mohammad Sai, who was one of the victims of harassment. The man claims to be 95-year-old, but he looks not less than 75. The village bullies had cut his hair and beard. They had dragged him to the mosque and forced him to perform Tawba (to seek Allah's mercy for committing a crime).

"I have given up my every longing for the world. When they harangued me, all I could do is to weep and say why this to us. And now I have forgiven them. I told the court that I hold no contempt for the culprits. I tell myself if I cannot pardon them, if I cannot overcome my earthly being, how can I find Him? How can I find my Sai?"

In this dead of night, in this godforsaken char land, people are still streaming into the village. In the absence

3 hurt

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Fisheries.

Police inspector Mizanur Rahman of university police outpost said activists of a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) faction stabbed Mehrab, of the rival faction, at the Shaheed Abdur Rab Hall playground around 4:30pm.

When Mehrab's friends were taking him to CU medical centre, the rival groups attacked them again, leaving two others injured.

Mehrab was rushed to Chittagong Medical College and Hospital in critical condition while others took treatment at the medical centre, Mizanur added.

Mohammad Sayedul Islam, assistant proctor of CU, said stern action will be taken against those involved in the incident.

Rab 'shootout'

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a patrol team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) challenged a gang of outlaws near Goashbari High School at about 3:00am as they were roaming there suspiciously.

Sensing presence of the elite force, the outlaws opened fire on the law enforcers forcing them to fire back.

Ziarul was caught in the line of fire while trying to flee the scene.

His body was sent to Pabna Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Police seized a shutter gun, a pistol, two magazines, one cartridge and five bullets from the spot.

Ziarul was wanted in several cases including seven for murder, police said.

lute darkness of the night, their flash lights try to find the way to this hinterland. A sudden mist then wafts in and engulfs this vast empty land in a hint of enigma.

The beams of the flash lights are getting smudged.

Expat workers

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workers. The law enforcers fired tear gas on the protesting workers.

Six workers including one Bangladeshi were arrested, but were released later, said embassy official Toufiq Islam Shatil.

Following the strike, embassy officials met the Jordanian labour department and authorities of the factories to address the issue. They requested the companies to offer an increment in wages.

He claimed the supply of water and food to workers is on.

According to Shatil, the Jordan government increased the minimum salary to JD 150 only for native workers. The foreign workers were left out because they get food, accommodation and transportation from employers.

After a sluggish trend for years, Jordan recently started to recruit large number of female garment workers. But if such strike lingers on, it would hamper Bangladesh's labour market, he observed.

Representatives from Jordanian labour ministry and different related organisations have been discussing the issue with a foreign workers' committee to reach a settlement, reported The Jordan Times on Thursday.

Since the beginning of 2010, Tajamout has seen more than 17 work stoppages, added the newspaper report quoting the labour ministry.

River land

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be contacted over the phone despite repeated attempts.

According to a report prepared by the DC office in February this year, Alauddin has encroached upon 45 feet into the river's waterline by earth-filling.

The earth-filling stretches far into the last remaining flow of the river along the Fatullah terminal pontoon of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) by Dhaka-Narayanganj road.

Mahbubul Alam, director (port) of BIWTA, said the entire area belongs to the Buriganga.

In April 2008, Alauddin obtained a three-month injunction from the High Court against eviction.

Officials of BIWTA, which is implementing a five-km walkway from Shyampur to Fatullah along the river, said Alauddin's men together with police stopped the construction early this month.

Police, however, let the officials resume the construction on April 10, said Shajidur Rahman, executive engineer of BIWTA.

"We faced similar obstructions from a factory but it has agreed to give up the river land under its occupation," said Shajidur, also the project director.

The walkway is part of a Tk 35-crore project taken up in 2006 to free the Buriganga bank from encroachment, develop port facilities and build jetties.

Germany detains three 'Al-Qaeda members'

AFP, Berlin

German police yesterday detained three alleged members of Al-Qaeda, federal prosecutors said, as a report said they had been plotting attacks in Germany.

The prosecutor's office in the southwestern city of Karlsruhe said the trio had been taken into custody early yesterday and would appear before a judge Saturday, when a news conference has been scheduled.

It declined to provide further details.

Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich said the arrests had "averted a concrete, immediate threat... we must remain vigilant," according to a message by government spokesman Steffen Seibert on micro-blogging site Twitter.

BNP rejects

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particularly in southern districts, during the caretaker regime [in 2001].

"Local activists of different political parties including Awami League and BNP were victimised at that time.

But Awami League is trying to gain political advantage by branding the incidents as communal clashes," he said.

He claimed that after assuming office in 2001 the BNP-led government filed cases and arrested the criminals responsible for those incidents.

The opposition leader described the probe body as "puppet committee" saying the so-called committee spoke only with the victims who belong to ruling Awami League. It didn't communicate with the victims of BNP and other political parties. That proves the report is one-sided.

On April 24, a three-member judicial commission led by former district and sessions judge Mohammad Sahabuddin submitted the report to the government.

The report says some BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami leaders directly provoked attacks on minority communities after the general election in 2001.

Rafiqul Islam Mia, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Mirza Abbas, Hafizuddin Ahmed and Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir were also present at the press conference.

PM opens

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build the expressway from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Kutubkhali on Dhaka-Chittagong highway under public-private partnership (PPP).

The main expressway will be 21-kilometre long though its total length will be 26 kilometers with two link roads. There will be 35 ramps on the expressway.

Under the 25-year concession agreement, the concessionaire has to complete the project in three and half years from the date of issuance of the work order. The formal order will be issued soon.

If the contractor fails to complete the work by the stipulated time, it will have to pay a liquidity damage of \$50,000 per day from the day following the deadline.

On the other hand, the government will have to hand over 30 percent of the project land to the company within a maximum period of six months and 35 percent each year in the next two years.

Failing to hand over the land timely, the government will have to pay the company a compensation of \$ 10,000 per day.

In case of delay caused by litigation, both the parties will take the next course through negotiation.

The Cabinet has recently approved the draft of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway Project (Land Acquisition Act) 2011, an exclusive law for timely implementation of the plan.

According to the law, people affected by the project will be rehabilitated and provided with compensation.

As per the deal, 50 percent of the construction materials and expertise will be procured from the local market.

River pillars

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BIWTA authorities had set up over 100 pillars along the bank of Turag to save the occupiers who had already grabbed a section of the river, they alleged.

If the erection of pillars continues, the foreshore of the rivers will be lost and a huge portion of rivers will go under the ownership of individuals, they said.

Bapa leaders also said due to the pillars only Shitalakhhya will lose around 1,860 acres of land.

BIWTA authorities in association with district administrations have been setting up pillars along the banks of five rivers 'following' the HC order.

Mohidul Hoque Khan, former general secretary of Bapa, presided over the rally.

General Secretary of Bapa Abdul Matin, Dr Md Nuruddin, executive director of Sheba, among others, addressed the rally.

William, Kate tie knot

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hats and cavalymen in shining breastplates who escorted them to the palace where they were expected to kiss on the balcony.

Middleton's dress, the subject of fevered speculation for months in the fashion press, was a traditional ivory silk and satin outfit with a lace applique and train.

It was designed by Sarah Burton of the Alexander McQueen label, named after the British designer who committed suicide.

The bride wore a tiara loaned by the queen and the diamond and sapphire engagement ring that belonged to William's mother Princess Diana, who was divorced from Prince Charles in 1996, a year before her death in a car crash in Paris aged just 36.

Middleton, the 29-year-old whose mother's family had coal mining roots, is a breath of fresh air for the monarchy, which has in the past been accused of being disconnected from ordinary Britons. She is seen as having the common touch.

The royals' cool reaction to Diana's 1997 death contrasted with an outpouring of public grief and marked a low point for the family. Some questioned whether the institution, a vestige of imperial glory, had outlived its unifying role in a modern state divided by partisan politics and regional separatism.

SEALED WITH A KISS

Thousands of people from around the globe were outside the abbey, many of them camping overnight for the best view of the future king and queen and fuelling the feel-good factor that has briefly lifted Britain from its economic gloom.

"People watching this at home must think we're completely mad, but there's just no comparison," said 58-year-old Denise Mill from southern England. "I just had to be here."

The crowd entered into the festive spirit on a day when threatened rain failed to materialise by wearing national flags and even fake wedding dresses and tiaras.

