

Another AL

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Probashi Palli Group chairman, at the same terminal, for carrying a shotgun without informing the authorities. He was too scheduled to travel to Jashore from Dhaka on a Novoair flight.

In another incident at the terminal, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh detained Mohammad Masud Chowdhury, chairman of Phulshahara Union Parishad in Jashore's Chougachha upazila, on March 11 for carrying a pistol and seven bullets. He is also the general secretary of Chougachha upazila AL.

The arrests come after a passenger tried to hijack a Dubai-bound Bangladesh Biman flight on February 24, using a toy pistol and a bomb-like material. The incident raised serious questions over security at the Dhaka airport.

3 killed

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doctors declared them dead. Police claimed to have recovered eight locally made firearms and 20,000 yaba tablets.

Two cases were filed under the narcotics control and arms acts with the police station. Nur was named in the home ministry's list of yaba peddlers and accused in 10 cases, including murder, attacks on police and journalists, while Nurul stood accused in three cases, including one for money laundering, said OC Pradip.

In another incident, Korban, the main accused in Abu Taher Sagor murder case, was killed in a "shoot-out" with the Detective Branch of police in Khurushkul area of Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila around 3:00am yesterday, said Farid Uddin Khandakar, officer-in-charge of Sadar Model Police Station.

Police claimed to have recovered a firearm and three bullets from the spot. On December 15, 2017, some muggers, led by Korban, stabbed Sagor to death, of Feni, who went to visit Cox's Bazar, said police.

NHRC team

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where it was abandoned. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) provided Tk 1 lakh to each of the four families of the victims at its Rangamati district office.

Ansar and VDP Chattogram and Hill Range Deputy Director General Shamsul Alam handed over the financial aid to the family members. Families of the dead Ansar members would get another Tk 4 lakh each, he said.

FB users

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millions of other Facebook users, and tens of thousands of Instagram users whose passwords may have been vulnerable to prying eyes.

The California firm reaches an estimated 2.7 billion people with its core social network, Instagram and messaging applications.

WORLDWIDE PROBES Brian Krebs, of security news website KrebsOnSecurity.com, cited an unnamed Facebook source as saying the internal investigation had so far indicated that as many as 600 million users of the social network had account passwords stored in plain text files searchable by more than 20,000 employees.

The exact number had yet to be determined, but archives with unencrypted user passwords were found dating back to the year 2012, according to Krebs.

Facebook's admission of the faux pas came after the report by Krebs. "We have fixed these issues and as a precaution we will be notifying everyone whose passwords we have found were stored in this way," Canahuati said.

New treasure

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The discovery is comparable to other impressive sites like the Burgess Shale in the Canadian Rocky Mountains, discovered in 1909, Chengjiang in China and Emu Bay Shale in Australia. Burgess dates to 508 million years ago and includes well-preserved fossils, including soft bodies that show evidence of skin, eyes, gut and brains.

The sites are the gold standard for scientists piecing together the Cambrian Explosion about 540 million years ago, when an immensely diverse animal population suddenly appeared over a short time.

Researchers have discovered more sites containing great records of the Cambrian Explosion in recent years, like the Qingjiang site.

The researchers who worked on the Qingjiang site believe their discovery may rival some of the other sites because it had the highest relative diversity of species and is ten million years older than Burgess, said Xingjiang Zhang in an email, study author and professor at Northwest University's department of geology.

The diversity of species creates an interesting picture of evolution. "[This is an] excellent preservation of so many Cambrian creatures," Zhang said. "Some are weird, some exactly look like what we have today."

Silence, prayers as NZ

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Australian Brenton Tarrant, 28, a suspected white supremacist, has been charged with one murder following the Christchurch attack and was remanded without a plea.

He is due back in court on April 5, when police said he was likely to face more charges.

Most victims of New Zealand's worst mass shooting were migrants or refugees from countries such as Pakistan, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Turkey, Somalia, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

"We are broken-hearted, but we are not broken. We are alive, we are together, we are determined to not let anyone divide us," Imam Gamal Fouda told the crowd at the Al Noor mosque, many wearing headscarves in support of the grieving Muslim community.

"To the families of the victims, your loved ones did not die in vain. Their blood has watered the seeds of hope," he said in prayers broadcast nationally.

