Britain honours Afghan war dead

AFP, London

Britain paid tribute on Friday to its soldiers who died and served in Afghanistan with a memorial service at St Paul's Cathedral attended by Queen Elizabeth II.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby led the service, which drew a line under Britain's 13-year involvement in a conflict that cost 453 British lives.

"Today is a moment for us to say thank you," Welby told the thousands-strong congregation, blessing a cross made of shell casings that adorned a wall at Britain's Camp Bastion base in southern Afghanistan.

Prince William, his wife Kate and brother Prince Harry also took part in the service. Former prime minister Tony Blair, who decided to deploy troops in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks, also attended.

The prayers will be followed by a procession through London and a flypast on Friday in contrast with a rapid and low-key withdrawal in October when the last combat troops were airlifted out of Camp Bastion.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani told the BBC in an interview that Britain's fallen had "paid the ultimate sacrifice to enable us to live in freedom, in hope for peace, prosperity and dignity".

3 hurt

FROM PAGE 1 through its windows and door," he told The Daily Star.

A cloth trader at Gausia in Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj, Sumon is the only son of his parents. He fears that his father might have a heart attack hearing about his injuries.

On February 9, the authorities concerned had decided not to operate buses on highways after 9:00pm as arson attacks on vehicles continued unabated across the country since January 6 when the BNP-led alliance enforced the blockade. COPS-SHIBIR CLASH

Police in Chapainawabganj said a team of cops went to Shibtala in the town around 10:45am on information that around 10 Islami Chhatra Shibir men gathered there for carrying out subversive activities.

Sensing the presence of police, Shibir activists hurled two crude bombs at the law enforcers, leaving Sub-inspector Monirul Islam and constables Rasheduzzaman and Mohammad Babul injured, claimed Golam Mortuza, OC of Chapainawabganj Sadar Police

Station.

Police retaliated with four rubber bullets. Shibir activist Jibon Ali received a rubber bullet in his right leg and was undergoing treatment at Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital under police custody.

Law enforcers in the morning picked up two more Shibir men from the town.

Meanwhile, police in Naogaon recovered 12 abandoned petrol bombs from a cattle shed in Jat Amrul village of Atrai upazila around 5:00am yesterday.

Our correspondents in Chapainawabganj and Savar contributed to this report.

Stunning

FROM PAGE 16 The tombs were discovered by a team of American archaeologists alongside an Egyptian inspectors' team earlier this month near the Sheikh Abd el-Qurna dig site, situated at the feet of the Theban mountains, between the famed valleys of the Kings and

Queens over the town of al-Qurna. The first tomb was discovered on March 2, and the second was discovered on March 10.

The second tomb is believed to be of Sa-mut and his wife Ta-Khaeet, and the first one to be of Sa-Mut's father Amenhotep.

Antiquities Minister Mamdouh al-Damaty said the tombs do sadly appear to have been looted at some point and the sarcophogi containing

the bejeweled mummies were miss-"The tombs contain many stunning scenes with bright colours

painted on plaster," al-Damaty said in a statement.

"Many of the scenes represent the tomb owner and his wife in front of an offering table and a view of a goddess nursing a royal child as well

as scenes of the daily life," he added. However, the temple guard's final resting place had been vandalised for unknown reasons.

The T-shaped tomb "was deliber-Sultan Eid, the ministry's general

ately damaged in ancient times," said director.

"The name and titles of the tomb owner, some hieroglyphic texts and scenes in addition to the names of the god Amun were deliberately erased," Eid added.

Luxor, a city of some 5 lakh people on the banks of the Nile in southern Egypt, is an open-air museum of intricate temples and pharaonic

tombs.

The Daily Star celebrates FROM PAGE 16 Executive Director Sultana Kamal,

in journalism in general and in English language journalism in particular. "Throughout our 24 years of existence we stood firm and struggled hard to establish democracy, human rights,

fundamental freedoms, including and especially media freedom, gender equality, and rights of the minorities and the disadvantaged. "We stood for transparency and accountability in the government. We tried to introduce global practices in

the corporate sector and worked for a

thriving private sector-driven, marketbased economy," Rokia said. Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, reiterated the newspaper's mission to keep the people informed, without fear or favour, and "with total commitment to serve our

beloved Bangladesh". Stressing the need for a free press, he said free press is an inseparable ingredient of a country's successes. "In fact, for a democratic country,

an independent press is the best ally

for making their own electoral promises come true. It is the fundamental prerequisite for good governance ... for the success of government plans," he said. He said the newspaper will make every effort to uncover corruption and hit out against nepotism and abuse of