Hundreds of police officers, some armed, dotted the royal routes in a major security operation. Plain clothes officers mixed with the crowds who were packed behind rails.

A large gathering is expected outside Buckingham Palace to cheer on the couple as they appear on the balcony for the much-anticipated public kiss.

For some, however, the biggest royal wedding since Diana married Charles in 1981 was an event to forget, reflecting divided opinion about the monarchy.

In the economically depressed northern city of Bradford, for example, businessman Waheed Yunus said: "It's two young people getting married. It's as simple as that. It happens throughout the whole world every single day."

"There are much more pressing issues. There are much more important things going on in the world."

"**WAITY KATIE**"
About 5,500 street parties will be held across Britain, in keeping with tradition, although they will be more common in the more affluent south of England than in the poorer north. Church bells rang out throughout the country in celebration.

The marriage between William and Middleton, dubbed "Waity Katie" for their long courtship, has cemented a recovery in the monarchy's popularity.

A series of scandals involving senior royals, Britain's economic problems and Diana's death after her divorce from Prince Charles led many to question the future of the monarchy.

But Middleton's background, William's appeal, the ongoing adoration for his mother and a more media-savvy royal press team have helped to restore their standing with the wider public.

A Daily Mail survey showed 51 percent of people believed the wedding would strengthen the monarchy in Britain, compared with 65 percent who said the marriage between Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles in 2005 would weaken it.

However, while the queen, 85, exercises limited power, and is largely a symbolic figurehead in Britain and its former colonies, critics question the privileges she and her family enjoy, particularly at a time when the economy is so weak.

The monarchy officially costs the British taxpayer around 40 million pounds (\$67 million) a year, while

anti-royalists put the figure at closer to 180 million pounds.

HISTORY AND POMP
Bells pealed loudly and trumpets blared as 1,900 guests earlier poured into the historic abbey, coronation site for the monarchy since William the Conqueror was crowned in 1066.

Queen Elizabeth, other royals, Prime Minister David Cameron, David and Victoria Beckham, the footballer-pop star couple, and singer Elton John were among famous guests at the abbey.

They joined 50 heads of state as well as charity workers and war veterans who know the prince from his military training.

Middleton has been given the title Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cambridge after the queen made her grandson William the Duke of Cambridge to mark the marriage.

William could face a long wait for the throne. His grandmother Queen Elizabeth shows little sign of slowing down at 85 and his father Charles is a fit and active 62-year-old.

Probe blames Kyrgyz leaders over unrest

AFP, Bishkek

An international probe into inter-ethnic violence in Kyrgyzstan has largely laid the blame for last year's unrest on its government, according to a copy of the report obtained by AFP yesterday.

The riots last June were the worst inter-ethnic clashes to hit the Central Asian state since the collapse of the Soviet Union, taking place two months after violent street protests deposed President Kurmanbek Bakiyev.

The findings of a probe led by Kimmo Kiljunen, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's special representative for Central Asia, said the interim government led by diplomat Roza Otunbayeva might have underestimated tensions between ethnic Kyrgyz and ethnic Uzbeks.

"The interim government which had come to power two months before the events either did not acknowledge or underestimated a worsening in inter-ethnic relations in the south of Kyrgyzstan," said a Russian-language copy of the report obtained by AFP.

Bauls unite to protest

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forced bauls (folk musicians) and Lalon followers to perform tawba (confession of guilt). They even chopped off the hair and moustaches of 28 devotees.

Hundreds of bauls and devotees from across the country attended the gathering, led by Baul Mohammad Sai, Thursday night and raised voice against the heinous deed of bigots. A number of foreigners including baul researchers also attended the programme.

This time around police ensured security at the programme.

In his emotional speech, Mohammad Sai, who leads Lalon Bhakta Dham and was a victim of the April 5 incident, said he would never do anything to harm society or people.

"I have been following baul ideology for 40 years. I never found anything wrong in it because the baul ideology always upholds humanity."

Among others, Baul Mantu Shah, who has the entire Quran memorised, Fakir Warsh Ali Shah, Fakir Khedim Mondol and writer and thinker Farhad Majhar spoke at the programme.

The speakers said songs of Lalon follow Sufi and Vaishnav traditions. In course of time, this has turned into a sect. They said bauls strictly follow their own customs. They prefer to distance themselves from worldly desires, a philosophy developed by Lalon about 200 years ago.

