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Khandker Sadia Arafin narrates her first-hand experience
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Millions of Tigers fans will back West Indies against England today
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ON TUNISIA-LIBYA BORDER
MORSHED ALI KHAN writes from the spot where thousands of Bangladeshi workers have taken shelter after fleeing the

Coming home, yet unsmiling

Bangladeshis wait in long queue for flights, lost in world of worries

MORSHED ALI KHAN, from Choucha, Tunisia-Libya border.

Joy and fear simultaneously grasped Hedayet of Narayanganj Tuesday evening when officials of International Organisation for Migration (IOM) announced that he with 2,000 others would leave for Bangladesh that night.

With an IOM travel pass in hand, Hedayet and his small sack of clothes had been waiting by a road from early morning at Choucha camp, Tunisia.

Behind him, about 500 men, exhausted by days' turmoil crossing an international border, stood silently. Placed beside most of these departing men were well-packed blankets -- a generous contribution of the aid workers in Choucha -- and a small polythene bag containing the returnees' possessions lasted till the end of this journey.

"Are you happy now," I asked them. No one answered. Then I screamed out the question in clear Bangla. Echoed nothing. Suddenly a young man with a *gamchha* (cotton

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Bangladeshi workers line up in a field littered with garbage at the Tunisian transit camp of Choucha as they wait to get on a bus to the Jerba airport. Inset, A worker shows his paper that allows him to leave the trouble-hit Libya and Tunisia, and board a plane home. More photos on page 12. PHOTO: AFP/MORSHED ALI KHAN



Survival now their main challenge

PORIMOL PALMA

They have survived a near death situation in turbulent Libya and a perilous journey from the North African country to motherland. Now another challenge for survival awaits them after their return home.

This is because many of the returnees have failed to recover the money they had spent to arrange jobs in their "dreamland" Libya.

Many of the recruiting companies also did not pay them for several months before they hurriedly left Libya amid clashes between rebels and Muammar Gaddafi's forces -- a condition that has turned their lives simply miserable.

Many sold their land and property and also borrowed from rural lenders. Now on their return,

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Delwar passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain died at a Singapore hospital yesterday afternoon at the age of 78.

"He died at 2:30pm Bangladesh time," Md Kamrul, general secretary of Singapore unit BNP, told The Daily Star.

President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister

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Religion-based parties may get green light

Constitution amendment body realises political reality, mulls proposal for relaxing restriction

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The parliamentary special committee on constitution amendment has decided to propose easing of restrictions on the use of religion in politics so that Islamic parties can continue functioning.

In the wake of "prevailing political reality", the special committee at a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday discussed how to relax the stringent restrictions imposed by the constitution of 1972, meeting sources said.

"We don't want to take away anyone's political rights. Anybody can be involved in politics following the aims and objectives of the constitution," Suranjit Sengupta, co-chair of the parliamentary special committee, told reporters after the meeting.

The special committee will propose necessary modification to the proviso of Article-38, Suranjit said.

He said if it is the case, some Islamic political parties might have to amend

their charters to keep conformity with the constitution.

The proviso of Article-38 was made immediately after the country's independence, banning the use of religion for political purpose.

The article allows every citizen to form associations or unions, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of morality or public order.

But its proviso says "no person shall have the right to form, or be a member or otherwise take part in the activities of, any communal or other association or union which in the name or on the basis of any religion has for its object, or pursues, a political purpose".

The then government also enacted the Special Powers Act in 1974 specifying punishment for the use of religion for political purpose.

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West Pakistan media sang Mujib song

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

It was Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's fifty-first birthday. Rather surprisingly, newspapers in West Pakistan, such as Dawn, carried special articles on him praising his qualities as a political leader. It was rather ironic, considering that the media in West Pakistan had always been critical of the policies of the

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Muhith to ask for wealth reports

Ministers, advisers, mayors to get letters Sunday

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

Finance Minister AMA Muhith will send letters on Sunday to members of the Council of Ministers, minister-level advisers and mayors of the six city corporations requesting them to submit their wealth statements to the Cabinet Division within a week.

He will also send a letter to Speaker Abdul Hamid on the same day requesting him to take steps for submission of wealth statements of lawmakers.

"The speaker will decide the timeframe for lawmakers for submitting their wealth statements to the Cabinet Division," Muhith told journalists yesterday on the parliament premises.

One can get required information from the Cabinet Division regarding submission of the wealth statement for fiscal 2009-10, he said.

The cabinet purchase committee on economic affairs yesterday decided to implement the ruling Awami League's electoral manifesto as regards wealth statements.

The manifesto titled "A charter for change" said wealth statements and sources of income of the prime

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20th Anniversary 1991-2011 YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

The Daily Star

40yrs of independence, 20yrs of independent journalism

The second part of our 20th anniversary 500-page special supplement is out today. The theme of this 48-page four-colour publication is "Constitution, Parliament and Democracy", marking 40 years of our independence and 20 years of independent journalism. Make sure you get your copy of this collectors item. We at The Daily Star are always trying to serve our readers better. Thank you.

EDITOR

Bahrain protests 2 Bangladeshis run over by truck

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladeshi workers were run over by a truck of Bahrain demonstrators around 8:30pm Bangladesh time on Tuesday.

The dead are Abdul Hannan and Mohammad Ekhlas hailing from Golapganj in Sylhet, said Muhammad Ibrahim, Bangladesh's first secretary (labour) in Bahrain.

The two were waiting to get on a bus at Sitra in the Bahrain capital Manama to return to their house from work around 5:00pm local time.

The truck of the protesters allegedly drove over them, he told The Daily Star from Bahrain where around 1.5 lakh Bangladeshis work.

The bodies were kept at the Sulaimania Hospital in Manama.

The Bahrain government on Tuesday declared

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Japan's Self Defence Force soldiers search for missing people in a snow covered field in Miyako in Iwate prefecture yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Nuke crisis worsens

Japanese workers abandon site briefly for rising radiation levels

AGENCIES, Tokyo

Japan's nuclear crisis appeared to be spinning out of control yesterday after workers withdrew briefly from a stricken power plant because of surging radiation levels and a helicopter failed to drop water on the most troubled reactor.

Emperor Akihito in a rare address to a jittery nation said he is "deeply worried" about the crisis his country is facing following last Friday's earthquake and tsunami.

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JAPAN REELS FROM CRISES Bangladeshis heading home

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Many Bangladeshi expatriates in Japan have started to return home while some are still in dilemma in the face of nuclear radiation and loss of jobs there.

Expatriate Hoq Emdadul last night told The Daily Star

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