

Dylan ponders literary links in Nobel speech

AFP, Stockholm

Music icon Bob Dylan has delivered his long-awaited Nobel lecture, citing Buddy Holly and "The Odyssey" among his inspirations, a relief for the Swedish Academy after it honoured the songwriter with its prestigious literature prize for the first time.

"The speech is extraordinary and, as one might expect, eloquent. Now that the lecture has been delivered, the Dylan adventure is coming to a close," Sara Danius, the permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy, which awards the prize, wrote in a blog post on Monday.

The Academy, which stunned observers in October when it announced Dylan as the winner, had to wait for more than two weeks before hearing Dylan's reaction to winning the award. He later declined to attend the December ceremony because of "pre-existing commitments".

In the speech, sent to the Academy with an audio link in which Dylan reads it aloud, the enigmatic rock star reflects on the possible links between his lyrics and literature.

"When I first received this Nobel Prize for Literature, I got to wondering exactly how my songs related to literature," Dylan said.

He then cited musicians who inspired him -- including Buddy Holly, whose music "changed my life" and made him want to write songs when he was a teenager -- and the classic novels that



made a big impression, including "Moby Dick", "All Quiet on the Western Front" and "The Odyssey".

Referring to the main character Odysseus, the writer of "Blowin' In The Wind" said in the speech: "He's tossed and turned by the winds. Restless winds, chilly winds, unfriendly winds. He travels far, and then he gets blown back."

'WHAT IT ALL MEANS' Dylan had until June 10 to submit the lecture, the only requirement to claim the eight million kronor that comes with the prize.

The lecture can take nearly any form, includ-

ing a short speech, a performance, a video broadcast or even a song, and must be held within six months of December 10, the date of the Nobel prize ceremony and the anniversary of the death of the prize's founder Alfred Nobel.

Dylan was honoured "for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition", the Academy said in October.

"If a song moves you, that's all that's important. I don't have to know what a song means," Dylan said in the speech.

"I've written all kinds of things into my songs. And I'm not going to worry about it -- what it all means," he added.

'SPIRITS WERE HIGH'

After months of uncertainty, Dylan finally accepted his gold medal and diploma on April 1 at a private ceremony with 12 members of the Swedish Academy in Stockholm, where he held two concerts at the time.

"Spirits were high, champagne was had," Danius said after the meeting.

"The Swedish Academy will be more careful in the future with handing out a prize to huge rock stars who may not come and pick up the award," said Maria Schottenius, a literary critic and senior columnist at the Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter.

"Even though one would not regret giving the prize to Bob Dylan...it has undoubtedly caused some hassle," she told AFP.

Duterte faces martial law legal challenge

AFP, Manila

Philippine opposition lawmakers yesterday asked the Supreme Court to reject President Rodrigo Duterte's imposition of martial law in the south of the country, branding it unconstitutional.

Duterte declared military rule across the region of Mindanao, home to about 20 million people, on May 23 to quell what he said was a fast-growing threat from the Islamic State (IS) group there.

Duterte made the declaration a few hours after militants flying black IS flags rampaged through the southern city of Marawi, triggering clashes with security forces that are still ongoing and have left at least 178 people dead.

The petition filed with the Supreme Court yesterday said martial law should be struck down for "utter lack of sufficient factual basis", as it drew parallels with ex-dictator Ferdinand Marcos's military rule a generation ago.

"The grim specter of repression, atrocities, injustice and corruption again bedevils the Filipino people with the unwarranted, precipitate and unconstitutional declaration of martial law," said the petition, filed by six congressmen.

Marcos's two-decade rule ended in 1986 when millions of people took to the streets in a "People Power" revolution.

Thousands of critics, suspected insurgents and their alleged supporters were jailed, tortured or killed during the dictatorship, according to historians.

Shortly after Duterte declared martial law, he praised Marcos's version and vowed his own would be "harsh".