Daily Star has been the biggest spokesperson for everything positive in the country for the last 24 years and will remain so in the coming days. At the programme, The Daily Star honoured a group of young achievers for their contribution in their respec-

tive fields.

power. He also highlighted that The

The group included Wasfia Nazreen, conqueror of Mount Everest; Korvi Rakshand, founder of Jaago Foundation; Sabhanaz Rashid Diya, founder of One Degree Initiative Foundation; Samira Zuberi Himika, managing director and founder of Team Engine; Manik Ratan, a cartoonist; Mahmadul Hasan Sohag, chairman of Rokomari.com and Anisul Karim, a medical researcher. They all shared their future plans with the audience.

The Daily Star Editor to inaugurate the ACI Limited Chairman Anis Ud newspaper's new website.

Centre for Policy Dialogue Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan, Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman, Barrister Rafique-Ul Huq and Barrister Amirul Islam; Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader; BNP leaders Moudud Ahmed and Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman; former ministers Faruque Khan, GM Quader, Prof Abu Sayeed and M Syeduzzaman attended the function. US Ambassador in Dhaka Marcia

Stephens Bloom Bernicat, European Union Ambassador Pierre Mayaudon, Australian High Commissioner in Dhaka Greg Wilcock, Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Pankaj Saran, Rafiath Rashid Mithila; eminent sing-Korean Ambassador Lee Yun-Young, ers Abida Sultana, Fatema Tuz Zohra, and Singaporean consul Darryl Lau Fahmida Nabi, Samina Chowdhury, also graced the function.

mer chief election commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda, Ain O Salish Kendra

Distinguished Fellow Debapriya Bhattacharya, Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matiur Rahman, former caretaker government advisers M Hafizuddin Khan, Rasheda K Choudhury, Geetira Safia Chowdhury, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman, CPD Executive Director Prof Mustafizur Rahman, former EC commissioner Brig Gen (retd) M Shakhawat Hussain, Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam, Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed Founder Valerie A Taylor, BNP Chairperson's Adviser Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, Barrister Sara Hossain, Gonoshasthya Kendra Founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir, Dhaka University former VC Prof SMA Faiz, PSC Chairman Ikram Ahmed, World University VC Prof Abdul Mannan, Prime Minister's Information Adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, the Daily Samakal Editor Golam Sarwar, Chief Executive and Chief Editor of Maasranga Syed Fahim Munaim, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Kaler Kantho Editor Imdadul Haq Milon, Acting Editor of Daily Sangbad Moniruzzaman, Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafigul Alam, Sujan secretary Badiul Alam Majumder, media analyst Mohammad Jahangir, columnist Syed Abul Maksud, Liberation War Museum Trustee Sarwar Ali, DU Professor Asif Nazrul, Mohammadi Group Managing Director Rubana Huq were also present at the programme.

rights activist Hameeda Hossain, CPD

Transcom Group Chairman and CEO Latifur Rahman, Former FBCCI President Annisul Huq, former BGMEA president Anwar-ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez, former BTRC Chairman Syed Marghub Morshed, BGMEA Vice President Shahidullah Azim, Chief Corporate and People Officer of Robi Axiata Ltd Matiul Islam Nowshad, President of International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh Mahbubur Rahman, Summit Group Later, they pushed a buzzer with Chairman Muhammed Aziz Khan, Dowla, Singer Bangladesh Chairman Noted jurist Dr Kamal Hossain, Mahbub Jamil, Unilever Bangladesh CEO Kamran Bakr, Industrial and Infrastructure Development Finance Company Limited Chairman M Matiul Islam, NRB Bank Managing Director Muklesur Rahman, Al-Arafah Islami Bank Ltd MD Habibur Rahman, Western Marine Shipyard Chairman Saiful Islam, NCC Bank MD Golam Hafiz Ahmed, Bangladesh Bank Deputy Governor Nazneen Sultana, CEO of bKash Kamal Quadir, MD of City Bank Ltd Sohail R K Hussain and MD of Eastern Bank Ltd Ali Reza

Iftekhar also attended the function. Magician Jewel Aich, noted actors Aly Zaker, Sara Zaker, Tarique Anam Khan, Nima Rahman, Shampa Reza, Tanveen Sweety, Iresh Zaker and Nakib Khan, Tahsan Rahman Khan National Professor MR Khan, for- and Somnur Monir Konal; film actor Arefin Shuvo, among others, were present there.

