

GUNFIGHT IN NOAKHALI  
7 bullet-hitOUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Noakhalikai

At least seven people, including five policemen, got shot yesterday when supporters of a local union parishad chairman opened fire on police and the law enforcers retaliated at Madanpur of Laxmipur.

The injured include constables Saiful Islam, Md Hanif, Ismail Hossain, Sharif Hossain, Mizanur Rahman and auto-rickshaw driver Abdul Barek.

The injured were admitted to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital.

Police and locals said a gunfight broke out yesterday afternoon between the supporters of Bashikpur union parishad Chairman Abul Kashem, also an Awami Leaguer, and "Masum Bahini" over establishing supremacy in Balaishpur.

On information, police went there and the groups retreated.

However, around 3:00pm, supporters of the union parishad chairman opened fire on police when the law enforcers were going to Madanpur.

The law enforcers retaliated and the gun battle ensued.

Police later recovered 20 bullets from the spot but failed to arrest anyone in this connection.

## Call for unity

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and Christians belong to the mainstream group, while a small number of people, who were defeated in 1971, are the minority.

"We shouldn't forget that we got independence at the expense of blood of Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Christians.... If we retain our unity, no power would be able to resist us," he mentioned.

National Human Rights Commission Chairman Mizanur Rahman said, "Nobody has given you [political parties] the right to do business with religion and use it as a political weapon. Even if you think this way, you should know that those days are over."

Pointing to the recent mayhem in Fatikchhari of Chittagong, he said, "If this is the purpose of politics, then we do reject and hate that politics."

Rights activist Sultana Kamal said the attacks on religious minorities are actually attacks on the people who believe in secularism.

Asking the audience not to be afraid of the attacks, she noted that people who are against the spirit of Liberation War must be defeated and humanity will prevail.

Minister without portfolio Suranjit Sengupta said the religious minorities have suffered in the independent Bangladesh. Even the majority of the 30 lakh martyrs of the Liberation War were Hindus.

Former minister and BNP standing committee member MK Anwar said the Hindus, Buddhists and Christians have the same rights as the Muslims (in Bangladesh).

He warned that the government will have to pay the price if it does not take steps to stop oppression on religious minorities.

"For how long the minority community will have to endure torture?" questioned Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad.

He called for building a consensus among national leaders irrespective of political divides to stop repression on religious minorities.

Earlier, Maj Gen (retd) CR Dutta Bar Uttam, sector commander of Liberation War, inaugurated a procession. Hundreds of people from the minority communities joined the procession holding banners with slogans for stopping repression.

During hartial hours on April 11, Jamaat-e-Islami, a key component of the BNP-led 18-party alliance, and Hefajat-e-Islam joined in by locals attacked an anti-hartial procession in Fatikchhari, leaving three Awami League men killed and scores injured.

## Suspect killed

FROM PAGE 20

known to the FBI as Suspect No 1 and was seen in surveillance footage in a black baseball cap, was killed overnight, officials said. His brother, a 19-year-old college student who was dubbed Suspect No 2 and was seen wearing a white, backward baseball cap in the images from Monday's deadly bombing at the marathon finish line -- escaped.

The search for the vehicle led to a chase that ended in Watertown, where authorities said the suspects threw explosive devices from the car and exchanged gunfire with police. A transit police officer was severely wounded, authorities said.

Authorities in Boston suspended all mass transit and warned close to 1 million people in the entire city and some of its suburbs to stay indoors as the hunt for Suspect No 2 went on. Businesses were asked not to open. People waiting at bus and subway stops were told to go home.

From Watertown to Cambridge, police SWAT teams, sharpshooters and FBI agents with armored vehicles surrounded various buildings as police helicopters buzzed overhead.

"I heard the explosion, so I stepped back from that area, then I went back out and heard a second one," she said. "It was very loud. It shook the house a little."

She said a police officer later knocked on her door and told her there was an undetonated improvised explosive device in the street and warned her to stay away from the windows.

"It was on the street, right near our kitchen window," she said.

Boston cab driver Imran Saif said he was standing on a street corner at a police barricade across from a diner when he heard an explosion.

"I heard a loud boom and then a rapid succession of pop, pop, pop," he said. "It sounded like automatic weapons. And then I heard the second explosion."

He said he could smell something burning and advanced to check it out but area residents at their windows yelled at him, "Hey, it's gunfire! Don't go that way!"

Doctors at a Boston hospital where Tamerlan Tsarnaev died said they treated a man with a possible blast injury and multiple gunshot wounds.

Authorities have shed no light on the motive for the attack and have said it is unclear whether it was the work of domestic or international terrorists or someone else entirely with an unknown agenda.

The endgame -- at least for Suspect No 1 -- came just hours after the FBI released photos and video of the two young men at the finish line and appealed to the public for help in identifying and capturing them. Tips came pouring in to the FBI immediately, but exactly how authorities managed to close in on the two was not immediately disclosed.