The 1987 constitution imposes limits on martial law to prevent a repeat of abuses under Marcos, including allowing the Supreme Court to review its factual basis.

Algeria arrests 3 suspected Islamists after blast

AFP, Algiers

Algeria announced on Sunday the arrest of three suspected Islamists who confessed to planting a home-made bomb that reportedly killed two soldiers patrolling near the border with Tunisia.

"Members of the National Guard arrested three backers of terrorist groups on June 3 at Tebessa," about 550 kilometres (340 miles) southeast of Algiers, the defence ministry said.

"They admitted to having planted the home-made bomb which exploded as a military patrol passed by" near Bir el-Ater, about 100 kilometres south of Tebessa and some 15 kilometres from the border.

It is the first official confirmation of the attack, which occurred at dawn on Saturday, but the ministry did not say if there were any casualties.

Security sources told AFP on Saturday that the blast killed two soldiers and wounded four.

Algerians had hoped that a 2005 peace and reconciliation charter would turn the page on a 1991-2002 civil war that cost 200,000 lives.

But Islamist groups remain active in the south and east, largely targeting security forces.

Tigers at the mercy

FROM PAGE 1

A brief spell of shower stopped the game after 16 overs with Australia on 83-1 with pace bowler Rubel Hossain drawing the only blood by dismissing Aaron Finch for 19 in his first over. The Aussies were only four overs away to settle the issue through the D/L method with David Warner on 44 and captain Steve Smith on 22. The encouraging news for Bangladesh was that it was still raining over The Oval at the time of going to print with the cut-off time of 10:15pm (3:15am Bangladesh time).

Earlier, Tamim Iqbal stood tall amid the ruins with a fantastic 95 as Bangladesh collapsed to 182 all out.

The left-hander was the lone shining light in an inexplicable batting collapse against a disciplined Aussie attack that vindicated Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's decision to bat first. Mashrafe's decision might have been influenced by the fact that Bangladesh had posted a 300-plus score at this very ground in their opening game against England, but Tamim apart the rest simply faded away playing wrong shots.

Tamim, the centurion in the previous game, showed how to bat before he was dismissed in the 43rd over, top-edging Mitchell Starc to deep fine leg, where Joss Hazlewood took a well-judged catch. The lone ranger, who desperately missed a partner, hit six fours and three sixes in his 114-ball knock.

He was the seventh batsman out with the score on 181. Bangladesh could add one more run before being dismissed for 182 in 44.3 overs. Mustafizur Rahman somehow denied Starc a hat-trick in a maiden over during which the Aussie quick took three wickets, including Mashrafe and Rubel Hossain, off successive deliveries. He also bowled Mehdi Hasan Miraz in his next over to finish with four for 29.

Earlier, Soumya Sarkar's contribution in the match was a struggling three off 11 balls. He departed in the same fashion as he did in the practice game against India. He was not sure whether he edged a length delivery from Umesh Yadav in the other game, but yesterday it was a healthy edge off Hazlewood.

Imrul departed for six. It was a ball meant to be hit but the left-hander drove straight to cover-point. At 37 for two in 10.2 overs, Bangladesh were expecting another century partnership when Mushfiqur Rahim came out to bat. Mushfiqur put on 166 runs, the highest partnership for the third wicket on this ground, with Tamim in the opening game against England. But the right-hander was trapped right in front of the wicket for nine by Moises Henriques, one of the four pacers Australia employed in the

Sudan accuses detained rights activist of spying

AFP, Khartoum

A prominent Sudanese human rights activist detained for several months has been charged with spying for foreign embassies, an offence punishable by death, a prosecutor said yesterday.

Mudawi Ibrahim Adam, an engineering professor at the University of Khartoum, was arrested in December by security forces as part of a crackdown on opposition leaders and activists.

match. His departure after the first drinks break served a blow in Bangladesh's quest for a big total.

Bangladesh limped to their first fifty off 90 balls for the loss of two wickets -- their 100 came in the 27th over.