Tens of thousands of people paid their respects around the country with some forming human chains in front of mosques. Others said silent prayers at schools, cafes and even offices.

Relatives and other mourners thronged into a Christchurch cemetery where 26 victims of the attack, and one person who died in a car crash that was unrelated to the mosque shooting, were laid to rest in a mass burial.

"This is a special janazah. We don't do these every day," one mourner said over a microphone, referring to an Islamic funeral prayer.

"We don't bury 27 of our brothers and sisters every day." The first to be laid to rest was Naeem Rashid, who was hailed as a hero, killed trying to tackle the gunman at the Al Noor mosque.

ISLAMOPHOBIA Ardern, surrounded by ministers and security officials at Hagley Park, wore a black headscarf and a black suit. Female police at the park also wore headscarves, with a red rose on their uniforms.

In a powerful speech that lasted about 20 minutes, the imam, Fouda, said through his love and compassion, New Zealand was unbreakable.

"We are here in our hundreds and

thousands unified for one purpose – that hate will be undone, and love will redeem us," he said.

He thanked Ardern for her compassion, saying: "It has been a lesson for world leaders."

Fouda also denounced Islamophobia, saying it had killed people. "Islamophobia is real. It is a targeted campaign to influence people to dehumanise and irrationally fear Muslims. To fear what we wear, to fear the choice of food we eat, to fear the way we pray and to fear the way we practice our faith," he said.

Muslim nations yesterday called for "genuine" measures against Islamophobia after the attack on two New Zealand mosques.

Violence driven by Islamophobia requires "genuine, comprehensive and systematic measures to address this affliction," ministers from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation said in a statement after a meeting in Istanbul.

The OIC said attacks against mosques and murders of Muslims showed the "brutal, inhumane and horrific outcomes" of hatred of Islam.

It called for countries with Muslim communities, minorities or migrants to refrain from "statements and practices that associate Islam with terror, extremism and threats" to society, reported AFP.

Muslims account for just over 1 percent of New Zealand's population.

Many women wore headscarves in New Zealand as a sign of support to the community, and a #headscarforharmony movement was trending on Twitter.

"We are wearing headscarves showing our support, love and solidarity, and hope that by everybody doing this it will demonstrate to Muslim women ... that they are one with us," said Robyn Molony, 65, with a group of friends wearing headscarves at Hagley Park.

Residents of Christchurch are still recovering from a devastating earthquake that hit in 2011, killing 185 and injuring thousands.

"Since the earthquakes, we've gone through a lot as a city and we're a lot more caring and looking out for one another," said James Sheehan, 62.

7 killed

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Both the vehicles were seized.

The dead include Shila Haldar, 20, a master's student at Government BM College Barisal, and Sohel, 32, the driver of the three-wheeler. Those other killed were identified as Khokan, 40, Parvin Begum, 40, Manik Shikdar, 45, and Meherunnesa, 35.

The bodies were at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College last night.

Another victim, seven-year-old Tayeem, died while being taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the OC said.

Sub-Inspector Nazrul Islam of Barisal Airport Police Station said they were investigating matter.

In Manikganj, a helper of a truck driver was killed after the vehicle hit another one from behind on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Shivalaya upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Paiko Molla, 38, son of Kashem Molla of Jashore's Kotwali area.

Yamin-ud Daula, in-charge of Barangail Highway Police Outpost,

said the Paturia-bound truck hit a vehicle from behind in Falsatia area around 4:00am, leaving Molla seriously injured.

He was rushed to Manikganj Upazila Health Complex but doctors declared him dead, he said, adding the driver fled.

Meanwhile, a woman was killed after being hit by a train on Joydevpur-Bangabandhu Bridge railway tracks in Tangail yesterday.

The dead is Jesmin Nahar Asma, 27, daughter of Ansar Ali of Hatibari village in Tangail Sadar and a student of Bangladesh Open University. She was talking over the phone while walking on the tracks, police said, quoting witnesses.

The incident happened at Hatila Madhyampara area around 11:00am, said Sub-Inspector Emdadul Hague of Railway Police in Gharinda.

Being informed, railway police recovered the body and took it to Gharinda Railway Station, the SI said. Later, it was handed over to the family, he added.

Tortured in Libya

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were freed or taken to another den."

