

Six of a family

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wife Dilara Begum and his grand-daughter Samia, 3; and the car driver Faruk Hossain, 45.

"We had never imagined they would come back as corpses," Monir's niece Arzina Akhter told The Daily Star between sobs.

A Dhaka-bound bus of Padma Line and a Manikganj-bound bus of Shohagh Paribahan hit the car from two opposite sides around the same time, Officer-in-Charge of Dhamrai Police Station Firoj Khalifa said, quoting witnesses.

Police seized the buses but drivers and helpers of both the vehicles managed to flee the scene, he said.

Four of the victims died on the spot while Dilara Begum, Toa and Samia died at Manikganj Sadar Hospital.

Businessmen by profession, both brothers are residents of Hemayetpur.

Traffic movement on the highway was suspended for about one and a half hours, causing a long tailback, according to locals.

Attacks on

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his demand for deployment of army one week before the April 28 election to ensure a fair voting.

Addressing a press conference at his residence, Khasru cited the April 11 attack on an electoral office of BNP-backed candidates in Jalalabad (Ward 2) and the April 16 assault on female campaigners of a 20-party affiliated councillor aspirant at Pahartali (Ward 13).

He also said BNP-backed mayor candidate M Mnajur Alam was yet to plan visits to at least 17 areas in Ward 2, as ruling party goons were resisting BNP campaigners and tearing posters in Jalalabad, Pahartali and Lalkhan Bazaar.

The BNP leader also alleged that criminals from different regions like Fenil, Raozan upazila were being brought to the city with the aim to occupy polling centres on election day.

However, Ishak Mia, convener of Nagorik Committee, which supports the pro-Awami League candidates, dismissed the allegations as BNP's propaganda to make the election controversial.

Saying that the general people are eagerly waiting to vote in the city polls, Khasru urged the government not to snatch their democratic right again as in the January 5 parliamentary election.

He criticised Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader for his comments opposing deployment of army, saying he was not authorised to make such remarks.

Khasru said the minister had been frequently visiting Chittagong in the last few weeks and giving speeches on development projects, which might influence election and was a violation of electoral rules.

CCTV CAMERAS

Apart from deploying army during the election, the government should install closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras at every polling station to ensure fair voting, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's adviser Khandaker Mahbub Hossain told an opinion sharing meeting with professionals in Chittagong city yesterday.

He said army would stay outside and there was possibility of rigging in the poll centres. "If CCTV cameras are installed, it will be easy to monitor what the golden boys (the ruling party men) are doing in the polling centre."

Bangladesh Sammilito Peshajibi Parisad, Chittagong organised the programme at a community centre.

EC dedides

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BNP-blessed contenders Tabith Awal and Mirza Abbas, Bikolpo Dhara Bangladesh-backed Mahi B Chowdhury, Jatiya Party affiliated Saifuddin Ahmed Milon, former AL lawmaker Golam Mawla Rony and at least six other mayoral aspirants are in favour of army deployment but AL-backed aspirants Anisul Huq and Sayeed Khokon said they did not see the necessity of it.

The officials of the EC, home ministry, law enforcement agencies, intelligence agencies and Armed Forces Division meet at 11:00am today to decide the matter.

Khaleda campaigns

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generated enthusiasm among party activists and the people of the area she visited. Her visit was a surprise to most.

The BNP chief started off from Gulshan-2, talking to shoppers and shopkeepers in the area and urged them to vote for "bus", Tabith's electoral symbol. She distributed leaflets herself.

Later, she visited Badda, Banani, Mohakhali, and Tejgaon areas, while her personal aides and security men chanted, through loudspeakers, slogans like "Take Khaleda Zia's salam (salute) and vote for bus".

BNP means destruction

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invite misfortunes for the mass people."

Claiming that the present government has put in its all efforts for the development of the country and the welfare of its people, Hasina said the BNP-Jamaat alliance would not be able to stop Bangladesh's march forward.

She said people had been passing their bad days since January and those bad days are over now.

Coming down heavily on BNP chief Khaleda Zia for killing more than 150 people during her alliance's 92 days of hartal and blockade in the name of a movement, she questioned what Khaleda actually achieved.

The prime minister also accused BNP leader of torching Bangladesh Railway's property apart from damaging the property of people and thus the country's image abroad.

Referring to installation of a number rail routes by the BNP government following the World Bank's prescription, the prime minister said the BNP could not do anything substantial and creative.

Hasina said her government has been implementing various projects for the development of railways which will help alleviate poverty and create huge employments alongside improving communication networks.

She said new rail lines are being set

up to bring important areas, including Faridpur, Gopalganj, Mongla Port, Cox's Bazar, Mawa, Pabna and Bhanga under the railway network.

Projects have also been undertaken to construct double lines on Dhaka-Narayanganj and Tongi-Joydevpur sections as well as 3rd and 4th lines on Dhaka-Tongi section.

Besides, works on construction of Tongi-Bhairab Bazar section 64-kilometre double line with financial assistance from the ADB will be completed by September next, she said.

On implementation of the projects, Hasina hoped that the railway communications from Dhaka to remote areas of the country would be expanded.

She said a process is underway to construct a railway bridge beside the Bangabandhu Bridge with a provision of setting up dual gauge double lines.

Besides, Hasina said, the government has been working to set up railway lines from Chittagong to Ramu via Dohazari and from Ramu to Cox's Bazar and Gundhom of Myanmar.

Railways Minister Mujibul Haque, Planning Minister AHM Mostafa Kamal and local MP Tajul Islam also joined the videoconference from Laksham.

Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharrif Hossain and senior officials of the Railways Ministry were present at Ganabhaban.

VC told to say sorry

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him and other teachers. He must apologise within seven days or face movement for his removal," Dablu Sarker said.

Replying to a question, Sarker said, "If anyone, other than the VC, can prove I misbehaved with him [the VC], I would seek apology." There was a CCTV camera installed at the VC's office, he said.

While reading out a statement at the press conference, Mahfuzur Rahman Loton, vice president of the AL's city chapter, mentioned 14 points to show how the VC had favoured the Jamaat-Shibir and the BNP in recruiting 12 staffs, ignoring quality candidates from the pro-AL Bangladesh Chhatra League.

He narrated 12 other points to show the VC's patronisation of Shibir on the campus. He said the VC was blaming the AL leaders as a trick for covering up his misdeeds.

Refuting all allegations, RU VC Prof Mizanuddin said, "The allegations were raised when the news of the assault on me and some senior teachers became public, not during the

recruitment ... The recruitment was held as per rules."

He also claimed that the CCTV camera footages would prove who misbehaved on Thursday.

On Thursday, the VC alleged that Dablu and his aides barged into his office and asked him why he had still not appointed their men. The AL men also shouted expletives and assaulted him and some senior teachers.

The previous day, Rajshahi-1 lawmaker Omar Faruque Chowdhury went to the VC's office, hurled abuses at him and threatened to get him sacked, allegedly after being asked to meet later.

Denying this, the lawmaker later said he had gone there and only talked about lessening a fine the RU authorities imposed on a private medical college.

The RU authorities imposed a fine of Tk 25 lakh on Shah Makhdom Medical College, a Rajshahi University-affiliated institution, for enrolling several students before academic approval. The MP heads the board of the medical college.

Australia FM hails Iran effort to defeat ISIS

AFP, Tehran

Australia's foreign minister yesterday hailed Iran's efforts to crush the jihadist Islamic State group in Iraq, saying on a rare trip to Tehran that the militants can be defeated.

Julie Bishop is Australia's highest-ranking official to visit Iran in 12 years and she discussed the conflict in Iraq with her Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Australia is part of an international coalition in Iraq and has 500 troops deployed there.

Iran, though not part of the coalition, has run a parallel campaign using Shiite militias and military advisers to reverse the IS surge that came close to felling the Baghdad government last June.

"We are witnessing a more complex and dangerous form of terrorism with Daesh," Bishop said at a joint press conference, using an Arabic acronym to refer to the militant group.