Protesting the April-5 incident, Keith Edward Curti, an American who is doing a research on baul philosophy in Bangladesh,

said everyone has the right to follow their own thinking.

Singer Anushey Anadil of the band Bangla travelled to Char Ramnagar from Dhaka for the event. She demanded punishment of the people involved in the assault on bauls.

Mohammad Sai arranges different programmes related to Lalon every year at Lalon Bhakta Dham. He wears a shroud and claims to have given up all earthly desires. He is to arrange a programme called SadhuSanga to "better understand death" and taste "divine love". It is also called Challisha, which Muslims observe on the 40th day of someone's death. This had allegedly angered the local fanatics.

Karim Bazaria of the same area allegedly became angry with Mohammad Sai as well. Karim's two daughters, a son and a daughter-in-law have started following Lalon philosophy and became a part of the Lalon Bhakta Dham.

Mohammad Sai had initiated them.

Karim allegedly played a key role in instigating the April-5 assault.

Joygon Khatun, 40, daughter of Karim, has been following baul philosophy for six years, her younger sister Jamela for three years and her brother Alam and his wife Rumi for a year.

"I have heard about the involvement of my father in the incident. But we have had no relation with him for the last eight years. I took up baul ideology on my own," Joygon said. She termed the April-5 incident very bad and ugly.

A few of Karim's men often taunted Mohammad

Wild elephants

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returning home alone after visiting his paddy fields at about 5:30am.

Hearing his hue and cry, locals rushed to the spot and rescued him.

Faridul was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where on-duty doctor declared him dead.

Shafiul said the farmers were more careful to their paddy fields, as the wild elephants have been staying in the hilly areas for last 20 days.

The elephants come down from the hills during harvesting season, he added.

Train link

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when it was heading for Sylhet.

Train movement on Dhaka-Chittagong, Dhaka-Noakhali, Sylhet-Chittagong and Sylhet-Noakhali routes were halted following the derailment, sources said.

The rail links were restored at about 1:30pm after a rescue train from Laksam station undertook the salvage operation, sources at Akhaura and Brahmanbaria railway stations said.

Gaddafi forces

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night on the airport road, and tried to enter the city. We've stopped them at the outer limits, at least for now."

He said his group had come under mortar and rocket-propelled grenade fire, and three or four of them were wounded.

AFP journalists reported whistling sounds followed by a volley of detonations from the direction of the airport early afternoon, with an enormous plume of grey smoke rising over the area.

A constant stream of casualties was brought in to the city's main hospital, with several rebels saying the men had been wounded in a counter-attack by regime forces.

Earlier, fierce clashes and continuous explosions were heard in the suburbs, an AFP journalist said, and at mid-day the hospital reported a toll of two dead and 16 wounded.

Dr Khalid Abu Falra of the city's medical committee said that a small clinic in the western suburbs also reported at least three deaths.

Western Mistrata also came under seemingly indiscriminate mortar and rocket fire yesterday as a Nato warplane flew overhead, witnesses and medics said.

While the Libyan forces were battling in Dehiba, the rebels who are fighting to end more than four decades of Gaddafi's rule announced they had seized back the border post.

Rebels seized the post a week ago, as it controls the only road link which their comrades in Libya's Western Mountains have with the outside world, making them rely otherwise on rough tracks for supplies of food, fuel and medicine.

After weeks of advances and retreats by rebel and government forces along the Mediterranean coast, fighting has settled into a pattern of clashes and skirmishes.

The fighting for the crossing between Dehiba in Tunisia and Wazin on the Libyan side was typical of the fluid and confused conflict, which broke out in mid-February.

Some of Gaddafi's soldiers were killed and wounded in the fighting in Dehiba. Two residents told Reuters that shells had fallen on the town from pro-Gaddafi positions across the border in Libya.

"Rounds from the bombardment are falling on houses.... A Tunisian woman was injured," one of the residents, called Ali, told Reuters by telephone.

He said later the fighting and shelling had stopped. "The Tunisian army is combining the town. We have no idea about the fate of Gaddafi's forces there because the Tunisian army closed the gates to the town and nobody is allowed to enter."