Though there was no visa on the passport of Mominur, an officer of Airport Immigration Police officer said he first went to Sharjah on a tourist visa on February 12.

"The human traffickers are taking people abroad using such visas," said the official on condition of anonymity as he is not authorised to talk to the media.

"We stopped allowing people to go to Dubai on tourist visa but we had to resume it after an influential quarter convinced the authorities," he further said.

Mominur said he and other job seekers went to Libya from Sharjah en route to Tunisia.

After they flew to Sharjah from Dhaka by an Air Arabia flight, a person called Monir received them at the airport and took them to a hotel where they stayed for two days.

Monir arranged their air tickets for Tunisia to where they travelled without any hassle.

In Tunisia, another Bengali speaking man received them and arranged their tickets for a Benghazi-bound flight.

Mominur said after they landed at the Benghazi Airport on February 16, a trafficking ring member named Zahid took them to the den in Tukra area.

THE TORTURE CELL

Mominur said there were many rooms in the den guarded by Bangladeshi and Libyan people. "One of the rooms was used as torture cell," he said.

"If anyone dared talk to other inmates, he would be tortured severely."

Through video calls, they used to show the pictures of torture to the victims' family members and even threaten to kill the hostages if ransom was not paid.

Mominur's mother said she had

given Tk 1 lakh to Abdus Sattar of Naogaon and his two sons Abdus Salam and Abul Kalam as their counterparts in Libya threatened to kill her son and dump the body into the sea.

"They again asked her to give another Tk 2 lakh to Shafiullah, Russell and Gulzar," Bithi added.

This time she sought help from the Detective Branch of police.

Earlier on January 8, Mominur's family gave Sattar and his sons Tk 3 lakh after they assured her of sending Mominur to Malaysia where his father is already working as a labour.

She said they decided to send Mominur, who passed SSC in 2017, to Malaysia to ease their financial hardship.

"We took a loan of Tk 3 lakh from a bank and relatives," she said.

She borrowed Tk 1 lakh at a high interest rate from a lender without having a clue as to how she would repay the loans.

A HOTSPOT OF TRAFFICKING

According to the Police Headquarters data, 7,840 people fell victim to human trafficking between February 2012 and June last year.

The Rapid Action Battalion data shows they rescued 810 victims -- 704 male and 106 females -- and arrested 600 suspected human traffickers since 2006.

There are extensive reports on human trafficking gangs in Libya who kidnapped Bangladeshis seeking jobs abroad and held them hostage for ransom.

Some 24 Bangladeshis among 200 migrants from Asia, Africa and the Middle East died when two vessels carrying about 500 migrants, including 78 Bangladeshis, sank into the sea after leaving Zuwara off the Libyan coast for Italy in September 2015.

In November 2016, Libyan police rescued at least 65 Bangladeshis from a traffickers' den in Tripoli.

Woman hacked to death in Bagerhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A 60-year-old woman was hacked to death by a group of assailants at her home in Dakshin Sarui area of Bagerhat's Sadar upazila on Thursday.

The victim Husna Ara Begum, wife of a retired Public Works Department engineer, was staying alone as all three of her children live out of town and her husband was in Saudi Arabia for performing Omra haji, said Pankaj Chandra Roy, superintendent of Bagerhat police, after visiting the scene.

The victim's younger sister Jahanara Begum said she visited the house around 9:30pm Thursday and found the body on bed.

"All the doors were open and both the almiras of the house were broken," Jahanara said.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital for autopsy, they said, adding that the body was later handed over to family members.

The victim's son Rafiqul filed a case with Bagerhat Police Station yesterday. Reason behind the murder could not be known immediately.

Ran aground

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DoE and Chattogram deputy commissioner to stop the ship breaking there.

It said the beach was not a government authorised ship breaking zone and the ministry had not been informed about the dismantling process.

On February 15, the DC's office told the DoE to take environment-friendly steps as per Bangladesh Ship Recycling Act-2018 for scrapping the vessel.

DoE Chattogram Region Director Mohammad Moazzem Hossain said an appeal of Four Star regarding the fine imposed on them was pending with the High Court.

"No decision can be taken until the court settles it. Opinions of all stakeholders including the ministry of industries will be considered before taking further steps," he told this paper.

During a visit on March 11, this correspondent found ship-breaking workers living in a makeshift house erected on the spot. Some workers said they were awaiting nod from the High Court.

