

# Hundreds of Afghans bury woman beaten to death by mob

AFP, Kabul

Hundreds of people yesterday attended the burial of an Afghan woman who was beaten to death and set on fire by a mob for allegedly burning a copy of the Koran.

The body of Farkhunda, 27, who was lynched on Thursday by an angry crowd in central Kabul, was carried to the graveyard by women amid crowds of men, an AFP reporter said, a rare act of protest in a male-dominated society.

The crowd, shouting "Allah o Akbar" (God is greatest), demanded the government bring the killers to justice.

"This is a crime against this family, a crime against a sister and a crime against humanity," said Bari Salam, a human rights activist.

"All those involved and all those who supported her killing should be brought to justice," he said.

The lynching -- in full view of several police officers -- sparked widespread condemnation at home and worldwide.

The United Nations said Farkhunda had "suffered mental illness for many years".

But Farkhunda's father told the media his daughter had a diploma in Islamic studies and could recite the Koran by heart. He insisted she was not involved in burning the Muslim holy book.

Farkhunda's brother Najeebullah Malikzada supported his father's claim.

"Farkhunda was a deeply religious girl. She used to recite the holy Koran and pray five times a day," he told the crowd.

Footage of the attack on social media shows a number of uniformed police watching the crowd as they beat her to death, burn her body and then dump it into a river.

# Tortured

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The next day, police sent Mizanur to Baufal Upazila Judicial Magistrate's Court in Patuakhali and the court ordered him to be sent to jail.

Yesterday, Patuakhali Press Club organised a human chain in front of its office and held a protest meeting demanding the withdrawal of the "false" case against Mizanur and punitive action against the policemen who "tortured" him on Tuesday.

Over 200 journalists from Barisal and Patuakhali, and leaders of social and cultural organisations formed the human chain.

The protesters issued a seven-day ultimatum to the authorities concerned to take legal action against the guilty policemen, otherwise they would launch a movement.

# Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 16

The firm came up with the index after asking people a series of questions like "Did you feel well-rested? Did you feel respected all day? Did you smile or laugh a lot?"

According to the report, Bangladesh positioned third from the bottom. Sudan ranked lowest -- the unhappiest place to live on earth -- with a score of 47, followed by Tunisia.

In the 2013 report, Bangladesh was placed 19th from the bottom of the Gallup's "Positive Experience Index."

All of the top 10 countries with the highest Positive Experience Index scores are in Latin America. Paraguay has been listed as the happiest place on earth.

The region of the world that reports the lowest positive emotions is the Middle East and North Africa region with a score of 59.

## POSITIVE EMOTIONS WORLDWIDE

HIGHEST	LOWEST
COUNTRY   SCORE	COUNTRY   SCORE
Paraguay 89	Sudan 47
Colombia 84	Tunisia 52
Ecuador 84	Bangladesh 54
Guatemala 84	Serbia 54
Honduras 82	Turkey 54
Panama 82	Bosnia and Herzegovina 55
Venezuela 82	Georgia 55
Costa Rica 81	Lithuania 55
El Salvador 81	Nepal 55
Nicaragua 81	Afghanistan 55

## QUESTIONS 2014

- Did you feel well-rested yesterday?
- Were you treated with respect all day yesterday?
- Did you smile or laugh a lot yesterday?
- Did you learn or do something interesting yesterday?
- Did you experience the following feelings during a lot of the day yesterday? How about enjoyment?

# ISIS claims bloody attacks on Kurds, regime in Syria

AFP, Beirut

The Islamic State extremist group has claimed responsibility for a series of attacks across Syria that left dead dozens of people, in an announcement on its radio station.

In the message broadcast Saturday on Al-Bayan radio, ISIS said it was behind explosions targeting Kurdish new year festivities in northeast Syria and raids on government positions in the central province of Hama.

Forty-five people, including at least 12 children, were killed in twin bombings in the northeastern city of Hasakeh on Friday as they marked their new year's eve, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said people were too scared to celebrate on Saturday, fearing more attacks.

The IS radio station said the group detonated a car and a bike rigged with explosives in Hasakeh city, which is controlled by Kurdish fighters and Syrian regime forces.

The attacks, which took place on the bloodiest day in Syria so far this year, were widely condemned.

"Committing these barbaric crimes on this day, which amounts to a national holiday in Syria, shows that the killers have no link to the Syrian people or to their values. In fact, they lie in wait for Syrians," said the Syrian

National Council, the largest bloc in the opposition National Coalition.

"This description applies to the regime of (President Bashar) al-Assad and to the extremist terrorist organisations it has produced," it said.

Syria's foreign ministry sent letters to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the president of the UN Security Council calling for "steps to deter terrorist organisations and their funders".

