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Gaddafi bases bombed

West says the Libyan strongman not targeted

BBC ONLINE

A missile strike has destroyed a building in Libya's capital, Tripoli, which Western officials say was one of Col Muammar Gaddafi's command centres.

Journalists were shown the wrecked building but it was not clear if there were any casualties.

Countries including the US, UK and France are continuing strikes after the UN authorised action to protect Libyan civilians from government forces.

Col Gaddafi has been fighting a rebellion that broke out last month.

US and UK officials say Col Gaddafi himself is not a target of the air strikes, which they insist are aimed at his



Libyan rebels duck for cover during a failed attempt to take the town of Ajdabiya from Gaddafi's forces yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

troops and air defence systems.

The chief of the UK defence staff, Gen Sir David Richards, told the BBC that targeting the Libyan leader was "not allowed under the UN resolution".

A Libyan official said 64 people had been killed in strikes at the weekend, but the figure could not be verified.

'VERY EFFECTIVE'

On Sunday night anti-aircraft fire rose over Tripoli and several explosions were heard. A BBC reporter saw a column of smoke rising from the direction of Bab al-Aziziya, where Col Gaddafi has his military base and compound.

Western journalists taken by

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DHAKA FOR RESTRAINT PAGE 2

Severe radiation in food

WHO warns as Japan battles to avert meltdown

REUTERS, Tokyo

The World Health Organisation said yesterday that radiation in food after an earthquake damaged a Japanese nuclear plant was more serious than previously thought, eclipsing signs of progress in a battle to avert a cata-

strophic meltdown in its reactors.

Engineers managed to rig power cables to all six reactors at the Fukushima complex, 240 km north of Tokyo, and started a water pump at one of them to reverse the overheating that has triggered the world's worst nuclear crisis in 25 years.

Some workers were later evacuated from one of the most badly damaged reactors when smoke briefly rose from the site. There was no immediate explanation for the smoke, but authorities had said earlier that pressure was building up

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in Short

Burnt dowry victim dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife died in the capital yesterday, three days after she was set on fire allegedly by her husband over dowry.

Ismat Ara, 16, was admitted to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital with nearly 40 percent of her body burnt. She succumbed to her injuries around 6:30pm.

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Wife stabbed over family feud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife was critically wounded by her husband who stabbed her in the throat after beating her over a family feud in the capital's Gendaria yesterday.

Victim Moyna Akhter, 21, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

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Diatribes at JS again

BNP walks out

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP-led opposition lawmakers stormed out of the parliament yesterday protesting use of vulgar diatribes by a ruling Awami League lawmaker against Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia.

Ruling party MP Prof Nazma Akhtar launched the broadside against late president Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia in response to BNP MP Nilufar Chowdhury Moni's speech in which she used aggressive words to criticise Banganbanhdu and the present government.

Participating in the discussion on a thanks giving motion on the president's address, Nazma Akhtar launched a blistering personal attack on Khaleda Zia accusing her of extending "hospitality" to Pakistani occupation army in Dhaka Cantonment during the liberation war in 1971.

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39 workers flee Libya to Egypt

Says foreign ministry

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

As the repatriation from Egypt ended, another 39 Bangladeshis from Libya have crossed over to Al Salloum border check point in Egypt, said a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

They are on their way to Cairo Airport and will be sent to Bangladesh by International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on commercial flights, said the press release.

In Tunisia, 37

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Caretaker system should stay

Dr Kamal for plugging its loopholes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday told the Supreme Court that the caretaker government system should remain in force for holding free and fair elections in the country.

The loopholes in the system should be plugged through a consensus so the government can function effectively, he said. It is not possible to hold free and fair elections under a political government.

Dr Kamal said this while making submissions as amicus curiae (friend of court) during a hearing on an appeal against the High Court verdict that had declared valid the

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PRAYER TIMING March 22

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-55 5-30
Zohr	12-45 1-15
Asr	4-45 5-00
Maghrib	6-16 6-20
Esha	7-45 8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

ONLINE POLL

Who do you think should be the next secretary general of BNP?

Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir	(67.7%)
Khandeker Mosharraf Hossain	(23.2%)
Tariqul Islam	(9.1%)

TOTAL VOTES : 427

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support the western air strike on Libya?

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Icons are welcome to enjoy any item in the menu to celebrate March, the month of freedom, at the country's favorite family restaurant Pizza Hut to experience a variety of scrumptious pizzas, pastas, appetizers and more.