

PM'S APRIL 12 VISIT
Dhaka to focus
on trade with
Turkey

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka will focus on increasing trade and economic cooperation during Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's three-day visit to Turkey on April 12. Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said this while talking to reporters at his office yesterday.

He said both Bangladesh and Turkey will try to identify new areas of cooperation to boost trade and investment. Bangladesh will seek Turkish investment in the field of light engineering and infrastructure development.

Khaleda will go to Ankara, the capital of Turkey, on April 12 at the invitation of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The foreign minister said Bangladesh and Turkey have a long and historical tie with each other

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9 more US soldiers killed in Iraq

19 Iraqis killed in attacks

AP, AFP, Baghdad

Nine more American troops died in Iraq, the US military reported Monday, five of them in a vehicle accident in a remote, rain-soaked western area while 19 Iraqis were killed in separate bombings, attacks.

Their deaths brought the number of service members killed so far this month to 13 nearly half the number who died in all of March.

Three more Americans two Marines and a sailor were missing in the Sunday accident in which a truck overturned near Asad air base, a US statement said. All the dead were Marines, the statement added.

It gave no reason for the accident except that it was not a result of hostile fire. Heavy rains fell over the area during the weekend.

Also Sunday, three Marines and a sailor were killed by "hostile fire" in Anbar province, which includes the Asad base, the military said. No further details, including the precise location, were released.

It was the first time that four American troops had been killed in a single attack since Feb. 22, when four soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division died in a bombing in northern Iraq.

Thirty-one US troops died in Iraq in March, the lowest monthly death toll for US forces since February

2004. But the relatively good news quickly became worse on the first day of April, when four troops were killed including two pilots who died when their Apache helicopter crashed.

US officials said the helicopter was probably shot down. The militant al-Rashideen Army claimed responsibility, and Al-Jazeera television aired footage Monday provided by the insurgents which they claimed showed parts of the wreckage.

Although US casualties have been on the decline, deaths among Iraqis have increased because of

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Opposition aims at unrest, not reforms

PM tells rally

UNB, Rajbari

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has said the objective of the main opposition is not the reform of caretaker government but to create unrest in the country to halt the ongoing development activities.

"They (opposition) are speaking of dialogue on one hand, but on the other giving programme of laying siege to the secretariat and the Prime Minister's Office," she said while addressing a public rally at Rajbari Railway Maidan yesterday.

The prime minister said the caretaker system was introduced by the BNP government in 1996 on the demand of the opposition and three general elections were held peacefully under the system.

The opposition party also came to power through election under the caretaker government and completed their term, she said.

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PHOTO: STAR

Three children display a colourful kite at an exhibition at the National Museum in the capital yesterday. Dhakabashi, an organisation of Dhaka residents, and the Chinese Embassy jointly organised the kite show.



PHOTO: SHAWKET JAMIL

Yesterday evening's downpour in the capital causes waterlogging on the streets leading to disruptions to vehicular traffic. The photograph was taken at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Karwan Bazar.

GAIBANDHA BY-POLLS JP divided over Ershad decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad's decision to contest the May 9 by-election in Gaibandha-4 constituency seems to have divided the party.

The JP's plan not to join any alliance before the caretaker government takes office will be affected by Ershad's opting for the polls, said JP senior leaders who are opposing the former president's move.

The leaders who support the decision said his getting elected to parliament will burnish the party's image.

Against this background, Ershad meets with senior leaders of

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Shootout shrouded in questions

Cops tell of gunbattle; family tells court of cold-blooded murder

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

An outlaw was killed at Meherpur yesterday in what police claimed a 'shootout' and his family a cold-blooded murder by law-enforcers for Tk 1 lakh bribe.

Soon after the killing of Amzad Ali, his son Sabuj went to Meherpur court and gave a deposition where the 18-year-old alleged that his father was in fact beaten to death by policemen and later they cooked up a 'shootout' story with imaginary cohorts of the victim.

Recording Sabuj's allegation in

164, magistrates Gul Lal Singha and Mizanur Rahman ordered police to submit details of the incident including autopsy report in two days.

When contacted Superintendent of Police (SP) Rokunuddin told this correspondent over phone that Amzad died of exsanguination (bleeding to death).

"Amzad was a notorious criminal. He was injured during a gunfight between his accomplices and the police," the SP said. The hospital was 25 kilometres away from

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ODHIKAR REPORT 71 killed by law enforcers in last 3 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 71 people were killed, of them 56 in 'crossfire', by the law enforcers in the last three months, says a report by Odhikar, a human rights organisation.

Of them, 37 people were killed by police, 32 by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and one each by Detective Branch (DB) and forest guards. Besides, five died in police custody and 14 in the jail custody.

Quoting reports of 12 newspapers and its own research unit, the rights watchdog said 63 were killed, 3696 were injured and 183 were arrested in rights violation incidents during January-March, 2006.

Besides, police arrested 10,000

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CRIMINAL CASE Amini asked to appear in court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed Maulana Fazlul Haque Amini MP, chairman of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) and an accused in a criminal case, to appear before the court on May 2.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shafique Anwar directed Proshika President Qazi Faruque Ahmed, complainant of the case, also to appear before the court on that day as it will close cross-examination of witnesses.

Earlier, the court had recorded statements of seven witnesses since the charges were framed against Amini on January 11, 2001.

Amini at a meeting in Brahmanbaria on April 19, 2000

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Future depends on IT use for job creation

Dr Yunus says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned economist Grameen Bank Managing Director Prof Muhammad Yunus said the future of the country depends on how it can utilise information technology (IT) for employment and development.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of IT educational institute Daffodil Grameen IT Education Limited (DGITEL) yesterday, Yunus said, "There is no reason for failure to achieve growth in the IT sector while the neighbouring country has

already made remarkable progress in the area."

"We have to be alert so as not to lose the opportunities in the sector," he said, adding that days are coming when there will be no area in human life without the touch of IT.

He regretted that we cannot utilise the submarine cable system for not establishing a link in the line between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar.

Besides, the government's commitment to open up VoIP has not been fulfilled, he said.

"We cannot describe how many areas will open up in future for employment in the sector," he said, adding, "India is going to earn over \$30 billion through outsourcing in IT sector in just a one-year period while we are far behind earning even one billion dollars from the sector."

"We have to open up the path of unlimited opportunities in the information technology sector for the young generation and spread them throughout the world," Yunus said.

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AUG 17 BLASTS Additional charge sheets submitted in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The investigation officer (IO) yesterday submitted five supplementary charge sheets for the second time at a Satkhira court in connection with the August 17 blasts in Satkhira accusing 19 people.

On October 10 last year, the IO of five cases Criminal Investigation Department (CID) ASP Munshi Atiqur Rahman submitted five separate charge sheets under the Explosive Substances Act with the court accusing 17 people including banned JMB chief Abdur Rahman, JMB chief Siddiqui Islam Bangla

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Charge framing against Sunny deferred again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Charges against the military commander of banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) Ataur Rahman Sunny and six others in two cases could not be framed yesterday as the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) did not produce him before the court as was directed earlier.

This is for the fifth time the hearing on charge framing against the accused was adjourned.

Judge Mohammad Monzurul Bachhid of the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court fixed April 20 as the next hearing date and directed the Rab again to produce Sunny before it that day.

The two cases, one under the Arms Act and another under the Explosive Substances Act, were filed with Sabujbagh Police Station on September 8 last year.

The other accused are AHM

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Prayer Timing		
April 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-21	6-24
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation