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Expatriate Bangladeshi eyes Everest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Salam, an expatriate Bangladeshi living in the United Kingdom, has started his expedition to the Everest -- the apex of the world on March 2 from London.

Hailing from Begumpur village under Usmanpur union in Sylhet Sadar upazila, the self-financed expeditor has chosen the north

New hilsa sanctuary in Padma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is soon going to declare a 20-kilometre stretch of the Padma in Shariatpur a new sanctuary for hilsa to increase the production of the kingly fish, said Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas yesterday.

This will be the fifth hilsa sanctuary to be made at the lower basin of Padma river, he said while speaking at a press briefing organised by the ministry at the Department of Fisheries in the city on the eve of Jatka Preservation Week

AUG 21 PROBE CID seeks 45 days more

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The CID sought 45 days more from a Dhaka court yesterday to complete further investigation into one of the two cases filed for the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally in 2004.

CID's (Criminal Investigation Department) Special Superintendent of Police Abdul Kahar Akand, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the petition with Judge Mohammad Zohurul Hoque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court.

PRAYER TIMING April 4

Asan	4-40	Jamaat	5-15
Fajr	12-45	1-15	
Zohr	4-45	5-00	
Asr	6-21	6-24	
Maghrib	7-45	8-15	



Supporters and party activists crowd the Airport Road to welcome home the BNP chairperson yesterday causing huge tailbacks at the city's Khilkhet. Khaleda Zia, inset, waves to the people.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Khaleda returns Reception at airport tailbacks on roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was given a warm welcome yesterday by party activists and supporters upon her return from a 10-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

Hundreds of leaders, workers and supporters of the main opposition and its associate bodies were standing on both sides of the road from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Banani in the capital. That caused huge traffic congestion in the area which lasted for about an hour.

The traffic movement became normal around 4:00pm. On behalf of the party, Dhaka City Corporation

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5 years not enough

BCL's central committee formed in 2006 for 2 years, but still no sign of new one

NAJMUL ALAM NOBIN and RAKIB AHAMMED

The central committee of Bangladesh Chhatra League, which was formed for two years, became five-year-old today with no sign of formation of a new committee.

Many leaders of the pro-Awami League student body are frustrated as the committee's tenure expired in 2008.

Some leaders, who have exceeded the age limit of 29 for getting any post

in the central committee, say they would have got a chance to be in the committee had the committee been formed in due time.

A bunch of senior leaders of the committee who aspire for president or general secretary might face the age bar.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina introduced the age limit before forming this committee in 2006. The limit was introduced to keep the BCL leadership among

regular students. According to the BCL constitution, the central executive committee should be elected every two years through a national council, or else the executive committee will become inactive.

The tenure of the committee can be increased by three months on emergency situations. However, that decision must be made in an extended meeting where presidents

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Peacekeepers safe in Ivory Coast

REZAUL KARIM

Bangladeshi UN peacekeepers in war-torn Ivory Coast are unhurt but they, especially the police contingent, are at serious risk as clashes in cities continue between forces of Alassane Ouattara and Laurent Gbagbo.

The French army took over the main airport of Ivory Coast yesterday while the battle for Abidjan continued for the fourth day. The death toll is now believed to be over 1,000.

All 2,000 Bangladesh army and 361 police personnel working there as UN

peacekeepers are unhurt.

According to a report of the UN mission in the West African country, the supporters of incumbent president Laurent Gbagbo fired at a UN patrol team in Abidjan city Saturday leaving four peacekeepers seriously wounded.

"It is not for the first time that the Blue Helmets are assaulted by troops of Gbagbo who lost the presidential election in November last year and is trying to retain power," the UN mission said in press release.

Sources in the Bangladesh army in

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LOGGERS REIGN SUPREME

The photo taken recently at Shyamnagar town in Satkhira shows Goran trees and gol pata are being sold openly at a roadside shop on Shyamnagar-Dhaka highway. As the collection time is nearing its end, hundreds of gol pata traders are returning from the Sundarbans with illegally felled Goran trees to sell those to timber traders. Felling of Goran goes unabated round the year though it has been banned in the world's largest mangrove forest.

PHOTO: EMRAN HOSSAIN



A tragic death

Woman in panic dies when jumped over barbed-wire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A tyre burst sent a shock wave of bomb panic in which a woman tried to jump over a barbed-wire fence; she fell on the wires, slit her throat and died.

Following the burst of a bus tyre, panicked Taslima Khan Lima, 25, tried to run away but she was hit in the head by something on Topkhana Road in front of Jatiya Press Club around 9:30am yesterday. She then fell on the sharp wires, said witnesses and police.

Wife of trader SM Rezaul Islam of Khilgaon, Taslima was a teacher of

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Twin suicide blasts kill 41 at Pak shrine

AFP, Islamabad

Two suicide bomb attacks outside a shrine in the central Pakistani province of Punjab yesterday killed 41 people, a police officer told AFP from the scene of the blasts.

The bombers struck outside the shrine of the 13th century Sufi saint Ahmed Sultan, popularly known as Sakhi Sarwar, in Dera Ghazi Khan district.

Hundreds of worshippers had gathered at the shrine for a religious ceremony when the attacks took place.

"We have recovered 41 bodies so far," said the officer, Zahid Hussain Shah, adding that more than 70 were wounded.

"Both were suicide attackers, they came on foot and blew themselves up when police on duty stopped them."

Many of those wounded in the attack were in a serious condition, he said, and the injured have been taken to the Dera Ghazi Khan hospital for treatment.

Regional police chief Ahmed Mubarak also confirmed two suicide bombers tried to enter the shrine but failed and blew themselves up.

A police official, requesting anonymity, said the shrine had received threats from unidentified militants.

Sufi worshippers, who follow a mystical

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338 more Bangladeshis flee Libya

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Some 338 Bangladeshis crossed over the Libyan borders to Tunisia on Saturday, with the government expecting this inflow to continue for the next few days.

According to a foreign ministry press release yesterday, about 589 Bangladesh nationals are now waiting for repatriation at Ras Jdir border point in Tunisia.

In order to repatriate

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Fierce battle for control of Brega

Libyan rebels to form "crisis team" to run parts of the country

AGENCIES

Libyan rebels beat a fresh retreat from Brega yesterday after a new bout of fierce fighting over the key oil town, an AFP correspondent reported.

Overnight, shelling resumed in Misrata, Libya's third biggest city and the last big rebel stronghold in the west, which has been besieged for weeks.

Rebels skirmished with government forces around the strategic oil town of Brega, making incremental advances backed by international air strikes in the seesaw desert battle for the country.

In contrast to the rapid gains and losses of territory

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Attorney General that pro-BNP-Jamaat panel's win in the Supreme Court Bar Association poll will help BNP-Jamaat alliance to fight against gov't's move to hold trial of war criminals?

Yes (28.9%)  
No (67.0%)  
No Comments (4.1%)

TOTAL VOTES : 367

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think Islami Oikya Jote's hartal on April 4 protesting the National Women Development Policy is justified?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net