

'Drug addict'

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Tutor Khairul Islam, a teacher of Gobarata Women College, said the victims came to him around 7:00am and left for their homes around 9:00am.

A few minutes later, he learnt the news and went to the hospital to see them.

Eyewitness Shuktara Khatun of Mohipur said when she was coming back home from a local market, she saw the youth hacking the girls.

Konika's paternal uncle Bijoy Ghosha said they did not know why the youth killed his niece and wounded her classmates.

OC Mazharul said over a year ago, Malek was caught with cannabis and sent to jail by a mobile court. He was later released from prison.

He also added that police would investigate the attack.

Condemning the attack, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid demanded tough punishment for the person involved in the incident, says a press release of the ministry.

He also asked the authorities concerned to find whether any other person except for the spoiled youth had links with the attack.

Obama pays

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"Why did we come to this place, to Hiroshima? We come to ponder a terrible force unleashed in the not-so-distant past. We come to mourn the dead," he said.

As crows called through the hush of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, Obama offered a floral wreath at the cenotaph, pausing in momentary contemplation with his eyes closed and his head lowered.

The site lies in the shadow of a domed building, whose skeleton stands in silent testament to those who perished.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe followed by offering his own wreath and a brief, silent bow.

After both men had spoken, Obama, whose predecessor Harry Truman gave the go-ahead for the world's first nuclear strike, greeted ageing survivors, embracing 79-year-old Shigeaki Mori, who appeared overcome with emotion.

"The president gestured as if he was going to give me a hug, so we hugged," Mori told reporters afterwards.

Obama also chatted with a smiling Sunao Tsuboi, 91, who had earlier said he wanted to tell the US president how grateful he was for his visit.

BALL OF SEARING HEAT

The trip comes more than seven decades after the Enola Gay bomber dropped its deadly atomic payload, dubbed 'Little Boy', over the western Japanese city.

The bombing claimed the lives of 140,000 people, some of whom died immediately in a ball of searing heat; others succumbed to injuries or radiation-related illnesses in the weeks, months and years afterwards.

A second nuclear bomb destroyed the city of Nagasaki three days later.

The visit also marks seven years since Obama's memorable speech in Prague in which he called for the elimination of atomic weapons, a call that helped him win the Nobel Peace Prize.

Crowds of young and old gathered to meet the American president, who retains enormous star power in Japan.

"We welcome President Obama," said 80-year-old Toshiyuki Kawamoto.

"I hope this historic visit to Hiroshima will push for the movement of abolishing nuclear weapons in the world."

'WE LISTEN TO THE SILENT CRY'

Japanese and American flags flew on the street in front of the site, with a city official saying it was the first time the Stars and Stripes had been raised there.

As expected, Obama offered no apology for the bombings, having insisted that he would not revisit decisions made by Truman at the close of a brutal war.

As an eternal flame flickered behind him, however, he said leaders had an obligation to "pursue a world without" nuclear weapons.

"This is why we come to this place, we stand here, in the middle of this city and force ourselves to imagine the moment the bomb fell.

Mustafizur

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There was cause for worry for fans of Mustafizur Rahman, lovingly called Fizz in cricketer circles, as he sat out the crucial game with a 'slight hamstring injury', according to Warner. But Warner shrugged off the setback and hit an imperious, unbeaten 93 to take his side home in their chase of 163 with four wickets to spare, which means there might be one final chance for Mustafizur to strut his wares in the IPL.

A Bangladeshi player has played in the IPL final before -- Shakib Al Hasan did it twice for Kolkata Knight Riders in 2012 and 2014, winning the title both times. Mustafizur and his rapidly growing fan base will be hoping that he can not only recover in time to play the final, but play a winning hand and become the second Bangladeshi to lay claim to the silverware of the most lucrative domestic T20 competition in the world.

717 UPs go to polls today

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polls have broken all previous records in Bangladesh, according to Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan).

At least 101 people have been killed in electoral violence since the announcement of the polls schedule in February. Previously, around 80 lives were lost in UP polls violence in 1988, the civil society platform said.

Despite the violence and irregularities, no significant measures have been taken either by the Election Commission or the political parties to check them.

"The EC's recent remarks about the clashes and its actions against some members of law enforcement agencies proved that it has no control over the polls. Anyone may think that declaring polls schedules and results are the EC's only jobs," said former election commissioner M Sakhawat Hussain.

"Who will take the responsibility for the deaths of 100 people?" he questioned.

Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad and Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee have demanded the EC take effective steps to stop attacks on religious minorities over polls rivalry.

