

Six killed

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The gunman's motives were unclear, officials said.

Kalamazoo County prosecutor Jeff Getting identified the suspect as Jason Brian Dalton, 45, and said he will face murder charges in court today.

There is "no reason to believe" more than one person was involved in the crime, Getting added.

Earlier reports of the death of a seventh victim, a teenage girl who was shot at a Cracker Barrel restaurant, were incorrect, Getting added. He said the teen was "seriously, gravely injured."

A CHAIN OF SHOOTINGS

The chain of shootings began at around 6:00 pm, when the gunman opened fire on a woman who was with her three children outside an apartment complex, he said.

She was seriously wounded but is expected to survive.

The gunman next struck at 10:00 pm, killing an 18-year-old boy and an adult male at a car dealership, according to Getting.

The last and deadliest shooting came 10 to 15 minutes later at the Cracker Barrel restaurant where four more people were killed, he said.

Video at the car dealership and the restaurant helped police identify the shooter's car, Getting said.

Dalton was arrested about two hours later when a Kalamazoo sheriff's deputy saw his car leaving a local bar in downtown Kalamazoo.

"He followed the car. The Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety was able to mobilize people as a backup. They pulled the car over without incident. They were able to make an arrest of the suspect without any significant incident," Getting said.

Police seized a semi-automatic handgun and "additional evidence" from the car, the prosecutor added.

Dalton was "pretty even-tempered" during his arrest, Getting said.

Kalamazoo is located some 190 kilometers west of the industrial city of Detroit and has a population of 76,000, according to census figures.

The killings there were among the latest in a long line of mass shootings in the United States that include the December 2 massacre in San Bernardino, California that left 14 people dead and 22 wounded, and the December 14, 2012 Sandy Hook school massacre in which 20 children and six adults were shot dead.

Gun violence claims the lives of about 30,000 Americans every year and mass shootings -- rare in most countries -- have been on the rise in the United States.

According to the tracking website gunviolencearchive.org, there were 330 mass shootings in the United States in 2015, up from 281 in 2014. They affected nearly every part of the country, reaching into both big cities and small towns.

Nephews kill 2

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Son of his another sister Rashid, who also worked there, and his brothers Jahidul and Jasim occupied Hasina's properties as she had no children.

Following this, a conflict was created between Tendol and Rashid. Locals tried to solve the dispute but failed. Tendol then filed a case with Singair Police Station in this connection.

After filing of the case, the nephews agreed to give Tendol Tk 3.5 lakh for settling the issue. They later changed their decision and refused to give the money to Tendol. They also beat up Tendol with a hammer on Friday.

Rashid, Jahidul and Jasim confined Tendol, his brother Abdul Karim and their cousin Aziz Mollah to their house yesterday morning when they went to the house for solving the feud.

Rashid and his brothers then attacked them with sharp weapons. Tendol and his cousin died on the spot and Karim was critically injured.

Karim is now undergoing treatment at Saver Enam Medical College Hospital's intensive care unit.

The bodies were sent to Manikganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsies, said Jakir Hossain, additional superintendent police in Manikganj.

He said the killers went into hiding soon after the incident. "We are trying to arrest them."

A case was filed in connection with the murder.

Bangladeshi youth's

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respect to the language martyrs through his "dream project". "Thanks to all the artists for their efforts."

The 11 foreign singers who sang the song in their own languages are from Malaysia, Lebanon, Germany, Nepal, India, Venezuela, France, Russia, the USA, Hong Kong and Italy.

The video song is also available on YouTube.

Irregular workers

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Minister Richard Riot said the MoU with Bangladesh would not be affected.

According to an earlier decision, the Malaysian government was supposed to start the legalisation process of undocumented foreign workers on February 15.

This has made undocumented Bangladeshis in Malaysia confused.

Bangladesh's Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry Acting Secretary Begum Shamsunnahar told The Daily Star that she was aware of Malaysia starting the legalisation process but had no idea about anyone's arrest or deportation.

Some 2 lakh of the total 6 lakh Bangladeshis in the Southeast Asian nation are undocumented.