"Both countries can contribute in the fight against this terrorist organisation and put an end to the misery of the people in Iraq," she said, referring to Iran and Australia's efforts.

Iraq needs "a strong and stable government" added Bishop, who along with Zarif said Australia and Iran

were in Iraq at the request of the Baghdad government in fighting IS.

"The fight against Daesh and terrorism in Iraq should be managed by the Iraqi government," Zarif said. "Anything we do in Iraq is in coordination with the Iraqi government."

Bishop will later meet President Hassan Rouhani and Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign affairs adviser to supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Her trip comes after Iran and world powers reached a political framework on April 2 for a deal to end the standoff over Tehran's nuclear programme. A comprehensive agreement is due by June 30.

But in Australia public concern towards Iran has focused on asylum seekers. Iranians make up 23 percent of 1,848 people held in immigration detention centres in Australia, according to official figures from late March.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott also raised the subject last week, noting: "We will be talking to the Iranian government about taking back people who are... Iranian citizens, because they deserve to be in Iran. They belong in Iran."

However after their meeting, Bishop and Zarif gave no details of proposed changes in policy.

Everest mountaineers mourn avalanche dead one year on

AFP, Kathmandu

Hundreds of mountaineers and Sherpas in Nepal paid emotional tribute Saturday to 16 of their fellow guides who died in an avalanche on Everest a year ago, suspending climbing for the day.

The avalanche tore through a group of Sherpas who were hauling gear up the mountain on the morning of April 18, 2014, sending shock waves through the climbing community.

The disaster triggered an unprecedented shutdown of the 8,848-metre (29,029-foot) mountain, fuelling demands for better compensation as well as higher death and injury benefit payouts to the Sherpas' families.

"All teams here have decided not to climb today to mourn the friends we lost last year," Pasang Sherpa, a mountaineering guide at Everest base camp, told AFP.

"My heart races when I look at the icefall. It is a sad day for us," added Sherpa, who was at the camp when the avalanche hit last year.

Monks in Kathmandu chanted prayers and played traditional music in a monastery surrounded by family members of one of the avalanche victims, Ang Kaji Sherpa, a single father with five children.

"There is a vacuum in our family, no one to guide or scold us. We are on our own," his 20-year-old daughter, Chhechi Sherpa, said with tears in her eyes.

ISIS 'carries out'

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Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, a provincial government spokesman, confirmed the attack -- the deadliest since November.

"The explosion happened outside the bank when government employees and civilians were collecting their monthly salaries," he told AFP.

The UN gave a higher toll, saying 35 people had been killed.

President Ghani strongly condemned the attack, which saw children among those killed, his office said in a statement.

"Carrying out terrorist attacks in cities and public places are the most cowardly acts of terror by terrorists targeting innocent civilians," President Ghani said.

The scene of the attack showed the gruesome scale of the carnage with people lying in pools of blood and body parts scattered across the ground.

The bombing comes as Afghanistan braces for what is expected to be a bloody push by the Taliban at the start of the fighting season.

However, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid denied responsibility.

The militants have stepped up attacks on government and foreign targets since Washington backpedalled on plans to shrink the US force in Afghanistan this year by nearly half.

The Taliban have seen defections to ISIS in recent months, with some insurgents voicing their disaffection with their one-eyed supreme leader Mullah Omar, who has not been seen since the 2001 US-led invasion of Afghanistan.

The Afghan government has also raised the ominous prospect of IS making inroads into the country, though the group that has captured swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq has never formally acknowledged having a presence in Afghanistan.

Biman flies 337

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Delhi, said officials from Bangladesh mission in Mumbai were in the Indian capital to help coordinate onward travel of the Bangladeshis.

India had launched a massive air and sea evacuation operation late last month to bring back its nationals stranded in Yemen. India positively responded to Bangladesh's request to help it bring home the Bangladeshis stranded in the Middle Eastern country.

A total of 500 Bangladeshis have been relocated to the African country, Djibouti, from Yemen since April 3.