The EC, however, expressed satisfaction over the law and order, saying that the previous polls were "peaceful except for some stray incidents".

"There had been some stray incidents at some unions. Law enforcers acted promptly wherever any clash occurred. We've asked the chiefs of the law enforcement agencies to be more active this time around than the previous polls. They've assured the commission in this regards," Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz told this newspaper yesterday.

He hoped today's elections would be more peaceful.

The first ever partisan UP polls generated much heat in political landscape as the archrivals AL and BNP along with some other parties stepped into the battle of ballots. They picked grassroots leaders to contest for chairman posts.

Out of the 717 unions going to polls today, AL chairman nominees have been elected uncontested in 41 unions. The BNP could not field candidates at around 100 unions, according to EC statistics.

Elections to around 2,600 UPs have already been completed in four phases. Of them, AL chairman nominees have won in around 1,795 unions, BNP candidates in 238, while the aspirants of other political parties and independent candidates in the rest, according to EC and media reports.

<b>5TH PHASE VOTING</b>	
UNION PARISHAD	717
CHAIRMAN ASPIRANTS	3,250 (AROUND)
MEMBER ASPIRANTS	34,000 (AROUND)
CHAIRMAN ELECTED UNOPPOSED	41
PARTICIPATING POLITICAL PARTIES	14
POLLING STATIONS	7,000 (OVER)
VOTER	1.10 CRORE (AROUND)

Asked about the clashes between supporters of AL candidates and party rebels, AL Joint General Secretary Mahubul Alam Hanif said although the number of clashes was not big, the party gave strong directives to its grassroots leaders to take action against anyone involved in those.

"We've already told the party men that the Awami League would show zero tolerance to the accused," he added.

BNP Joint Secretary General Mohammad Shahjahan blasted the AL and the EC for spoiling the environment for free and fair polls.

"Previously, elections were festivals of democracy in Bangladesh. But now the electoral process sets off a panic. The opposition men can't take part in the polls freely," the BNP leader told this newspaper.

**40 INJURED IN CLASHES**  
At least 40 people were injured in two clashes in Narail and Narayanganj yesterday, police said.

In Narail, at least 25 people were wounded, including 10 bullet-hit, when supporters of an AL chairman candidate and party rebel clashed in Kalia upazila.

In Narayanganj, at least 15 people were injured in a clash between AL and Jatiya Party men at Kalagachhia Union in Bandar upazila.

Global economy

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"To that, one leader questioned whether the degree of the current situation was negative enough to use the term 'crisis'," a senior Japanese official said.

That leader was Angela Merkel, the Asahi Shimbun newspaper said yesterday, who was backed by International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde, according to Bloomberg News.

At his post-summit press conference, however, Abe put a different gloss on it.

"We shared a strong sense of crisis," he told reporters of his discussions with fellow leaders.

Some observers, however, said the high-profile meeting didn't deliver much.

"We know there are different views on fiscal policy but the statement simply concludes that fiscal policy should be implemented 'flexibly' in order to 'promote growth'," said Andrew Kenningham, Senior Global Economist at research house Capital Economics.

BREXIT

Leaders were unequivocal though on their attitude to one of the risks facing the global economy, and came out firmly against the prospect of a so-called 'Brexit'.

"A UK exit from the EU would reverse the trend towards greater global trade and investment, and the jobs they create, and is a further serious risk to growth," they said in a declaration.

Postal letter

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was almost alien to the 14-year-old. "Our parents taught us how to write a good letter. It improved our handwriting and writing skills. The present generation is deprived of all this," said Hafizur Rahman, a retired school teacher.

Writer and columnist Dr Rashid Askari of Kushtia Islamic University inaugurated the event, where, Anwar Ali, mayor of Kushtia municipality, was the chief guest.

The speakers said it was imperative to save this forgotten art.

Local organisations, Science and Literature Society, Voice of Youth and Kalpurush organised the event held in Kushtia Municipality Auditorium, which included letter writing and hand writing competitions for around 600 students of different schools and colleges in Kushtia and adjacent districts.

Dr Amanur Aman, editor and publisher of local daily the Dainik Kushtia and weekly the Kushtia Times, Oahad Sabuz, principal of Srijan Public School, and Maruf Rahman, president of Voice of Youth, also spoke.

UP POLLS VIOLENCE

9 hurt in clash in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

At least nine people, including a pregnant woman, were injured in a clash between the supporters of two chairman candidates in Shah Mirpur area of the port city yesterday.