ISIS declared a "caliphate" in June 2014 that straddles large parts of Iraq and Syria under its control.

In its radio statement, the Sunni Muslim extremist group also claimed responsibility for a "special operation" Friday on a government supply route linking the provinces of Hama and Aleppo to the north.

"The soldiers of the caliphate stormed regime checkpoints," Al-Bayan said, killing more than 100 regime soldiers and 15 fighters from the Lebanese militia group Hezbollah, which has intervened in Syria on behalf of the government.

The Britain-based Observatory put the Hama death toll at 63, but said other IS attacks in the province of Homs had left 20 regime forces dead.

Syria's conflict began in March 2011 with peaceful demonstrations but has since evolved into a bloody civil war increasingly dominated by the presence of jihadist groups.

# ISIS releases US military

FROM PAGE 16

The group said the 100 military staff had targeted the Islamic State group in Iraq, Syria and Yemen.

"With the huge amount of data we have from various different servers and databases, we have decided to leak 100 addresses so that our brothers residing in America can deal with you," the group wrote.

"Now we have made it easy for you by giving you addresses, all you need to do is take the final step, so what are you waiting for?"

A defense source, however, told The New York Times most of the information was in fact available in public records and did not appear to have been hacked from government servers.

A defense department official told AFP they were investigating the posting.

The United States is leading an international coalition targeting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria, where the Islamist militants have taken over swaths of territory.

ISIS has claimed responsibility for hacking attacks in the United States in the past, including against Central Command, which oversees the air war against the IS group.

In January, the hacked Centcom Twitter feed posted what appeared to be an office phone directory of officers

that was slightly out of date, forcing the military temporarily to take down the command's Twitter feed.

The words "CyberCaliphate" and "I love you ISIS" replaced Central Command's usual logo on Twitter and YouTube before the pages were suspended.

This month, the FBI said it was investigating a string of hacks that defaced US websites with imagery from the Islamic State jihadist group.

Websites including a racecar speedway in the state of Ohio, a used-clothes store in Missouri and a church in Canada were defaced with the radical group's black flag.

Attacks against similar low-profile websites were also recorded in Montana, New York, Massachusetts and Minnesota.

The Islamic state group has relied on an aggressive propaganda campaign online to appeal to possible recruits to join and support the violent Islamists in Iraq and Syria.

US commanders and senior officials have previously said the ISIS group has shown a great acumen for propaganda and for promoting itself to potential jihadist recruits.

The group has called for so-called lone wolf, or freelance, attacks in coalition countries, including the United States, Canada, Japan and Italy.

# Murder suspect

FROM PAGE 16

prime accused in the murder case, said Rab-3 operation officer Saiful Islam, also an assistant superintendent of police.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the elite force raided TT Para area near Kamalapur Railway Station around 3:00am to arrest the man, according to the Rab official.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, Monty along with three to four of his cohorts opened fire on them, forcing the Rab men to fire retaliatory shots.

Monty was shot in the incident, but his associates fled, added Saiful.

Later, he was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, said police.

A pistol and two bullets were recovered from the spot. The body was handed over to the family after an autopsy.

On Saturday, Rab detained Jahangir Hossain Sohel, another

accused in the case filed for killing Sumi, in the capital.

Rab officials claim Jahangir told them that Monty and his accomplices murdered and dismembered the girl on the rooftop of Monty's building following a row over drug peddling.

Monty's wife Farzana Mobarak yesterday told The Daily Star that her husband had been traceless for the last 10 to 12 days.

She declined to comment further.

Rickshaw-puller Kashem, who lives in a shanty near the "shoot-out" spot, said he heard some 20 to 25 gunshots around 3:00am yesterday. "Later, I heard that a man was killed there. I did not see the body as I was too afraid to come out of home that night," he said.

This correspondent talked to several neighbours of Monty. They also claimed he was a yaba trader.

Forty five people have been killed in "shootouts" or "gunfights" since January 5.

# AZM Nasir

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Nasir, who is the general secretary of the same city unit, visited Mohiuddin's residence around 10:00am yesterday. Both the leaders fed each other sweetmeats and talked about different aspects of the election.

"Mohiuddin bhai is our guardian and has vast experience regarding CCC election. I will contest the polls as per a plan and direction of him," said Nasir, who is going to contest any election for the first time with AL support.

He expressed the hope that it would be easy for him to snatch victory if he uses the experience of the city AL chief.

During the visit, he announced to form a 501-member central election conducting committee involving AL

central committee's adviser Md Ishak Miyan as chairman and ABM Mohiuddin as member secretary.

"Our politics is for the people. All eyes are now on the Chittagong City Corporation polls as it is an important place," said Mohiuddin, who was elected the CCC mayor in 1994, 2000 and 2005.