As India wrapped up its evacuation operation, Bangladesh plans to repatriate the remaining 136 Bangladeshis from Djibouti by a special Biman flight.

So far 26 expatriates have returned home from Yemen.

Mob kills 2

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committed the robbery, holding the family members at gunpoint, said Abdul Motaheb Miah, officer-in-charge of Savar Model Police station, quoting locals.

Locals who were patrolling the village to tackle the robbery on their own caught two of the criminals when they were fleeing with valuables, he added.

Most of the families in Hindupara are involved with silver ornament business.

Police even refused to file any case in connection with the robberies, alleged Rasamoy Das, a resident of Hindupara.

However, the OC rejected the allegation.

"GUNFIGHT" Our Jhenidah correspondent adds, the chief of an inter-district robber gang was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Magura Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The dead, Rafiqul Islam alias Moazzem, 35, was son of Atik Sardar of Satkhira's Ashashoni upazila. Moazzem used to lead the gang named after him.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team conducted a drive in Mugirdal area where around eight to 10 armed robbers were preparing to rob vehicles on Magura-Jessore highway by placing logs on the highway around 2:00am, said Munshi Asaduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the criminals opened fire on them, prompting the law enforcers to retaliate, triggering a "gunfight", he said.

During the "gunfight", Moazzem was hit by bullets and died on the spot. The others fled.

Police claimed that they recovered a rifle, two bullets, five crude bombs and several sharp weapons from the spot.

Glance journalism!

FROM PAGE 16
leading item in wearable technology, opens up new possibilities to a news industry seeking to connect with audiences in the digital era.

The New York Times says its app for the Apple Watch will be "a new form of storytelling" and that "editors on three continents" will update notifications. Readers will be able to "hand off" an article to view on an iPhone or iPad.

Yahoo will have four apps for the Apple device, including a news digest updated hourly with "microsummaries" of major stories, as well as apps for fantasy sports, weather and one specifically for Hong Kong news.

CNN and National Public Radio also have apps for the Apple Watch, and others are expected to follow.

The new technology means more bite-size news being directed at consumers, say media analysts.

"We are about to enter the era of 'a glance journalism'," says Mario Garcia, a consultant with Garcia Media and faculty member at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, in a blog post.

Garcia, who is also participating in a research project on news for smartphones with Aarhus University of Denmark, said he is "fascinated" with the possibilities.

"It is more difficult to pull an iPhone out of one's pocket or a purse in a crowded New York City subway that it would be to glance at one's watch," he said.

"So, I predict that we will be doing a lot of glancing, as in reading seductive headlines and deciding if we read or not."

NEW FORMULA NEEDED

The emergence of wearables offers a new platform for the news media -- one that is fast, personal and always on, says Robert Hernandez, who teaches mobile journalism at the University of Southern California.

"The ability to access knowledge will be quicker with the watch," Hernandez told AFP.

For newsrooms, it is "a new opportunity to be part of this person's body," Hernandez said.

And journalism will find a way to use the smartwatch, he said: "When Twitter came out people were saying 'you can't do journalism in 140 char-

acters,' but it has now become an essential tool."

Gilles Raymond, founder and chief executive of the News Republic application, says he believes the smartwatch will be an important source for news and that the Apple Watch will be an important test.

"When there is breaking news you want access to it immediately, so the watch is the ideal tool to do that," said Raymond, who is based in San Francisco for the French-based firm which offers smartphone and tablet news apps.

He said smartphone users now glance at their handsets more than 100 times a day, and with the smartwatch that could become 300 or 500 times: "It will be very addictive," he said.

Raymond said there is only limited experience with news on smartwatches now but that news organisations and apps are prepared for the possible widespread adoption of Apple Watch.

UNDERSTANDING MOBILE
Media organisations need to find the right formula for delivering short news alerts and notifications without being obtrusive or annoying. Wears of the watch are likely to fine-tune these systems to their liking.

Alan Mutter, a former Chicago newspaper editor who is now a digital media consultant, says news organisations need to think creatively about how to use new devices like the smartwatch.