Supporters of Awami League chairman candidate Didarul Alam and AL rebel candidate Shahjahan of Baro Uthan union got locked into a clash over tearing down of banners of Shahjahan's brother who is a member candidate in the fifth phase of union parishad polls, police said.

The injured were taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital, said Mohammad Yusuf, a constable of CMCH Police Camp.

A six-month pregnant woman named Fatema was injured during the clash. She later gave birth to a stillborn baby, Fatema's husband Amir Hossain claimed.

Amir alleged that Shahjahan's supporters attacked him at his house and injured his wife while she tried to save him.

The couple was undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Didarul Alam claimed that Shahjahan's supporters launched an attack on his men after Juma prayers. They also attacked Amir at his house and injured his wife, he added.

Shahjahan, however, refuted the allegation. He claimed that Alam's supporters carried out the attack on his men without any provocation.

Regarding the attack on Fatema, Shajahan claimed that the woman gave birth to a stillborn baby around 10:00am, before the clash took place.

Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Karnaphuli Police Station, said they heard that a pregnant woman was injured during the clash.

Leaders

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shown arrested under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Following his arrest, several Awami League leaders alleged that the BNP was conspiring to topple the government with the help of Mossad.

The BNP, however, termed the allegation "a cooked-up story". Aslam said he met Safadi "accidentally".

Cellphone-cancer

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increase in the incidence of disease resulting from exposure to [radio-frequency radiation] could have broad implications for public health."

The study is thought to be one of the largest and most in-depth analyses of mobile phones and cancers, costing the US government \$25 million to carry out over the course of several years.

Ron Melnick, a former National Toxicology Program researcher who reviewed the results told the Wall Street Journal: "Where people were saying there's no risk, I think this ends that kind of statement."

The scientific community has been divided on the issue since it was first raised in the early 1990s. Many previous studies have suggested a link between cancer and mobile phone use but have been criticised for methodology or having small sample sizes which may be subsequently subject to bias.

Saudi cleric bans

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When asked again about the "new trend", he says: "Explain this trend to me."

"Taking pictures is prohibited if not for a necessity - not with cats, not with dogs, not with wolves, not with anything."

The video was shared on YouTube in April then translated and released by the Washington DC-based Middle East Media Research Institute.

Another video released by the group showed a Saudi family therapist giving his advice on wife beating.

Earlier this year, Saudi Arabia's Grand Mufti issued a fatwa declaring chess was forbidden in Islam.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah said the game "brings enmity and hatred between its contestants" and is forbidden because it "encourages gambling and is a waste of time and finances".

Seriously injured

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"We also wanted to take Hasina with us but they [the employer] didn't allow. They assured us that Hasina will be relieved from job after Eid-ul-Fitr with a good amount of money," she said.

Sub-inspector Mofazzal Hossain of Mohammadpur Police Station said following allegations of the victim's mother, they raided the flat on May 25 but found no one.

Quoting neighbours, he said Shariful along with his family left the flat two to three days before the raid. A case was filed, he added.

An autopsy of the body will be conducted today, said DMC morgue sources.

More power sought

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ministry to take initiatives to amend a dozen laws concerning mobile courts.

Mobile courts now operate under the Mobile Court Act 2009 and follow more than a hundred laws. A mobile court can sentence an offender up to two years in prison and slap a fine on him under the act.

In the first week of April, the Cabinet Division wrote to the home ministry, asking it to take steps to amend Electricity Act 1910, Railways Act 1890, Cinema Act 1918, Motor Vehicles Ordinance 1983, Touts Act 1879, Public Gambling Act 1867, Control of Essential Commodities Act 1956, Building Construction Act 1952, Places of Public Amusement Act 1933, Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929, Passport Act 1920 and Forest Act 1927.

It said the laws needed to be amended as mobile courts could not fine or sentence many offenders due to loopholes in these laws.

The home ministry has already made a move to this end.

Yesterday's workshop was attended by more than 150 executive magistrates, current and former secretaries, additional and joint secretaries, divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners.

The admin officials demanded that mobile courts be equipped with state-of-the-art technology for detecting adulteration in food items and essential commodities. They also raised the demand for launching e-mobile courts for monitoring online contents.

"Laws should be amended to make mobile courts more effective," said Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiqul Alam, adding that the workshop was organised to take opinions of all the people concerned.

Globally, mobile court is a tested tool for safeguarding public interest, he said.

If spot trial is conducted rightly, the number of cases at traditional courts would come down significantly, said Shafiqul.

Mobile courts have long been helping maintain law and order and protect public interest in different formats, he said.