In overnight raids on Friday and Saturday, Malaysian immigration police arrested 971 foreign workers, including Bangladeshis. The exact number of Bangladeshis arrested was not known.

The arrestees were accused of having no identity documents, overstaying their visas, and holding unrecognised cards of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said immigration department director general Sakib Kusmi, according to Malaysian online news portal, Malaysiakini.

Talking to The Daily Star over the phone yesterday, Sohail Rana, another Bangladeshi in the Malaysian capital, said there was an "amnesty programme" that began in 2011.

During that time, thousands of Bangladeshis paid agents appointed by the Malaysian government to get work permits but were cheated instead, he said.

The brokers of the agents took money and passport from the Bangladeshis and disappeared.

Agile Fernandez, director of

migrants' rights body -- Tenaganita -- on Friday told The Daily Star from Kuala Lumpur that it would be an injustice to the "irregular" migrants, if they were deported.

"This is because the workers were basically victims of corruption by the authorities. There are loopholes in the systems that lead to a situation where migrants cannot get their documents updated," she said.

As Malaysia has halted fresh recruitment of foreign workers, it should now first legalise all the undocumented migrants and then go for new recruitment, if needed, Fernandez added.

MOU WITH BANGLADESH
Malaysia's opposition MP Charles Santiago yesterday challenged the government to disclose details of the MoU signed with Bangladesh in relation to the 1.5 million workers "controversy".

"There is definitely a clear contradiction. This is a complicated issue and you have different ministers saying different things," he told Malaysiakini.

"A full investigation must be conducted on this entire process [of foreign workers recruitment]. It has been previously reported that a company linked to the brother of the deputy prime minister [Zahid Hamidi] was involved in the process," Santiago said.

"Since permits for foreign workers fall under the purview of the home ministry and Zahid is the home minister, could this be a reason why he was not the one who signed the deal?" he said.

Mentioning an immediate crack-down on undocumented migrants around the country, Santiago said that shows that there are a large number of foreign workers already here and the government should first look into registering them for legal employment, before bringing in more.

This, he said, would reduce the costs

Blasts in Syria kill 119

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Syria's ruling clan -- has been regularly targeted.

IS, which last month claimed a double bombing that killed 22 people, said it carried out the latest attack.

Two jihadists drove explosive-laden cars into crowds of residents, it said in an online statement.

The group also said two of its suicide bombers carried out the Sayyida Zeinab bombings.

State television said a car bombing and two suicide attacks hit the area, killing 30 and wounding dozens, whereas the Observatory gave a death toll of 62 in four attacks.

IS was also behind a massive attack in January that killed 70 people near the shrine, which contains the grave of a granddaughter of the Prophet Mohammed and is revered by Shias.

World powers have been pushing for a halt in fighting in Syria that was meant to take effect by Friday, but have struggled to agree on the terms.

The latest bombings came as Kerry said he had spoken with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov and agreed on how to implement a ceasefire.

"We have reached a provisional agreement, in principle, on the terms of the cessation of hostilities that could begin in the coming days," Kerry said in Amman.

"It is not yet done and I anticipate that our presidents, President (Barack) Obama and President (Vladimir) Putin, may well speak somewhere in the next days or so in order to try to complete this task."

World powers proposed the truce just over a week ago as part of a plan that also included expanded humanitarian access, in a bid to pave the way for peace talks to resume.

The talks, which collapsed earlier this month in Geneva, had been scheduled to resume on February 25, but the UN's Syria envoy has already acknowledged that date is no longer

realistic.

On Saturday, key opposition umbrella group the High Negotiations Committee said it would agree a temporary truce only if regime backers halted fire.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, meanwhile, told Spain's El Pais newspaper he was "ready" for a ceasefire, but said it should not be exploited by "terrorists".

On Saturday, the Kremlin said it would continue "to provide assistance and help to the armed forces of Syria in their offensive actions against terrorists".

Regime forces backed by Russian strikes were advancing east of Aleppo city against IS, consolidating their control over a stretch of highway from the city to the Kweyris military base. The Observatory said at least 50 IS fighters had been killed in clashes and Russian strikes since Saturday morning.