"The insanely small screen cannot be just an extension of what's on the mobile phone," Mutter said.

"You have to think about how consumer uses the device and how can you do something that's valuable."

Smartwatch users may not want to feel "pecked to death" by vibrating alerts and that news publishers must strike the right balance on these notifications, he added.

Most traditional news organisations, said Mutter, failed to successfully navigate to the Web, but now have an opportunity with mobile and smartwatches.

"They need to develop their mobile presence, they need to understand it's not just a passive device.... If they do mobile right, they will be able to do Apple Watch."

Home for all

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"My main aim is to make Dhaka liveable for all. For this, I am in the mayoral race," said the 48-year-old.

His electoral symbol is "elephant." Kafee described shortage of pure drinking water and public toilet, deteriorating quality of education and poor performances by the service providers as the main problems of Dhaka.

However, talking about the limitations of the corporation, the mayoral aspirant said 56 government bodies function inside the city corporation area.

"So, it is not possible for the city corporation to solve all the issues single-handedly. Rather, its main job is to bargain on the matters with the government," he added.

"If elected, we will try to help the government implement its policies."

On a different note, Kafee claimed that the government primary schools in the capital are losing popularity due to poor educational facilities.

He promised that he would work to improve the quality of education in the institutions by ensuring that those would be run under the city corporation.

He also pledged to ensure pure drinking water and adequate number of public toilets in the capital.

Kafee's other major pledges include making Dhaka a safer place for women. "Much importance will also be given to proper health services for women," he said.

"We will introduce nutrition allowance for poor pregnant women and arrange free health care services for newborns."

Replying to a query, the mayoral hopeful said ensuring graft-free services for the city dwellers was high on his agenda.

"We want to establish a corruption-free city corporation administration. If corruption is checked, the corporation's revenue earning will increase by 30 to 40 percent and the extra amount could be used in the public interest," he added.

Also president of CPB's youth front Jubo Union, Kafee wishes to bring the entire Dhaka city under Wi-Fi coverage. "If the ICT sector flourishes, more employment opportunities will be created for our youths," he said.

The left-wing activist also promised to provide loans to young entrepreneurs, if elected, so that they could chase their dreams.

Talking about the Election Commission, Kafee said it must play a strict role in preventing the use of black money and muscle power and all other illegal activities to ensure a free and fair polling on April 28.

Faruque's graft

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Chief Executive Md Sirajul Islam.

Faruque has brought the once-vibrant Proshika Manobik Unnayan Kendra, founded in 1976, to the brink of ruin with massive financial corruption, administrative anarchy and political ambition, the convener of Proshika restoration committee told a press conference in the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Faruque, however, said all the allegations were "unfounded", claiming he has audits on all the financial transactions.

In May 2009, eight of the nine-member governing body of Proshika, one of the country's largest NGOs, removed Faruque on allegations of

massive financial and administrative irregularities and abusing Proshika for political gain and nepotism.

They appointed Abdul Wadud in his place and Mahbub-ul-Karim as chief executive officer, which the High Court allowed in an observation.

But in the early morning of May 20, 2012, Faruque took control of the head office with the help of a group loyal to him. A case he filed is still pending.

Faruque said the High Court rejected a petition stating he intruded Proshika in violation of an earlier directive.

Directors Md Sirajul Haque and Qamrul Islam Kamal and Deputy Director Md Insar Ali Pasha were present.

Dhaka mayoral

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and also visited several other wards.

Talking to reporters, Khokon said he would visit his rival Mirza Abbas' residence to seek votes. On Friday Afroza Abbas, wife of the BNP-backed candidate, visited Khokon's and sought his vote for Abbas.

Independent lawmaker Haji Selim, who had initially applied for candi-

dacy for the mayoral post in Dhaka south, joined the campaign of Khokon yesterday.

Afroza Abbas started electioneering from Gopibagh in the morning before visiting Tikatuli, Swamibagh, Wari, Dayaganj, Sutrapur, Gendaria, Faridabad and Narinda, distributing leaflets.