While wickets fell thick and fast at the other end, Tamim not only stood his ground but also played like a man possessed. It was not that he started cautiously -- he played according to the merit of the ball. The left-hander, who scored a magnificent 128 against England, reached his 50 off 65 balls. He plundered 15 runs in the 23rd over bowled by Henriques. He charged down the wicket for a huge six over long-off, followed it up with a savage pull down to the mid-wicket boundary. He also guided the fifth ball to the fine leg boundary in that over that yielded 16 runs. He also treated The Oval audience, dominated by Bangladeshi expatriates, with two successive sixes against off-spinner Travis Head.

While Tamim played the role of an aggressor, Shakib Al Hasan, for a change, was content to play as the second fiddle in a 69-run fourth-wicket stand. Shakib was playing confidently before being adjudged leg-before by Nigel Long with the score on 122. The left-hander, who was well forward, asked for a review but was overruled by the third umpire.

Sabbir departed just after the second drinks interval. He became the first victim of Adam Zampa for six. He deposited a wide half-volley straight to extra-cover, leaving Bangladesh at 141 for five. Zampa then had Mahmudullah Riyad bowled for eight in his next over. Bangladesh were reeling at 153 for six at that point. Mahmudullah's contribution to the game was a six over long-on against Glenn Maxwell.

Turkey to strip citizenship of 130 'fugitives'

REUTERS, Ankara

Turkey said yesterday it would strip citizenship from 130 people suspected of militant links, including the US-based cleric it blames for orchestrating last July's failed coup, unless they return to the country within three months.

In a list of what it called fugitives from justice, the interior ministry named Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) lawmakers Faysal Sariyildiz and Tugba Hezer, and former HDP lawmaker Ozdal Ucer.

Gulen, who has lived in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania since 1999, has denied involvement in the coup and condemned it.

The notice said the suspects identified in the list would be stripped of Turkish citizenship unless they returned to Turkey within the time limit and applied to the "relevant authorities".

Since the July coup attempt, authorities have arrested 50,000 people and sacked or suspended 150,000, including soldiers, police, teachers and public servants, over alleged links with terrorist groups.

While Turkish officials say the steps are necessary due to the gravity of the coup attempt which killed 240 people, critics in Turkey and abroad say President Tayyip Erdogan is using the coup as a pretext to muzzle dissent and purge opponents.

Brazilian president lashes out ahead of court verdict

AFP, Brasilia

President Michel Temer and Brazil's chief prosecutor were in open warfare yesterday on the eve of a court verdict that could lead to the scandal-plagued president's removal from office.

The front pages of major newspapers were dominated by accusations made by Temer's lawyer that Prosecutor General Rodrigo Janot is pressuring the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to rule against Temer when it meets to deliver a verdict, starting today.

Temer has been hanging by a thread since the revelation of a secret audio in which he is allegedly heard giving his blessing to payment of hush money by a meatpacking tycoon to a top politician jailed for corruption.

But starting today, he faces the separate, more immediate challenge of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, known as the TSE.

The TSE is deciding whether abuse of power -- principally the use of corrupt campaign money -- fatally undermined the validity of the 2014 election in which Temer was reelected vice president with then president Dilma Rousseff. When Rousseff was impeached last year, Temer took over.

If the TSE judges Temer to have been responsible for abuses in 2014, the court could then annul the election results, throwing Brazil into even deeper political chaos.

On Sunday, Temer's lawyer Gustavo Guedes claimed that Janot is leaning on the TSE "to pressure the court and find the president guilty."

Lost temple

FROM PAGE 16

Yi Li, who led the excavation, told Xinhua: "We have excavated only a part of the temple's area, but already have a glimpse of its past glory."

As well as the foundations of the temple itself, the archaeologists also discovered around 80 ancient tombs that they believe date back to around 1600-256 BC.

Tools, utensils and building materials, were discovered, dating to the Song and Ming dynasties, which date back to 960-1279 and 1368-1644 respectively.