Six bodies handed over

FROM PAGE 16 Service and Civil Defence conducted the rescue operation, sealing off the 4,062 sq ft warehouse.

The roof of the under-construction building of Sena Kalyan Sangstha caved in on Thursday around 1:00pm when workers were pouring concrete for the roof. Six bodies were recovered that day while rescuers retrieved another body from the debris of the collapsed building early yesterday.

Besides, 45 more workers, who were injured in the accident, were undergoing treatment at hospitals, including Mongla Port Authority Hospital, Rampal Upazila Health Complex, and Khulna Medical College Hospital. Of them, 23 are in critical condition.

The government and Sena Kalyan Sangstha formed two separate probe committees to investigate the incident. The seven-member government committee, led by Farukh Hossain, additional divisional commissioner of Khulna, was asked to submit its report within seven days.

Brig Gen Selim said families of the deceased workers would be provided with financial assistance, while medical expenses for the injured would be paid by the army backed company. He, however, did not specify anything further in this regard.

Meanwhile, Bagerhat district administration announced that it would give the families of the deceased Tk 20,000 each, a correspondent from Mongla reported.

Some of the injured workers said about 84 labourers were hired from Rupshaghat in Khulna for the construction of the warehouse roof. Many of them with minor injuries had already left while families of many were yet to be informed about the building collapse. So, it could not be known whether some of the workers were still missing.

However, Belayet Hossain, officer-

in-charge of Mongla Police Station, said no one has yet claimed that his or

her family member was missing. SYRIA WAR

Nearly 13,000 killed by regime torture: monitor

AFP, Beirut

Nearly 13,000 Syrians, including 108 children, have been tortured to death in regime prisons since the uprising began in March 2011, a monitoring

group said Friday. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the youngest of the 12,751 victims was just 12 years old.

"Some of the families of those killed under torture were forced to sign statements that their loved ones had been killed by rebel groups," said Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman. He told AFP the toll did not

include more than 20,000 detainees who have "disappeared" in government prisons and whose fate remains unknown. The most notorious detention

centres include those operated by Syria's Air Force Intelligence and Military Intelligence services. In total, the Britain-based

Observatory said an estimated 200,000 people have been arrested over the past four years. Security officials starve detainees

to death, deny medicine to sick prisoners and subject them to psychological torture, Abdel Rahman said. He said those arrested include

political activists, rebels and regular demonstrators. Former detainees have described

the horror of the torture techniques, many of which have become infamous throughout Syria.

Four killed

FROM PAGE 16 spot and pulled out the bus around 12:15am, he added.

The wedding party was going to Choubaria village in Manda upazila from Tobolhaati village in Mahadevpur of the district. The injured were sent to local

hospitals, said Abdur Rashid, deputy assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Rajshahi divi-

BNP leader

FROM PAGE 16

Metropolitan Police, said they had no idea where Salahuddin was. Law enforcers and State Minister

for Home Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal had earlier told the media that they were unaware of the BNP leader going missing. Hasina Ahmed, Salahuddin's wife,

they were deeply concerned about her husband's safety as police could not provide any information on him. Meanwhile, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday at a press con-

yesterday told The Daily Star that

be "released" immediately. She also threatened that the conse quence would not be good if "the government did not free him".

ference demanded that Salahuddin

"You know about one of our joint secretaries Salahuddin. Though government arrested him, it did not admit [doing so] even in the last three days," said Khaleda.

According to the BNP chief, a

similar incident happened to Nagorik

Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna. "It [government] earlier denied picking up Manna and later police

showed him arrested [in a case] after much drama," Khaleda said. Hasina Ahmed said she on Wednesday went to the Uttara [West] Police Station, but police did not

accept her general diary in connection

with her husband going "missing". Following a petition by her, the High Court on Thursday asked the government to explain as to why it should not be directed to trace and produce Salahuddin before the court at 10:30am tomorrow.

Salahuddin, a former state minister, on behalf of the BNP-led 20-party alliance frequently called hartals by issuing press releases.

15+6=17!

FROM PAGE 16 mediated between the families, and both sides returned all the gifts given before the wedding.

Most marriages in India are arranged by the families, and it is common for a bride and groom to get married without spending time in each other's company.