Tensions have been rising between Moscow and opposition-backer Ankara, alarmed by both the regime's Russian-backed advances and a major operation by Kurdish-led forces in Aleppo province.

The Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) and their Arab partners have in recent days seized key territory from rebel forces in Aleppo, prompting Turkey to shell their positions.

Ankara considers the YPG to be an affiliate of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, which has waged a decades-long insurgency against the Turkish state.

It fears the Kurdish advances are intended to link up areas in north and northeast Syria to create a contiguous semi-autonomous Kurdish zone along the Syrian-Turkish border.

Yesterday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan defended his country's fight against the YPG as "legitimate defence" after international calls for Ankara to halt its military action in

BNP crosses hurdle

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elections as Jamaat did not give any list of their candidates to us," a BNP central leader said wishing anonymity.

"In that case, we have asked our grassroots leaders to reach a consensus with Jamaat locally if possible. In case of failure, BNP candidates will also contest along with Jamaat men in several union parishads," the BNP leader added.

The insiders said the party might give eight to 10 UP chairman posts to Jamaat and four to five to other components of the alliance.

"If there is any understanding, BNP candidates will withdraw their nomination from those union parishads," Emran Saleh Prince told The Daily Star.

In a secretary general level meeting of the 20-party alliance held on February 19, no representatives from Jamaat showed up. This indicated that Jamaat was not pleased with the way BNP was selecting chairman candidates.

In that meeting, BNP acting secretary general Fakhrul Islam Alamgir called upon the alliance leaders to submit names of the prospective

chairman candidates from their respective parties.

But only two components submitted lists of their candidates.

Teenager gang

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Swadhin called her over the phone and asked her to go out with him to have phuchka (street food).

Later, he somehow convinced her to go to his friend Sajeb's family flat with him on Muktiyodhya Road in the same area, said the police official.

Sajeb's family members were away. Then, the five youths allegedly gang-raped her in the flat for three hours from 3:00am yesterday.

The victim after getting out of the flat went straight to the police station and filed a case against seven people, including the five arrestees.

The police official said they arrested the youths from several areas of the city and were trying to detain the other two accused in the case.

The victim would be sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital today for forensic examinations, he added.

To protect

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"Through this, all the languages spoken by the ethnic communities in the country will be documented. There will be efforts after that to develop writing system for languages that do not have any written scripts or formal linguistic methods. This will make our education system more inclusive," he explained.

A virtual archive of the languages of the world, both ancient and modern, is also being developed. Ali said work on written languages of Asia was complete while that of the European, American and African ones is still underway.

The archive would also hold audio clips of languages, even ancient ones. Replicas of inscriptions from the Mohenjo-Daro and the Asoka era have been acquired to add to the ancient writing systems section, Ali said. He expected the work to be completed by June this year.

IMLI has taken up a number of other activities over the last five years, informs Dr Ali.

One of these is the development of software that can be used to compose scientific books in Bangla. This would make it easier to insert scientific symbols, Ali said.

From March this year, IMLI will start a Foreign Language Training Centre. Workers going abroad will receive a three-month communication skills training there.

"We will start with Arabic and Malay (Bahasa Malay) and later other courses may be offered," said Ali adding that the institute would also run a Bangla course for foreigners.

The institution, however, is short in manpower, he said. "At present, our survey is outsourced. It could be done cheaper if we had our own researchers," Ali said, adding that since the field of language research is still new here, it is hard to find good workforce.

US embassy

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traditions of welcoming immigrants.

These employees discussed how their mother language enriched their lives and the United States.

"Language is the lifeblood of a nation, and we pay tribute to those who helped preserve the Bangla language throughout a dark period in history," said Ambassador Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat.

"Our team at the embassy is honored to share this video with you," the ambassador added.

The video can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/bangladesh.usembassy/videos/vb.103157219806/10153636734784807/>.

Indian Air Force

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chiefs of Bangladesh Armed Forces.

He is expected to call on the president and the prime minister.

