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PROTEST ROCKS LONDON

Public spending cuts bring 2,50,000 out on streets

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COLDEST STAR

A newly discovered star is no warmer than a freshly brewed cup of coffee

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HOPEFUL TAYLOR

Ross Taylor believes New Zealand can make it to the finals

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Caretaker to get JS fix

Constitution amendment body readies proposals to plug loopholes in the system

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment is mulling some proposals for specifying the terms and conditions for caretaker governments, including limiting their tenure for a maximum of 90 days.

Since introduction in 1996, caretaker governments held office for four terms.

A caretaker government takes over state power after an elected parliament is dissolved at the end of its tenure. An interim government's main task is to give all possible aid and assistance to the Election Commission (EC) for holding a

parliamentary election peacefully, fairly and impartially. And it is the EC's constitutional responsibility to hold a general election within 90 days of a parliament's dissolution. The interim regime hands over power to a newly elected government.

The last caretaker government led by Fakhruddin Ahmed however ended up holding state power for around two years claiming that the interim regime did not have any specific tenure as the EC had failed to hold a parliamentary election within the stipulated 90 days of the last parliament's dissolution.

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A stark contrast of black and white. This photo of a laundry man washing clothes in the Buriganga near the first Buriganga Bridge says it all about how polluted the water is.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL



The Daily Star
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Dear readers, today we have the pleasure to present you with the fifth instalment of our 500-page supplement series marking the 20th Anniversary of The Daily Star. In this 48-page special issue, we focus on "Foreign Policy, Connectivity and Regional Approach." We hope you will enjoy reading it.

EDITOR

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

BNP's ex-minister Alim arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP lawmaker Md Abdul Alim has been arrested on charges of crimes against humanity in 1971.

Police picked him in front of his Joypurhat residence last night,



Md Abdul Alim

said the district's superintendent of police.

Earlier, the International Crimes Tribunal issued the arrest warrant for Alim who was a member of Ziaur Rahman's cabinet.

A three-judge panel headed by

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Wait now for more flights

MORSHED ALI KHAN from Choucha camp, Tunisia-Libya border



ON TUNISIA-LIBYA BORDER

The stranded Bangladeshis in Choucha camp could be repatriated within a day or two if flights are made available, IOM officials at the camp said. Although more of these displaced migrant workers are

MORSHED ALI KHAN writes from the spot where thousands of Bangladeshi workers have taken shelter after fleeing the Libyan

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Inflow from Libya starts declining

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Inflow of Bangladeshi migrants to Tunisia and Egypt has trickled down, as only 35 workers crossed the Libyan border in the last 48 hours.

Nearly 1,239 Bangladeshis now await repatriation at Ras Jdir border in Tunisia while

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Libyan rebels push west

Seize four eastern coastal towns

AGENCIES

Libyan rebels pushed west yesterday to recapture more territory abandoned by Muammar Gaddafi's retreating forces, weakened by Western air strikes. They seized the eastern

coastal towns of Ras Lanuf, Brega, Uqayla and Bin Jawad after pro-Gaddafi forces -- under pressure from allied air strikes with-

draw. Emboldened by their capture of the strategic

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'BALANCING' THE BOAT

This is a boat loaded with Golpata in the Sundarbans. And the logs on the water are tied to the boat. Chopping down any tree is banned in the world's largest mangrove forest. Traders collecting Golpata however fell hundreds of trees including Goran and Sundari between November and April each year, and tie those to their boats, in the name of balancing the boats. But in reality that is how they transport the logs for sale.

PHOTO: EMRAN HOSSAIN

Hasina sought int'l help after mutiny

She phoned Pranab, states US cable leaked by WikiLeaks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After the 2009 BDR mutiny, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had telephoned India's External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee requesting assistance from the international community, The Hindu reported citing a leaked US embassy cable.

Though Hasina had not been specific about the kind of help she needed, Pranab had offered "to be responsive" if needed and the Indian government had also ral-

lied London, Beijing and Tokyo to support the cause, the article published yesterday said.

Nirupama Subramanian wrote that US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Steven White was surprised when he was called in for a meeting with Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon on the last weekend of February 2009.

That "unusual Saturday meeting" was to discuss the mutiny by troopers of the Bangladesh Rifles a couple of days earlier,

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