

2 dead in US school shooting

CNN

A student at Washington state's Marysville-Pilchuck High School walked into the school's cafeteria, went up to a table with students, "came up from behind ... and fired about six bullets into the backs of them," witness Jordan Luton told CNN. "They were his friends, so it wasn't just random," Luton said.

The gunman who opened fire Friday morning at Marysville-Pilchuck High School, just north of Seattle, shot five people, killing one, before turning the gun on himself, law enforcement officials told CNN.

Authorities "are confident that there is only one single shooter," Marysville police spokesman Robb Lamoureux told reporters.

The shooter -- a student at the school -- and another person are dead, he said.

Two federal law enforcement sources with knowledge of the investigation told CNN that four people have been wounded. Three were critical and one was in serious condition, they

said.

Three people were in surgery at Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett, and one person was being transferred to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, hospital spokeswoman Erin Al-Wazan said.

Another federal law enforcement official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said the shooter died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Authorities first learned about the shooting after getting a 911 phone call around 10:30 a.m. (1:30 p.m. ET) from someone inside the school, Lamoureux said.

"The Marysville-Pilchuck High School is currently in lockdown due to an emergency situation," the school district said in a statement.

"Police and emergency services have responded. The Marysville School District lock down procedures will remain in effect at Pilchuck until further notice from law enforcement."

A student locked down inside a classroom told CNN by phone that the shooting began in the cafeteria.

The student, whose name is being

withheld, said when the shooting began students initially thought it was a fire drill until teachers told everyone to run into classrooms because there was a shooting.

At least one person has been airlifted, according to the student.

The student said she was hiding in a classroom with other students, all of whom are unharmed.

A student who says he was in the cafeteria when the shooting began told CNN he called the police, and then gave his phone to a teacher.

The student described a chaotic and bloody scene, saying blood was "everywhere."

He claimed to know the shooter, describing the gunman as a popular student who recently had been the victim of bullying.

Medeana Johnson, mother of a boy who is a junior at the school, told CNN affiliate KIRO-TV that her son said a boy opened fire near the cafeteria. She said her son told her he was supposed to be in the cafeteria but stopped to chat with someone and so didn't go in.

Nato calls on Russia to pull out troops

AFP, Brussels

NATO head Jens Stoltenberg called on Russia yesterday to withdraw its troops from Ukraine as the country prepares for key national elections which pro-Moscow rebels plan to prevent in areas they control.

Stoltenberg, who took office last month with the crisis top of his agenda, said Russia's continued presence and support for the rebels violated international law, as well as Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Moscow denies that it has any military presence in Ukraine or that it supplies pro-Russian rebels there with weapons.

2 cops closed

FROM PAGE 16

police tried to conceal it, sources said.

Following complaint from the boy, a primary investigation found the cops' involvement in the matter. Later, the duo were closed on October 9 and transferred to Razarbagh Police Lines, Wahidul Islam, additional deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Tejgaon Division) told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We are conducting a full investigation into the incident. If found guilty, departmental action will be taken against them," he said.

When the boy was in custody, his father, who is currently posted in Tourist Police, was a commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police, said police.

The cops disregarded the claim saying people usually say they have connections with high-ups when they are detained.

Later, Rakibur's family had to bribe the cops for his release.

Yesterday, DIG Shafiq told The Daily Star that the duo had taken Tk 40,000 from his son and that his son had filed a complaint with the DC of Tejgaon division.

He asked this correspondent to contact with the police officials of Tejgaon Division for details.

Contacted, SI Farman declined to comment.

Earlier on October 13, all 19 members of Pashchim Bhashantek Police Outpost were suspended for allegations that they had been maintaining close relations with local goons.

On Wednesday, Anwar Hossain, sub-inspector of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station, was arrested for shooting a man in the capital over personal enmity.

Latif expelled from AL

FROM PAGE 1

Latif would not be allowed to appeal against his expulsion.

Ashraf's comments make it clear that Latif indeed had sent his reply to the show-cause notice sent by the AL on October 14 asking him to explain why his party membership wouldn't be cancelled. However, the ruling party never officially admitted it.

On whether or not Latif would retain his membership in parliament, the AL spokesperson said the party resolution would be sent to the Election Commission, the sole authority to decide on the matter. "Whatever decision the Election Commission makes will be the final one."

According to article 46 (Kha) of the AL constitution, appeals can be made to the AL national committee against any punishment measure taken by the ALCWC. And the decision made by the AL national committee will be considered the final.

However, Latif has been denied this opportunity.

Latif was sacked from the cabinet on October 12 and from the AL Presidium, the party's highest policy-making body, the same day following his comments demeaning hajj, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Tablighi Jamaat at a programme in the US on September 28. His remarks triggered a whirlwind of criticisms at home and abroad.