The team of archaeologists also unearthed over 1,000 tablets inscribed with Buddhist scriptures, and more than 500 stone sculptures, alongside glazed tiles.

The Fugan Temple was a famous place of worship that existed from the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317-420) to the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279).

The word 'Fugan' means 'feeling the blessing', and was chosen for the temple after Daoxuan, a famous monk in the Tang Dynasty prayed for rain outside the temple after a drought, and had his prayers answered.

The temple was damaged during several wars, and disappeared at the end of the Song Dynasty, around 1279.

But the researchers hope that its discovery could help to uncover the story of how Buddhism spread in China during that time, according to Wang Yi, director of the Chengdu Cultural Relic Research Institute.

Want justice, not relief

FROM PAGE 16

"I did not dare to return here for the last two days. Today, I have gathered courage and have come here," Punyadhyan Chakma, of Tintila, told The Daily Star, adding that he would bring back seven of his family members to the village once the situation became normal.

"My house was burnt twice, in 1989 and last week. I don't want any relief, I want justice," said Kalachan Chakma, 58, of Manikchhora village.

Prantamukhi Chakma, a disabled woman aged around 75, was being taken to Mohajonghata area from Tintila village on a stretcher. Her wheelchair was burnt in the arson attack, said her grandson Sugata Chakma.

Meanwhile, the district administration opened two temporary shelters; one in Longadu Girls High School and the other in Tintilla Bon Bihar. But no one went there since morning to 3:30pm.

Mangal Chakma, chairman of Atarokchora union parishad, said most of the victims were yet to return to their homes as they were feeling insecure.

Some 30 to 50 people went to the shelter in the monastery, hearing that high officials from the administration would be visiting it.

"However, they refused to take any relief materials. Instead, they demanded justice and exemplary punishment of the culprits."

On Sunday, the district administration took 30 tonnes of rice and Tk 1,000 for each of the affected families to

Longadu. As no one came to take the relief, the rice was kept in the monastery.

Yesterday, top officials from police, district administration and the army, who visited the affected areas, assured the victims of justice.

"The culprits would be brought to book. They would be given exemplary punishment," said Divisional Commissioner Ruhul Amin.

DIC Moniruzzaman said a temporary police camp was set up in the area to ensure security of the indigenous people.

He said 14 people were arrested after the incident but the prime accused was still at large.

Brig Gen Mir Mushfiqur Rahman, regional commander of the army in Khagrachhari, said, "On the day of the incident, there were only 100 to 150 law enforcers in the areas against a mob of seven to eight thousand people."

"We are trying our best to arrest the planners of the attack. We are giving all our support to have the culprits arrested," he added.

Tazul Islam, Longadu upazila nirbahi officer, could not be reached for comments.

RANGAMATI MP WANTS JUDICIAL PROBE

Speaking in parliament on a point of order, MP Ushatan Talukder said, "Indigenous people are in panic."

He demanded that the government takes immediate steps for their rehabilitation.

Bangladesh Nationalist Front MP Abul Kalam Azad also demanded punitive action for the perpetrators of Friday's attack.

Oishee

FROM PAGE 16

correspondent that how long Oishee would have to serve in custody would be learned after release of the verdict's full text.

The HC bench of Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim and Md Jahangir Hossain commuted her death penalty to life imprisonment, considering five "extenuating circumstances" including her mental condition and age when she killed her parents -- Mahfuzur Rahman, a police officer, and Swapna Rahman.

"The condemned prisoner [Oishee] committed the double murder without any apparent motive and was suffering from mental derailment or some sort of mental disorder, ovarian cyst and bronchial asthma. Her paternal grandmother and maternal uncle had a history of psychiatric disorder according to exhibit No 15 [Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University's medical report]," the HC said in the verdict.

"She was around 19 at that time and the occurrence took place just immediately after her attaining maturity. She has no such significant history of prior criminal activity and had willingly surrendered to police after two days of the occurrence," the court added.