Abul Kalam Azad, owner of Four Star Corporation, said, "The ship was purchased through auction on the condition that it would be scrapped at the spot where it is stuck as it cannot be moved."

He said an attempt to move the ship to Sitakunda failed. "There is no alternative to dismantling it at Parki. We are waiting for the issue to be solved by the High Court."

Kamrul Islam, a shopkeeper at the beach, claimed that the ship dismantling process began in December polluted a portion of the area.

"It was stopped after the intervention of the DoE. But if the vessel is dismantled here, then the entire area will be polluted with toxic discharges. It will damage the tourism prospects too."

DoE officials and many others in the area echoed Kamrul's view.

During the cyclone in 2017, Crystal Gold, anchored at Chattogram Port's outer anchorage, ran aground near Parki beach.

Dhaka adorned

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in the morning, singing in chorus the tunes of "Joy Bangla", while hoisting of Bangladesh flag at Bangabandhu's residence.

Bangabandhu urged people to observe the day as "Historic Lahore Resolution Day" and also announced a public holiday on that day.

A crowd of Bangladeshes thronged the Dhanmondi residence to hear orders for the next course of action from Bangabandhu himself.

On the day, the AL submitted a draft of what was considered its final proposals to the Yahya Khan team regarding transfer of power. General Pirzada pledged to get back to the AL the next day.

Meanwhile, Independent Bangladesh Central Student Agitation Committee and Central Workers Agitation Committee observed this day as "Protirodh Dibosh".

A meeting on economic issues was held on this day between the representatives of president Yahya Khan and the AL team.

Yahya spent the day in the cantonment where formal preparations for a military strike against the rebellious province were being given its final shape.

Thus, while the pretence of political negotiations was being carried on by the Yahya Khan regime, the military was in fact rushing through its plans to bring the civil disobedience movement to an end, through violence and mayhem.

Sources: Liberation War Museum, Bangladesh Genocide Archive and The Daily Star archive

Sr journalist

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Sobhanbag Masjid after Juma prayers, followed by a second one at Dhaka Reporters Unity at 3:00pm, which was attended by a large number of DRU members and senior journalists.

Earlier in 2016, Anwar had another severe stroke, but he improved greatly and had been undergoing regular medical check-ups since then.

According to family members, he returned home on Thursday evening after a medical check-up in New Delhi where doctors said he was in good health.

In his long and distinguished career, Anwar served as the chief reporter, city editor and diplomatic and defence correspondent of The Daily Star.

He interviewed many world leaders and heads of states, including Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter of the USA, John Major of the UK, Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia, Manmohan Singh, IK Gujral, Deve Gowda and Pranab Mukherjee of India, Fidel Ramos and Corazon Aquino of the Philippines, Fuji Mori of Peru, Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, Suleyman Demerial of Turkey, Nelson Mandela of South Africa, Yasser Arafat of the Palestine and late UN secretary-general Kofi Annan.

He was also a director of public affairs and communications of Brac. Prior to joining the NGO in July 2007, Anwar was minister (press) at the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi.

He was elected president of Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) for two consecutive terms (2000 and 2001) and secretary general of Old Faujians Association, a platform of the former cadets of Faujdarhat Cadet College. He had spearheaded the "Keep Cadet College" campaign in 1974.

The journalist had also served several other national newspapers, including the Daily Sun, now-defunct The Morning Star and The People in various capacities.

Anwar, a founding member of Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB), was also the publisher and editor of the Endeavour, one of the country's first magazines.

He was a bright student at Faujdarhat Cadet College. He later

Bus hits car

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the papers of the bus for traffic violations.

This time, legal action will be taken for reckless driving, he added.

Police seized the bus and detained its driver and conductor, said Afjal Hosen, sub-inspector of Banani Police Station.

The driver of Menon's car, Sujon Mia filed a case with the police station against driver Amanullah, 38, and conductor Dulal, 50, the officer said.

'Last chance' for UK PM

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A first-ever leaders dinner debate over the EU's China policy at the summit was delayed until yesterday, for example.

May, who met leaders at the summit but missed out on the dinner because the 27 were forced to focus on Brexit rather than China, originally wanted to be able to delay Britain's departure until June 30 to tie up legislative loose ends.