Shafiqul noted that the judiciary and the executive branches of the state are not each other's opponent, and both are accountable to the people.

Public confidence in mobile courts has increased a lot after the passage of the Mobile Court Act 2009 under which executive magistrates have been sentencing offenders through summary trial, he added.

Md Shahidul Haque, secretary to the legislative and parliamentary affairs division of the law ministry, also put emphasis on amending the relevant laws.

Smriti Rani Gharami, additional secretary of the home ministry, said the ministry had already taken an initiative to amend the Mobile Court Act.

The proposals are now lying with the law ministry. Once the ministry completes vetting, those would be placed before the cabinet, said Smriti.

If the proposed amendments are approved, mobile courts would be equipped with state-of-the-art devices and be able to take opinions from experts in delivering orders, she said.

If businesses are found selling adulterated foods and goods, they should be shut down and their licences cancelled to make sure that they cannot commit the same offence again,

Same hackers hit bank

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The Philippines central bank's deputy governor, Nestor Espenilla, told Reuters that no bank in the country had lost money to hackers, although he did not rule out the possibility of cyber attacks.

Marshall Heilman, vice president for Mandiant, a part of US-based FireEye, said it was not known whether any money was lost in the other attacks he described or whether the hackers had been successfully blocked.

"There is a group operating in Southeast Asia that definitely understands the bank industry and is at more than one location," he said.

Heilman declined to identify the country or countries, or the institutions attacked. He said it was the same group as the one involved in the Bank Bangladesh theft and that the attacks were recent, but declined to be more specific.

Central banks elsewhere in Southeast Asia - Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and East Timor - have declined comment or denied knowledge of any other breaches.

There have been at least four known cyber attacks against a bank involving fraudulent messages on the SWIFT payments network, one dating back to 2013. SWIFT, the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, urged banks this week to bolster their security, saying it was aware of multiple attacks.

Banks around the world use secure SWIFT messages for issuing payment instructions to each other.

SWIFT said earlier this week that February's Bangladesh Bank hack was a "watershed event for the banking industry" and that it was "not an isolated incident."

she said.

In his speech, Md Mozammel Haque Khan, senior secretary of the home ministry, said mobile courts had already become popular and effective in checking food adulteration, drug peddling, environmental pollution and social crimes.

Presenting the keynote paper at the workshop, Md Shujayet Ullah, joint secretary of the expatriates welfare and overseas employment ministry, pointed out some guidelines for magistrates.

The suggestions include conducting search on a person on suspicion following the CrPC rules and ensuring that no innocent person is harassed by a mobile court.

He urged magistrates to resist attempts from powerful quarters to interfere in prosecuting anyone.

Unjustified prosecution must be avoided to check abuse of power by magistrates, he added.

Shahida Ali, joint secretary of the Cabinet Division, said 147,754 people were sentenced and Tk 37.38 crore was realised in fine in mobile court drives last year. Besides, 1.37 lakh cases were resolved during the 57,157 drives.

Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Helal Uddin Ahmed presided over the workshop.

It was addressed by former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder, former secretary Shahjahan Ali Mollah, Biam Foundation Director General Nurul Islam, Additional District Magistrate of Narsingdi Muhammad Rehan Uddin, and Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre Director AHM Anwar Pasha, DPDC Secretary Mohammad Munir Chowdhury and deputy commissioners of several districts.

Nine killed

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Lal, 40, Titu, 40, Ali Ahmed, 45, and Mizanur Rahman, 40.

Police said the driver and the helper of the bus were among the dead but could not name them.

Rescue operation was underway. The identified bodies were handed over to the relatives, added police.

'Torture' triggered

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Police took him to their outpost in Nasir's house and tortured him there again, alleged local Jaman Howladar.

As the news spread, villagers, including women, went to Nasir's house. A clash then took place between the villagers and policemen.

Villagers snatched Mizanur from police custody on Thursday night.

Saifuddin Shahin, additional superintendent of police in Bhola, said police opened fired on the villagers when they besieged the police outpost and tried to set fire to it.

Noman was killed in the firing, he said.

He added that the relocation of the police outpost to Nasir's house was against the police rule as Nasir is facing a murder case.

Akram Hossain, additional deputy inspector general of police in Barisal range, said all the policemen of the police outpost had been closed to Bhola Police Lines.

"A committee has been formed to investigate the incident," he said.

Locals brought out a procession in the Janatabazar yesterday, demanding punishment to Nasir.

This correspondent could not contact Nasir as he is in police custody.