On October 14, the AL sent the

show-cause notice that was received by the caretaker of Latif's house in Kalihati of Tangail a day after.

Latif is currently in Kolkata.

He is the first AL central committee member to have lost party membership since Sheikh Hasina took up the reins of the AL in 1981.

Also, Latif is the first to have been sacked from the cabinet since parliamentary democracy was restored in the country in 1991 and the second in the history of Bangladesh. In 1980, president Ziaur Rahman removed Moudud Ahmed, now a BNP standing committee member, from the cabinet.

WHAT HAPPENED IN THE MEETING Meeting sources said at the beginning, Syed Ashraful Islam read out the show-cause notice and Latif's reply.

In the notice, the AL wrote, "Your statements go against the party policy and principles and clearly violate the party's declaration and constitution. So, explain in seven working days why you won't be expelled from the party permanently for acting against the party charter."

In reply, Latif neither admitted his fault nor regretted the comments he made about hajj and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Rather, sources said, "he defended himself saying the Awami League dropped the word 'Muslim' from its name in 1955 to give it a secular character. Moreover, the party ensured freedom of speech and expression

through its constitution. And so, he can express his feelings about any issue."

Latif, however, regretted that AL leaders got into "an embarrassing situation" for what he did.

Highlighting his contribution to the party, the former AL leader requested not to cancel his primary membership in the party, saying he wanted to work for the party and for Sheikh Hasina for the rest of his life.

In response, Hasina said that AL was a secular political party didn't mean the party was against religion.

"Latif's answer is not acceptable; rather he tried to make the Awami League's secular charter questionable. Latif left us no scope for keeping him in the party," a central AL leader quoted Hasina as saying.

PM BLASTS KHALEDA Before the closed-door meeting of the ALCWC began at 7:00pm, Sheikh Hasina addressed her party colleagues.

The premier bitterly criticised BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for her threat to launch a movement to topple the government, and warned the BNP of "befitting answers" if it tried to harm the people.

"The BNP's movement means terrorism and militancy. If the BNP goes for it, the government will not spare the party," she was quoted as saying.

JMB men behind Burdwan blast

FROM PAGE 1

Abdul Hakim alias Hassan, was injured and arrested besides three others, including two women.

The NIA Director General Sharad Kumar yesterday visited the house in Burdwan, where the blast had taken place leaving two persons dead, and reviewed the progress in the investigation agency's probe into the case.

He examined the rooms and went up to the terrace of the building. After

spending about 30 minutes there, he visited another house at nearby Mathpara on Badsahi Road in Burdwan where 40 improvised hand grenades were found.

The NIA director general also visited the house which one of the dead terrorists Shakil had rented in Beldanga in Murshidabad. He also went to 'Burqa Ghar', apparently a burqa making unit run by Ahmed but suspected to have been used by him as a place to

meet other accused persons.

The NIA investigators during a search operation jointly with the Burdwan district police found Improvised Explosive Devices from this house belonging to Rezaul Karim.

Three persons, including two women -- one of them the widow of a suspected terrorist who died in the blast -- were arrested and interrogated by the NIA.

repent for what he did to the nation in 1971.

The people of Bangladesh are generous enough allowing him to be buried here, she added.

IMRAN H SARKER

"The long delay in trying Azam has deprived the nation of justice," said Imran H Sarker, leader of a Gonojagoron Mancha faction.

He urged the government to stay alert to further delay in the ongoing trials.

Imran-led Gonojagoron Mancha yesterday opened a four-day exhibition at Shabbagh on the crimes committed by Ghulam Azam during and after the Liberation War, 1971.

NIA visits Burdwan blast site

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The head of India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) yesterday visited the house in Burdwan district of West Bengal where a blast had taken place killing two persons with suspected links to Jamaatul-Mujahideen Bangladesh.

Sharad Kumar, NIA Director General, examined the rooms and went to the terrace of the house. After spending about 30 minutes, he went to visit another house at nearby Mathpara on Badsahi Road where 40 improvised hand grenades were found.

NIA is probing the Burdwan blast which had taken place on October 2. NIA investigators, during a search operation, had found the improvised explosive devices from this house of one Rezaul Karim.

The police said the NIA Director General later set out for Beldanga in Murshidabad district to visit the house where one of the dead terrorist Shakil stayed on a rent.

Kumar visited Burdwan to meet assess the progress into the blast at Khagragarh in Burdwan town.

Three persons, including two women - one of them the widow of a suspected terrorist who died in the blast have been arrested and interrogated by NIA.