The men's uncle, Rulian Tsarni of Montgomery Village, told The Associated Press that the brothers traveled here together from the Russian region near Chechnya.

Authorities said surveillance tape recorded late Thursday showed Suspect No 2 during a robbery of a convenience store in Cambridge, near the cam-

**200-yr-old**

FROM PAGE 1

BNP men are behind the attack.

Police, meanwhile, arrested Haridashdi-Mahendradi union unit BNP President Abul Kalam Azad yesterday afternoon suspecting his involvement in the incident.

Mofazzal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rajoir Police Station, said they were yet to identify the attackers and that they were investigating the incident.

Uttam Banerjee, president of the temple managing committee, said locals rushed to the spot on seeing the flames but the temple had been badly burnt before they could bring the flames under control.

In December last year, miscreants vandalised some idols of the same temple, he added.

Temples of the Hindus in several districts came under attacks in the past few months.

Mahmuda Begum, a housewife who lives next to the temple, said they saw the temple on fire around 3:00am and began to scream.

Harinath Bhattacharya, whose ancestors had donated the land for building the temple, said they were upset to see repeated attacks on the temple.

Mohammed Md. Rizvi, another villager, said, "My father and grandfather used to offer prayers at the 200-year-old temple that burnt down before our eyes."

Nasirul Islam, additional superintendent of police in Madaripur, visited the spot and said law enforcers were gathering information and were trying to catch the culprits.

The plant would have 25-metre high chimney with its efficiency level being 99.99 percent. So, there is no chance of any major damage to environment, Uma Sankar added.

On January 29 last year, Dhaka and New Delhi had signed a joint venture agreement to set up Bangladesh's biggest power plant at Rampal. The NTPC has already completed feasibility study and other preparations to install the plant.

The Indian power secretary had said they would use technologies that consume less coal and keep the level of pollution very low. Moreover, Bangladesh would import coal from Indonesia which is proven to be of high quality.

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The court also ordered filing a regular case against the factory owner, Mohammad Abul Kalam, who was not available at the spot during the drive.

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## One-seater

FROM PAGE 20

students from Technische Universität Muenchen in cooperation with Singapore's Nanyang Technological University, was revealed at the 3rd Taiwan International Electric Vehicle Show.

Its inventors claim it is as agile and affordable as a scooter while as safe and comfortable as a car.

The 2-wheel Voi electric scooter is designed as a transporter for densely populated megacities where congested traffic is a major problem.

"For anyone living in a megacity, being stuck for hours in gridlock is a part and parcel of everyday life," its developers say.

"This makes it hard to travel quickly and efficiently in personal modes of transport such as a car or taxi."

"While motorcycles offer a possible alternative to navigate through heavy urban traffic, it is often not a viable option for business people who need to arrive safely, comfortably and most importantly, dry."

Positioning the driver at the rear of the scooter allows for a compact design with an enclosed passenger cabin in front that shields occupants from the elements, the designers said.

The lightweight scooter can reach speeds of 30mph with a range of around 50 miles, they said, with zero tailpipe emissions.

It is also not limited to transporting passengers, the designers said - its modular front pod can be swapped for a cargo box or even a mobile kitchen, making it a multipurpose urban vehicle.

In Vietnamese, "voi" literally translates to elephant, and is a symbol of a safe and intelligent way of transport.

## HSC exams

FROM PAGE 1

Khaleda Zia has been inviting "bad times" by enforcing recurrent hartals and killing people, added Hasina, also the president of Awami League.

Referring to BNP's threat to carry out attacks on the AL men like the way Jamaat-Shibir men did recently at Fatikchhari of Chittagong, the prime minister said killing people is the character of BNP.

She questioned what kind of religion the Jamaat-Shibir men practise when they use mosques for misleading people, humiliate the imam of national mosque and bar people from saying prayers there properly.

The AL chief directed the Krishak League leaders to strengthen the organisation, stand by the people and farmers across the country and tell them about the successes of the government.

She also asked them to inspire people not to leave an inch of land uncultivated. The government has focused on seeds research and that is why there has been bumper production in the country in recent years, she added.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said due to the tremendous success in the agriculture sector, the government did not have to import rice in the last 22 months. Rather, it exported some fine rice abroad.

AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif, Krishak League general secretary Shamsul Haque Reza and joint secretary Samir Chandra also spoke at the programme, chaired by its president Motahar Hossain Mollah.

Bangladesh Games, the country's biggest national sporting event, kicks off today in the capital.

## Danger

FROM PAGE 1

Standards and Testing Institution] seal and using harmful colours in their products.

The owner paid the fine money but broke open the seal illegally and went into production the same way, he added.

The court yesterday again sealed off the factory and ordered to destroy 500 kilogrammes of products including talcum powder, colour and condensed sugar.

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