"We all have to work for Nasir as he is our party-supported candidate," said the AL leader, adding that he had warmly received Nasir.

The former mayor believes BNP and all opposition parties will take part in the mayoral election.

"I think they [BNP] also have a plan to win the election, but we will work together to ensure Nasir's victory," he added.

## LOAN DEFAULT CASE

# Court to decide today on Khaleda's appearance

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court will decide today whether BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and three members of her family have to appear before it on April 12 to submit their written statements in the Dandy Dyeing Ltd loan default case.

The three are Arafat Rahman Koko's wife Sharmila Rahman Sithi and her daughters Zafia Rahman and Zahia Rahman.

Judge Roksana Begum Happy of Artha Rin Adalat-1 yesterday fixed the date after hearing a petition submitted by the state-owned Sonali Bank Ltd for issuing a summons upon them to appear before it in connection with the case.

On March 16, the court granted a Sonali Bank petition to include the four as defendants in the case on behalf of Koko, who died on January 24.

Koko was made a defendant in the case filed for realising Tk 45.59 crore.

On October 2, 2012, Sonali Bank Ltd filed a money suit against 10 directors of Dandy Dyeing Ltd, including Koko and BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman, for defaulting on a loan amounting to Tk 45.59 crore.

The company had borrowed Tk 12.16 crore from the bank's principal office in Dhaka on October 16 in 2001, the case statement said.

As the company failed to pay it off, the principal loan plus interest became a total of Tk 45.59 crore over the last 11 years.

Other defendants in the case are Giasuddin Al-Mamun and his wife Shahina Yasmine, Nasrin Iskander, wife of late Sayeed Iskander, Shams Iskander, Shafin Iskander, Sumaiya Iskander, Mozaffar Ahmed and Kazi Galib Abdus Sattar.

# BNP announces

FROM PAGE 5

Rahman on March 26 to observe Independence Day with "due dignity."

It is not clear whether the BNP-led 20-party alliance's ongoing hartal and blockade will be withdrawn on March 26 and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will be going to the two venues.

"It is the BNP chief who will take the final decision to this end," a BNP leader close to Khaleda told The Daily Star last night.

The programmes were announced in a release undersigned by BNP Assistant Office Secretary Asadul Karim Shahin.

# Water pollution

FROM PAGE 5

Research Centre (BARC) auditorium.

He added that a feasibility study has been conducted and the government is trying to settle some issues with the neighbouring country to implement the project.

The discussion titled "Water and Sustainable Development" was jointly organised by BANCID (Bangladesh National Committee of ICID), Bangladesh Water Development Board, Institute of Water Modelling, Bangladesh Water Partnership and BARC.

Prof Mujibur Rahman said the country needs to reduce its water use for irrigation by at least 20 percent and strictly enforce environmental laws to contain industrial pollution of freshwater sources.

# Supertide turns

FROM PAGE 16

the "tide of the century", the "supertide" occurs once every 18 years when a rare alignment of the sun, moon and Earth create a massive gravitational pull on the sea.

The last "tide of the century" occurred on March 10, 1997 and the next will take place in March 2033.

On each occasion, Mont Saint-Michel provides a stunning setting for those looking to watch the phenomenon.

Incredible photos snapped from the air show Mont Saint-Michel, an 11th century abbey located off France's Normandy coast, cut off from the mainland as it was surrounded by water in the English Channel.

Perched on a rocky island, the Unesco World Heritage Site is exposed to some of the most powerful tides in the world and attracts an estimated two million visitors a year.

In nearby Saint-Malo, France, spectators were soaked by large waves which crashed over the crowded waterfront.

This high tide was close to peak levels as the sea rushed in from over eight miles out, but calm weather diminished the risk of flooding and let down some of the visitors who travelled from afar.

While it is a massive tourist draw the exceptionally high spring tide caused some anxious moments for people who live near the sea.

Parts of the coast are on high alert and people have been urged not to venture out too far during the supertide.

# DB may quiz Buet teacher

## Investigators still clueless about Avijit killers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives may interrogate Buet teacher Farseem Mannan Mohammedy in connection with the murder of writer-blogger Avijit Roy.

"If necessary, we will call him [Farseem] for questioning," Dhaka Metropolitan Police Joint Commissioner (media) Monirul Islam said while briefing journalists at the DMP media centre yesterday.

Avijit's father Prof Ajay Roy had earlier said the Buet teacher was involved in the murder.

According to Ajay, Farseem organised a meeting, which was attended by Avijit and his wife Rafida Ahmed Bonya, at Bangla Academy before the gruesome killing carried out on the Dhaka University campus on February 26.