Abducted Chinese worker freed in Sudan: Minister

AFP, Khartoum

Sudan's security forces have freed a Chinese worker abducted last week in the conflict-hit West Kordofan region, the oil minister said yesterday.

"The security apparatus has been working day and night to reach the perpetrators and free the hostage," Oil Minister Makkawi Mohamed Awad said in a statement carried by official SUNA news agency.

The Chinese embassy in Khartoum did not immediately comment on the incident.

In the same operation, security forces captured the alleged killers of a Sudanese engineer who was shot last week near the town of Baleela in the same southern region, the minister said.

BSF kills one

FROM PAGE 2

district found the body around 9:30am and informed the BSF.

When the BSF became sure the deceased was not an Indian citizen, it informed the BGB about the body.

In the afternoon, BGB officials sent a letter to the BSF, asking for returning the body when the victim was identified as a Bangladeshi.

The BSF handed over the body to the BGB through a company commander-level flag meeting.

Family members of the victim said Ershad had been missing since Thursday afternoon. They said the BSF might have killed Ershad with sharp weapons as the body bore several injury marks.

Dhaka to start

FROM PAGE 16

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali was briefing journalists at his office on the forthcoming visits of the president and prime minister to the United Arab Emirates.

The 118 self-claimed Bangladeshis are now staying in five or six detention centres in Thailand and the Thai authorities, in the first phase, would give us consular access only to the 30 of them, said Kamal.

The foreign minister on October 19 said Bangladesh had sought consular access to verify nationalities of the 118 "victims of human trafficking".

According to media reports, Thai police rescued the victims recently after they had been confined in a Southern Thailand rubber plantation deep in the jungle for days.

Traffickers had lured them with well-paid jobs either in Thailand or Malaysia and picked them up from the coast of Cox's Bazar sometime in late September.

Student held

FROM PAGE 16

As the Dhaka-bound 'Saudi Paribahan' bus reached near the check-post, police raided the vehicle. While the passengers were being searched, Morshed, a student of a private university in Chittagong, tried to flee suddenly.

Police caught him and found the gold bars, weighing around 4kg, hidden inside his pant, said Moazzem.

During preliminary investigation, Morshed said he was offered Tk 7,000 for carrying the gold bars to Dhaka.

A case was filed against the arrestee, said the police official.

29 killed in Egypt attacks

BBC ONLINE

A suspected jihadist car bomb yesterday killed at least 26 Egyptian soldiers at a checkpoint in Sinai, officials say.

The attack took place near El Arish, the main town in the north of the restive peninsula. Three more died in a shooting in the town itself.

The bomb blast is one of the deadliest attacks in Sinai for months. At least 28 more people were injured.

The army has been fighting a campaign against Sinai-based militants, who have carried out a string of attacks there.

The area has become increasingly lawless since President Hosni

Mubarak was overthrown in 2011.

Militants further stepped up their attacks after Islamist President Mohammed Morsi was ousted by the army last year.

Security forces have been carrying out an offensive in northern Sinai, killing and capturing dozens of suspected members of jihadist groups.

Many of the casualties from the bomb blast were ferried to Cairo by helicopter.

Sources told the Reuters news agency that the bomb attack targeted two armoured vehicles which stopped at a checkpoint near an army installation.

AL has history

FROM PAGE 16

minister in an exclusive interview published by The Times of India on Thursday.

Khaleda was speaking to Jaideep Mazumdar at her office in Dhaka on her expectations of the new government in New Delhi and ties between the two countries.

The BNP will always set its own policies, she said, while replying to a question on whether her alliance with Jamaat will be a hindrance in fostering ties with the BJP, the ruling party of India.

"We will do all that is needed to ensure the welfare of our people in close collaboration with our neighbours and other friends in the international community. Our relations with BJP will be fostered in that light," she told the newspaper.

To a query on government steps to root out anti-India militant groups from Bangladesh, Khaleda said the Hasina administration is reported to have entered a number of security agreements with India.

However, she said, the people of Bangladesh are unaware of the extent and details of those agreements.

"We are also unaware of the degree to which these have been successful. Recent media reports however abound with reference to arms hauls, bomb blasts, activities of militant and extremist groups and the nexus

between drugs, money and arms smuggling."

Khaleda claimed her party will never tolerate any act of terrorism, militancy or extremism.

"We have acted resolutely against all extremists and terrorist groups by clamping down on them, arresting them and bringing them before law. We also remain firm that we shall never allow our territory to be used by anyone for purposes inimical to the interest of India."

Khaleda alleged that there is a concerted campaign to create an impression that BNP is not friendly towards India. She claimed this is "far from truth".

"The main success of the BNP foreign policy lies in the fact that we have been able to ensure friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all countries," she said, asked about the "common perception" in India that the Awami League is friendly towards India while BNP is not.