Arup Raha will visit the air bases in Jessore, Bashar and Chittagong, the National Defence College in Dhaka, Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST) in Mirpur and Bangladesh Army Headquarters.

He will also gift advanced training aids comprising of aircraft sub assemblies to MIST, Mirpur. The Indian air force chief will also gift airframe of Alloute aircraft to the Liberation War Museum, according to a press release of the High Commission of India in Bangladesh.

More than 7

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statement on day four of his 10 day remand.

Both the accused in their statements said they knocked the children out, strangled them, and buried their bodies in the sand.

Police had arrested Jewel Wednesday afternoon.

Meanwhile, police produced another accused Saleh Ahmed, arrested on Saturday, before the court and sought 10 days of remand.

The court set today for the hearing on the remand prayer.

Bachchu Mia, another accused, of the same village is traceless. His family claims that plainclothes men, who arrived on a motorbike, picked up the CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver from his home five days ago.

Bachchu's wife Rina Akther said two men in plainclothes "picked up my husband showing police identity cards".

Law enforcers outright rejected the allegation yesterday.

However, Bachchu's mother Elai and Rina demanded capital punishment for the killers of the four children.

Mosharraf Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bahubal Police Station, said they had no idea where Bachchu was.

According to police, Bachchu was one of the planners of the murder. His name also came up in the confessional statements of Rubel and another arrestee Arju.

Bodies of the children -- Monir Miah, 7, Zakaria Shuvo, 8, Mohammad Tajel Mia, 10, and Ismail Miah, 10 -- were recovered from a sand pile on Wednesday, five days after they had gone missing from a playground in their village.

UK town 'destroyed'

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on an annual basis. "[They were] like the south coast storms of 2013-14, at least once a year for decades," he said.

The three-year research off Dunwich has been funded by Touching the Tide, a £900,000 Heritage Lottery Fund scheme to explore the changing Suffolk coast. A diver used ultrasound to "illuminate" finds on the seabed, and the marshes and eroding cliffs were surveyed.

"It offers a marvellous history of climate change and coastal erosion," said Prof Sear with regards to the findings. In the 11th Century, Dunwich was the 10th largest town in England, but now has about 120 residents.

Two great storms in 1286 and 1326 resulted in the loss of its harbour and started its decline. Prof Sear said pollen analysis revealed how "people gave up on Dunwich" after 1338, when another great storm silted up the port for good, and food production declined.

Sediment gathered from the cliffs,

he said, "independently confirmed the sequences of storms recorded in the historical record".

Dating of the old defensive town ditch produced a result which surprised the researchers - suggesting the town's origins date back to the Iron Age. The underwater research has been carried out using acoustic imaging technology, and has unearthed a series of buildings.

"We use sound to create a video image of the seabed and the reason we do that is because when you dive at Dunwich it's pitch black," Prof Sear said.

"We found the ruins of about four churches and we've also found ruins of what we think was a toll house. But we've also found shipwrecks for example, and there's some we've found with this Touching the Tide project, which no-one's known before."

The shipwreck was found on the seabed just north of the village. The ribs of the 32m ship are covered in a thin sheet of copper, dating it from after 1750.

Fresh arson, riots erupt

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Jat leader Jaipal Singh Sangwan told AFP they would only decide today whether to call off the protests.

India reserves places for lower castes to try to bring victims of the country's worst discrimination into the mainstream. But the policy causes resentment among other communities, who say it freezes them out.

Shops were again torched yesterday and protesters carrying weapons rampaged in the streets despite the extra troops, many of whom were airlifted into the state to try to quell the violence.

"A mob attacked the police post in Kalanaur town and set it on fire. Twenty shops adjacent to the post and a school were also gutted," local police officer Hari Om said in Kalanaur.

The town is in Haryana's Rohtak district, which is the epicentre of the violence.

"The clashes are ongoing and we had to use firearms to break up the protesters," the officer told AFP.

An AFP photographer said he saw mobs, some armed with swords and sickles, running through the streets in Rohtak and trying to stop the media taking pictures.

Earlier he saw at least a dozen gutted buildings including a school in the town of Sampla five kilometres from Rohtak city.