A police official of Rasoolabad village where the incident happened told BBC Hindi that local resident Mohar Singh had fixed his daughter Lovely's wedding to a man called Ram Baran.

"But just before the marriage ceremony Lovely came to know that Ram Baran is illiterate and she refused to marry," he said.

Mohar Singh told the Associated Press news agency that the "groom's family had kept us in the dark about his poor education".

"Even a first grader can answer this [the maths test]," he said.

Last month, another bride in Uttar Pradesh married a guest at her wedding after her groom-to-be had a seizure and collapsed.

Reports said the groom was epileptic and he had kept the information from the bride and her family.

PCJSS threatens

FROM PAGE 16 of Pahari Chhatra Parishad in Bandarban yesterday.

"The accord is not being fully implemented due to the ill intentions of the government and conspiracies hatched by a vested quarter, communal and fundamentalist groups and ultra-nationalists," he alleged.

Besides, a conspiracy is being devised to turn the CHT into a Muslim-dominated region with the eviction of the jumma people from their ancestral land, Santu Larma told his audience.

He further said the government was conspiring to abolish the jumma nation by establishing a medical college and a science and technology university in the name of development. "It is nothing but a cunning stratagem to occupy the land of jumma people." Without full implementation of

the CHT peace accord, it is not possible to ensure perennial peace in the region, he added. Santu Larma also condemned the

recent attack on a vehicle of PCJSS supporters that left at least nine indigenous people injured, and demanded punishment of those involved in the attack. K S Mong Marma, assistant organ-

ising secretary of PCJSS and Sadhuram Tripura Milton, president of PCJSS Bandarban district unit, spoke on the occasion.

Cash-cow Clarkson gives BBC major headache

AFP, London

Hosts of motoring television shows rarely generate headlines, but the furore over the suspension of "Top Gear" host Jeremy Clarkson reveals much about British society and national broadcaster the BBC.

Clarkson, who was already on his last warning from the BBC, was suspended on Tuesday following a "fracas" with an assistant producer pending an investigation. To his supporters, Clarkson is a

humorous, straight-talking man-ofthe-people standing up to the petty bureaucracy and political correctness that they blame for the country's ills. In the eyes of his detractors, he is a boorish bigot who speaks only for outof-touch white men, and whose

powerful figures belies his antiestablishment posturing. Caught in the middle is the BBC, for whom Clarkson has worked since 1988, turning the show from a specialist programme aimed at petrolheads into a weekly hit watched by five mil-

lion people in Britain, around 40

friendship with the country's most

percent of them female. Furthermore it has become a global hit, with more than 350 million viewers in 214 countries, and earns around £50 million (\$73 million, 70 million euros) in revenue each year for the broadcaster's commercial arm, BBC Worldwide.

But the BBC now faces a dilemma between losing its cash cow and not upsetting those who often find themselves in Clarkson's sights. "It is a bureaucratic machine that

must try to please everybody, because everybody pays for it," said The Economist weekly, referring to the yearly licence fee paid by British television viewers.

for cancelling the remaining shows in the current series that was being filmed when Clarkson was suspended. Uncertainly also looms over a sold-

to compensate foreign broadcasters

In the short-term, it is likely to have

out live event in Stavanger, Norway, which is due to be held on March 27 and 28.

Many believe that commercial concerns have allowed Clarkson to stay on despite a series of controversies over race.

Most damaging for Clarkson have been accusations of using the N-word while reciting an old nursery rhyme in leaked footage, something the presenter denied.

The show was censored by British broadcasting watchdog after a racially offensive Clarkson comment about an Asian man. "Top Gear" previously got into hot water over its depictions of Albanians,

Romanians and Germans, and the BBC

apologised to Mexico after the show

described Mexicans as "lazy" and "feckless". "His antics... suggest that he holds his employer in contempt and sees it as a bit of a mission, pushing the boundaries of what he sees as its political correctness," said Deborah Orr, col-

umnist with the left-leaning Guardian. "It's time for a parting of the ways." A YouGov poll found that 45 percent of Britons think he should be sacked, although a petition calling for his reinstatement has already received

over 800,000 signatures. Clarkson has often played on the perception among right-wingers that the BBC is more concerned with spreading left-wing messages.

Spectator columnist Rod Liddle echoed this sentiment, saying Clarkson "doesn't toe the usual PC (politically correct) line".