"Our relations with India are based on the principles of mutual benefit and respect. During my interactions with successive Indian leaders over the years, I have been able to convey to them how we can work together to strengthen our relations in all fields and that it be pursued keeping in mind the interest of our people.

"I got the impression that our points of view were well-received."

Haunted forever

FROM PAGE 1

I have of them," she said, pointing to the photographs.

After her father's death, some relatives are not as keen on providing her with shelter and care. Now she is staying with the family of Aslam Miah, another relative, at a Bihari camp in Mohammadpur.

She is still recovering from the burns as doctors said a surgery is required in her right hand, said Aslam.

In spite of her colossal loss, Farzana still dreams of better days. Talking to The Daily Star, she said she wanted to resume her studies after recuperating fully.

On the morning of June 14, their house was burned during a series of attacks allegedly carried out by local Awami League men who were aided by police, in which Farzana lost her mother and six siblings, among others. **NO PROGRESS IN INVESTIGATION**

Police are yet to make any significant progress in finding out the persons responsible for the arson attack, said Saiful Islam, additional deputy commissioner of DB, also investigating officer of a case filed in connection with the arson.

"So far we haven't been able to arrest anyone in this connection," he told The Daily Star over the phone.

The DB officer said they are investigating only the arson, overlooking other incidents like vandalism that occurred throughout that morning.

He claimed detectives quizzed several people who witnessed the whole incident but could not extract "any significant clue".

Four cases were filed with Pallabi Police Station in this connection on June 15. Police filed two cases while locals filed two, said Jalaluddin Bantu,

a Bihari leader.

Seven Biharis were shown arrested in one of the cases while police mentioned over a thousand unidentified Biharis as responsible for the incident, he added. The arrestees are on bail now.

Bihari leaders earlier had provided law enforcers a CD containing mobile phone clips of the incident. The Daily Star too has collected a copy of the CD.

The clip shows thick palls of smoke billowing up from Yasin's house while about a hundred people gather on the road, apparently overlooking the dreadful incident. Around the same time, a policeman is seen firing gunshots towards the camp.

Bihari leader Sadaqat Khan of Kurmitola camp alleged that law enforcers were not properly investigating as their own members might get exposed.

NONE LEFT TO SEEK JUSTICE

While alive, Farzana's father had been preparing to file a case against some persons whom he identified from the video clip.

But that chance has also evaporated with his death, said Sadaqat.

Frustrated over the inefficiency of law enforcers, Aslam said he was not interested in any lawsuit because it may cause harm to Farzana and his family.

"Now my task is to raise the orphan girl so that she can have a better life," he said.

Police arrested four persons in connection with Yasin's death including the drivers of two buses, said a police officer of Pallabi Police Station. Police also seized two buses, one of ETC Paribahan and another of Pallabi Super.

Ghulam Azam's burial

FROM PAGE 1

On July 15 last year, the International Crimes Tribunal-1 handed down the sentence after finding him guilty of the offences of conspiracy, planning, incitement, and complicity in crimes against humanity and genocide and murders during the war.

Earlier in the day, the jail authorities handed over his body to his family members after an autopsy at the Dhaka Medical College morgue.

Azmi received the body.

His body was taken to his Moghbazar home and kept in the hearse which took it there. His body will remain in the hearse parked in front of his home, said Azmi.

Many went to see the body and security in the area had been beefed

up.

Ghulam Azam had expressed a wish that his namaz-e-janaza be conducted by his party colleague Motiur Rahman Nizami or Delwar Hossain Sayedee.

Different pro-liberation organisations and individuals protested the proposal. Both of them are convicts -- Sayedee is serving life imprisonment for war crimes and Nizami got the death penalty for arms smuggling in the 10-truck arms haul case. Nizami is being tried for war crimes too.

Ghulam's lawyer Tajul Islam told The Daily Star, "We are not going to seek their [Sayedee and Nizami] parole as his [Ghulam Azam] family didn't find it realistic."

Azmi will conduct the janaza, BBC Bangla Service reported.

He got off easy

FROM PAGE 16

MUNTASSIR MAMOON

"Azam was the symbol of evil forces that committed genocide and crimes against humanity. He never repented for his role during the Liberation War in 1971," said the first prosecution witness in the war crimes case against Ghulam Azam.

"He even played politics over his janaza even before his death," he said, referring to Ghulam Azam's wish that the namaz-e-janaza be conducted by war crimes accused Nizami or convicted war criminal Sayedee.

"He is a rare breed," he observed.

FERDOUSI PRIYABHASHINI

Ferdousi Priyabhashini, artist, pro-war