Delivering the verdict on the death reference and appeals in the case, Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim said considering social disruption, the trial court in its findings showed some sort of emotion as to how the condemned prisoner dared to kill her parents brutally by her own hands.

"There is no scope to show such emotions in determination of awarding sentence or during adjudication of justice. The court has to consider legal evidence and materials that under what circumstances the occurrence took place by her own cruel actions at the age of 19 being a female member," the judge observed.

Punishment for disruption

FROM PAGE 16

According to the existing law, minimum punishment is two years' imprisonment and maximum five years', he said at the secretariat.

The amount of fine is not mentioned in the law, which jurists criticised and expressed concerns over its misuse against political rivals ahead of the general elections.

The cabinet secretary said only one amendment had been made to the existing law of 2002 to increase the punishment after extensive discussions with stakeholders.

Replying to a query as to why the punishment had been increased, he said it was done in line with the proposals from stakeholders.

The law was enacted by the BNP-Jamaat alliance government in April 2002 for two years. Later, the time was extended several times.

In 2014, the home ministry proposed extending the act's term for four years, in response to which the Awami League-led coalition cabinet extended it for five years. The tenure of the act will expire on April 7, 2019.

"This is purely designed for political harassment of citizens the state does not like," said eminent jurist Shahdeen Malik.

The draft manifests characteristics of an uncivilised and undemocratic society, he said.

Shahdeen Malik termed the law the biggest threat to the liberty of citizens. "This is a symptom of a police state and total control of the law enforcement agencies over the citizens."

"Anyone can be accused of these offences as per the definition of the law."

"Execution is not the only exemplary punishment that can erase crimes from the society. Lesser punishment may significantly prevent or reduce crimes depending on good governance at every sector of the country and awareness of the people," he added.

He further said Oishee's father was a policeman and her mother worked with Destiny group, meaning they could not give her enough time because of their services.

By the time they realised it, her life was already ruined by addiction, he observed.

"Though death sentence has been discouraged in different countries including Australia, Canada, UK and 18 states of the USA, there is no guideline in our country for its abolition. The environment for abolishing death sentence has not yet been created in our country," he observed.

Though the rate of education has increased in the country, population has also increased and, therefore, the tendency of committing crimes has also increased; that is why abolishing death sentence is not reasonable, he argued.

A trial court on November 12, 2015 sentenced Oishee to death for killing her parents. She later challenged the lower court verdict.

The bodies of Mahfuzur, inspector of Special Branch of police, and his wife Swapna Rahman were recovered from their Chamelibagh house in the capital on August 16, 2013.

On March 9, 2014, the police pressed charges against Oishee, her friends Johnny and Ronny and 11-year-old domestic help Sumi.

According to the charge sheet, Oishee alone killed her parents, Johnny instigated the murders and Ronny gave her shelter after the incident. Sumi was accused of assisting Oishee in hiding the bodies.

If a procession is brought out on the street, it will cause disruption to vehicular movement and in that case, everyone participating in the procession can be accused of violating the law, the jurist said.

He, however, added that courts often did not convict people of these offences as the offences were not properly defined in the law.

The cabinet also approved a proposal for ratifying the "Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities".

It passed the draft of an agreement on Russia's taking back spent nuclear fuel from Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

The cabinet secretary said the agreement could be inked anytime, and it would help dispose of nuclear waste.

Police

FROM PAGE 16

Services Trust, had also sought necessary orders, saying the law does not permit handcuffing of an accused during treatment.

In the suomoto rule, the court asked the authorities to explain why the handcuffing should not be declared illegal. The court also summoned the OC to appear before it on May 31 to explain the incident.

The OC duly appeared and said he was not on duty during the incident and that the other three were responsible for handcuffing Nazmul.

The HC then ordered the four to appear on June 5 (yesterday) to explain their conducts. Abdul Matin Khasru and Anabil Ananda Roy appeared for the policemen.