But now, a May 22 departure date will apply if parliament rallies behind the British prime minister next week. If it does not, Britain will have until April 12 to offer a new plan or choose to quit the bloc without a treaty.

That date corresponds to the six weeks' legal notice required for the EU election - which the bloc would insist Britain hold on May 23 if it remains a member. If it does not hold the election, leaders said, the very last date Britain must leave would be June 30, before the new EU parliament convenes.

"We wanted to support May and we showed that," German Chancellor Angela Merkel told reporters. "It was an intensive, but successful evening."

A senior EU official said the key achievement was to shift the focus of responsibility to London from Brussels, reported Reuters.

May will not attend the second day of the summit but will return to London to seek support for the withdrawal agreement.

DEPARTURE DETAILS STILL VAGUE French President Emmanuel Macron argued at the summit that if the leaders left their decision until late next week, they would be seen as either pushing Britain out on Friday or blinking at their own deadline.

Instead, they have pushed the trigger back to Britain, which will be confronted by a choice by April 12 on whether to hold an EU election as part of a long-term rethink or prepare to quit by May 22, or possibly in June, without a deal.

"Everything is now in the hands of the House of Commons. That's the message," a senior EU official said.

The details of exactly how and when Britain would leave on or after April 12 are still somewhat vague.

It might leave abruptly at midnight (2200 GMT) on that Friday night. But EU officials said it could also agree a deal with the EU to leave later, deal or no deal.

That could give some weeks to make a no-deal exit somewhat less chaotic, though the EU will refuse attempts to try and emulate the smoothness of the withdrawal treaty.

It would also try to insist on Britain

went on to complete his master's in International Relations from Dhaka University.

Prior to his second namaj-e-janaja at the DRU, New Age Editor Nurul Kabir, former BFUI leader Zakaria Kazal, DRU President Elias Hossain, General Secretary Kabir Ahmed Khan, its former leaders Shakhawat Hossain Badsha, Saiful Islam, Motahar Hossain Masum, Razu Ahmed and Mursalin Nomani, among other, briefly spoke on his life and career.

Anwar was later laid to rest at new Azimpur graveyard.

His Qulhawani will be held at his Dhanmondi home on Tuesday after Asr prayers. Relatives, colleagues, friends and well-wishers have been requested to join the programme.

CONDOLENCES POUR IN

Different organisations, including the DRU and DCAB, expressed deep shock at the sudden death of Anwar.

The DRU president and general secretary, DCAB President Raheed Ejaz and General Secretary Nurul Islam Hasib in separate messages expressed sympathy to Anwar's bereaved family members and prayed for the salvation of his departed soul.

The reporters' platform has also announced that it will observe two days of mourning from today. It has opened a condolence book at its Shegunbagicha office.

The DRU will lower its flag for half mast while its members will wear black badges in the two days to mourn the death of its leader.

UNHCR

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termining the situation very complex.

It is important that there is sustained attention of the international community to help Bangladesh manage the Rohingya issue, he said.

Accompanied by two other senior officials of the refugee agency, he met many Rohingyas in Kutupalong refugee settlement and discussed how they see their futures. In Cox's Bazar, they also visited one of five centres in Kutupalong where a joint Bangladesh government-UNHCR registration exercise is being scaled up to provide biometric ID cards for the refugees.

The cards provide enhanced protection and make the delivery of humanitarian assistance and services more effective and efficient. Registration and documentation will also play a key role in confirming that individuals who have been displaced from Myanmar have the right to return to their country when it is safe for them to do so.

In Dhaka, Turk's talks with high government officials were focused on supporting the Bangladeshi host community as well as ways to expanding opportunities of the refugees to develop their skills and knowledge, so that they will be able to contribute to the society in Myanmar when they are able to return.

being out by May 22 to avoid any problems over the EU election on May 23-26, but some leaders indicated that they could cope with Britain leaving any time until June 30 - before the new European Parliament convenes on July 2.

MILLION SIGN PETITION

More than two million people signed an online petition within 24 hours asking the British government to stop Brexit, briefly crashing the site Thursday during a surge in support.

With just eight days to go until Britain is scheduled to leave the European Union, the petition launched on Wednesday admitted that a second Brexit referendum "may not happen - so vote now". The number currently stands at 2,668,994; and rising.