Ajay identified the teacher as an adviser to a publication called "Zero to Infinity", a science magazine published by alleged Islami Chhatra Shibir activists.

"I have always told the investigators that the probe should look into every possible clue... so that the real murderers don't get away, making innocents the scapegoat," he told The Daily Star

yesterday. Expressing frustration as "there was no headway in the murder probe", Ajay said he would visit the office of Detective Branch of police today to know whether any progress was made in the investigation.

Investigators say they are still clueless about the killers of Avijit, who was attacked by unknown assailants while coming out of the Amar Ekushey Boo Fair with Bonya that day. She was also critically injured.

After the murder, police arrested only Shafiqur Rahman Farabi, who had issued at least a dozen death threats to Avijit for what he said demeaning Islam.

Investigators also suspect that Redwanul Azad Rana, accused in the murder of blogger Ahmed Rajib Haider, is also involved in the killing of Avijit. Rana has been "missing" since February 26.

DMP official Monirul said they were trying to identify and arrest the attackers.

After Avijit was killed, Ansar Bangla 7, presumed to be an organisation of militants, celebrated the murder in a tweet and claimed responsibility for it.

# French far right looks for gains in regional polls

AFP, Paris

France's National Front, one of the most powerful populist far right parties in Europe, eyed significant gains against President Francois Hollande's ruling socialists in regional elections yesterday.

The elections' first round got underway at 8:00 am (0700 GMT) across 101 "departments", which control issues such as school and welfare budgets.

For the National Front, yesterday was a chance to punish the Socialists and get up a head of steam for presidential elections in 2017 that some analysts believe could see the party's leader Marine Le Pen oust the unpopular Hollande.

"We'll get stuck into the regions and then we're off to invade the Elysee

(presidential palace)," Le Pen declared this week.

The FN, as Le Pen's party is known in French, has capitalised on anger over France's lacklustre economy, as well as the politically explosive issues of immigration and the integration of Islam into French society.

Polls showed the far right with about 30 percent of the overall vote, close to levels for the conservative UMP led by former president Nicolas Sarkozy.

Ultimately, the UMP was expected to make the biggest gains, benefiting from Socialist voters making a strategic switch in second-round run-offs on March 29 just to keep the far right out of power.

# 20 'missing' this year

FROM PAGE 16

detained 20 people in last two and a half months but denied involvement.

Family members concerned alleged plainclothes law enforcers had detained 20 people across the country between January 1 and March 16, ASK said in a statement signed by its Executive Director Sultana Kamal.

Based on newspaper reports, the leading rights body said whereabouts of the missing people could not be known and law enforcers had not admitted any link.

Expressing serious anxiety, ASK said most of the missing people were involved in opposition politics, adding that BNP Joint Secretary General Salauddin Ahmed, who had been missing for 13 days, was one of them.

The ASK said the families or near and dear ones of the missing people had alleged that plainclothes law enforcers picked up them [missing people], but law enforcers have denied any detention in most cases.

It further said law enforcers or responsible persons in the government were shrugging off their responsibility by claiming that they had not detained them.

# EC wants returning

FROM PAGE 16

aspirants, asking them to explain as to why they have not removed their posters, and directed them to do so immediately.

Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz told The Daily Star, "As we have appointed returning officers, they will take necessary actions to this matter. If they face difficulty, they will inform us. Then we will take steps accordingly."

However, former election commissioner M Sakhawat Hussain said it was not enough to devote the entire responsibility on the returning officer. In city corporation elections, the candidates are very powerful. So, returning officers in many cases cannot go against the powerful people, he said.

"That is why, the Election Commission should play a proactive role to back the returning officers for taking actions against flouting electoral laws," he viewed.

The EC's Secretary Sirazul Islam said, "One major problem is that we cannot locate the aspiring candidates because they are not using their addresses in posters. We will catch them when they file applications seek-

ing candidacy." He said the EC would deploy executive magistrates within one or two days to take action against violations of electoral laws.

As per electoral code of conduct, no candidate is allowed to conduct electoral campaign before 21 days from the election day. Additionally, use of billboards for electoral campaign is prohibited.

The EC on March 19 issued directives to the ROs to take necessary measures to remove such billboards, posters and leaflets by Saturday morning. But hundreds of electoral posters still remain.

Any candidate or his/her supporter may be awarded six months' imprisonment or fined Tk 50,000 or an aspirant's candidacy could be cancelled for violation of electoral code of conduct.

Elections to the bifurcated Dhaka city and Chittagong will be held on April 28. Over 60 lakh voters are entitled to elect 3 mayors and 179 councillors.

A total of 15 mayoral and 526 councillor aspirants collected nomination forms as of yesterday.