Pak court orders release

FROM PAGE 16 Lakhvi's detention.

Throughout the three-month back and forth over Lakhvi's detention, he has never been let out of Adiyala Prison in Rawalpindi.

The original bail order in December prompted an angry response from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who said it came as "a shock to all those who believe in humanity".

India yesterday reacted with displeasure to the Pakistani court's deci-

"Pakistani agencies must produce incriminating evidence available in the court of law in Pakistan. And there should be no discrimination in showing the character of terrorists. Terrorists cannot be bad or good terrorists," Junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju told reporters.

"They must ensure that Lakhvi doesn't get out on bail and doesn't get out of jail. If proper legal measures are taken then I am sure Lakhvi will not get very postive impact on the judicial out of jail."

DOUBLE GAME?

The Mumbai attacks were blamed on banned Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). India has long seethed at Pakistan's failure either to hand over or prosecute those accused of planning and organising the vio-

Lakhvi and six other suspects have been charged in Pakistan but their cases have made virtually no progress in more than five years.

Delhi accuses Islamabad of prevaricating over the trials, while Pakistan has claimed India failed to hand over crucial evidence.

The horror of the Mumbai carnage

played out on live television around the world, as commandos battled the heavily armed gunmen, who arrived by sea on the evening of November 26,

It took the authorities three days to

Delhi has long said there is evidence that "official agencies" in Pakistan were involved in plotting the attack. Islamabad denies the charge but LeT's charitable arm Jamaat-ud-Dawa

regain full control of the city and New

(JuD), seen as a front for the militant group, operates openly in the country. LeT founder Hafiz Saeed leads a high-profile existence in Pakistan despite a \$10 million US government bounty offered for his capture, regu-

larly appearing on TV and addressing large public gatherings of his follow-Maulana Abdul Aziz Alvi, the head of the Kashmir chapter of JuD, wel-

comed the court's decision. "It is a victory of truth which has a

system of Pakistan," Alvi said. Lakhvi's bail order came just days after a Taliban massacre at a school in northwest Pakistan, an outrage that prompted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to say Pakistan would not distinguish between "good Taliban and bad

Taliban". But Pakistan has long been accused of playing a "double game" with militants, supporting groups it thinks it can

use for its own strategic ends, particularly in disputed Kashmir. Pakistan and India both control part of Kashmir but claim the whole of the territory and have fought two of their three wars over it since independ-

ued in Bangladesh. Cost of some of the

projects might also increase, they

increase to 160 billion yen if Japan

gave its committed 600 billion yen,

equivalent to around \$6 billion, in the

billion yen if the committed money is

given in five years," Okuda said, add-

ing that Japan is very keen on contrib-

uting to Bangladesh's socioeconomic

tance 10 years after the Second World War

and it now ranks second in the world in

year of ODA introduction, Japan

decided to review the ODA charter so

terms of ODA gross disbursement.

Japan started giving financial assis-

Last year, on the occasion of 60th

They said the yen loan might

"The amount of loan will be 120

ence from Britain in 1947.

added.

next four years.

development.

Japan keen to help

FROM PAGE 16

Bangladesh and conducts research on possible projects including their costs. On the basis of their research findings, the agency prepares a report and, upon consultation with the Bangladesh government, submits it to the Japan government for approval.

This way Japan gave 120 billion yen, equivalent to \$1.18 billion, for five projects last year under the 35th Yen Loan Project. But Jica faced problems in conduct-

ing this year's research amid the ongoing political turmoil that has begun in early January. The visit of a Jica mission was cancelled in January and thus the entire process was delayed. "Our officials in Dhaka could not

also travel in the country. Somehow we are trying to finish the job and submit a report on the 36th Yen Loan Project," said Okuda, who could not say anything about the number of projects and the amount of financial assistance this year. Usually, the report is prepared by

the first week of February and the Japan government approves it by March as Japan's fiscal year begins from April, he added. Okuda and another official, Omaru Ako, assistant director of Jica,

that it can play a role in fulfilling the needs of this age and promote peace and prosperity of Japan and the world. "Japan's philosophy is to grow

together. It's not like rich countries giving charity to poor countries," said Akihiko Sunami, director of Japan foreign ministry's development assistance policy planning division, while explaining the ODA policy to a group of visiting journalists from various countries.

expressed fear that both the current Japan provides the ODA assistance and upcoming projects might be to more than 100 developing countries delayed if the current situation contin-

and regions.