WATER CRISIS

The Indian capital's water supplies were hit after mobs forced the shutting of sluice gates at a canal in Haryana which takes water to the neighbouring capital's treatment plants.

Polls open in Comoros presidential election

AFP, Moroni

Voters in the Indian Ocean archipelago of the Comoros began casting their ballots for a new president yesterday from a crowded field of 25 candidates, with a struggling economy and poor infrastructure high on the agenda.

Polling stations in the country of less than one million people officially opened at 0400 GMT, although some were delayed by the late arrival of voting materials.

Among those competing in the first-round poll are a former coup leader and the vice president.

Only voters on Grande Comore island cast their ballots yesterday under an unusual electoral system that decrees the president is selected on a rotating basis from one of the three major islands.

The three leading contenders will then compete in a nationwide vote on April 10 that will decide the successor to President Ikililou Dhoinine.

Dhoinine comes from the smallest island, Moheli. The other island is Anjouan.

The system was established in 2001 in a bid to bring stability after more than 20 coups, or attempted coups, in

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced water rationing throughout the city, and said schools would be closed today to conserve supplies.

"Water to be equally rationed amongst all. Pl save water. Schools closed tomo," Kejriwal said on Twitter.

Protesters maintained blockades of roads into Haryana, television footage showed. Hundreds armed with sticks halted vehicles along one key route which was also blocked with fallen trees.

One of India's largest carmakers, Maruti Suzuki, suspended operations at its two Haryana plants after the protests disrupted supplies of components, a spokesman said.

Jats are the single largest community in Haryana, with nearly eight million members, and are traditionally a farming community. They have been angered by comments in recent weeks by a BJP leader who opposed reservations for them.

Hundreds of trains in the state have been cancelled or diverted since Friday, an official said. "Ten small and big railway stations have been burnt. The mobs set fire to rail engines and bogies," railways spokesman Neeraj Sharma told AFP.

The latest protests echo caste violence that swept the western state of Gujarat in August last year, leaving several dead.

That state saw weeks of protests by the Patidar or Patel caste, who demanded the same treatment afforded to lower castes.

the decades following independence from France in 1975.

Among the prominent candidates are Vice President Mohamed Ali Soilihi, Mouigni Baraka, the governor of Grande Comore, and Azali Assoumani, who led a coup in 1999 and is a two-time former president.

Moinaecha Youssouf Djalali, a businesswoman, is the only female candidate, in a country where the vast majority of people are Sunni Muslims.

Dhoinine's completion of his five-year term has been seen as a sign of growing stability in Comoros, though many candidates have raised fears of electoral fraud when voting gets under way.

"Real efforts are being made by the election commission and international actors to ease any political or social tensions," said European Union representative Eduardo Campos Martins.

Nadia Tourqui, consultant to the UN, added however that there were "a lot of suspicions" surrounding the poll.

In order to calm tensions, the electoral commission on Saturday agreed to a request from 20 candidates to ban proxy voting, seen as a possible

Cameron clears key hurdles in Brexit campaign

AFP, London

British Prime Minister David Cameron has cleared some key hurdles as he takes his first steps in what promises to be a bitter campaign ahead of an EU membership referendum in June, experts said.

Starting with a reform deal struck at a European Union summit on Friday, Cameron went on to secure the support of the overwhelming majority of his cabinet on Saturday.

"Cameron did well politically with the other member states" and "the best that he could" with eurosceptics within his own Conservative Party, John Springford, a research fellow at the Centre for European Reform, told AFP.

Cameron says the deal in Brussels

confers a "special status" on Britain, protecting its status as a non-eurozone member, excluding it from the aim of "ever closer union" and curbing welfare benefits for EU workers in Britain.

After the cabinet meeting on Saturday, only six ministers said they would campaign for "Leave" on the referendum question on June 23: "Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?"

The decision of Justice Secretary Michael Gove, a close personal friend and ally of Cameron, to support "Leave" was a blow to the premier, but the endorsement of heavyweights like Home Secretary Theresa May, Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond and Defence Secretary