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LIBYA UNREST
900 waiting at border for return

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

As the number of Libya-fled Bangladeshi increased at Ras Jdir border point of Tunisia, Biman Bangladesh Airlines has decided to operate three more flights to bring back 900 people now waiting for repatriation. The number was 589 yesterday, but it rose to 900 due to fresh inflow from Libya. In response to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' request for more flights, Biman has decided to operate three flights from Djerba in Tunisia on April 6, 8 and 10, said a foreign ministry

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8

RELIGIOUS SENTIMENT
Khaleda warns of chaotic situation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said a chaotic situation might arise if the government takes any step hurting religious sentiment. She expressed her concern during a meeting with a four-member delegation of Near East and South Asia (NESA), a US-based research organisation, at her Gulshan office in the capital. "Bangladesh has

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8

BNP, Jamaat used Aminee for hartal

Says Syed Ashraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam claimed the main opposition BNP and its ally Jamaat-e-Islami sponsored yesterday's hartal and Fazlul Haque Aminee was used strategically to declare it. He was briefing the

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

HSC exams begin today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent examinations begin today with a total of 7,79,441 examinees sitting for the exams in 2,074 centres across the country amid tight security. This year the number of HSC and its equivalent Alim, Business Management (BM) examinees is

SEE PAGE 6 COL 8

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

Aila-hit people staring at sky

Bracing themselves for another horrible monsoon as embankment not repaired in 2 years

EMRAN HOSSAIN, back from southwestern districts

Sabitri, mother of three, fights the afternoon gusts as she prepares her dinner in an earthen oven on the embankment of Bangladesh Water Development Board in the open air.

"Now I do not even hope to go back home," says Sabitri as she tries in vain to point to her village in a vast area now under saline water.

Since cyclone Aila hit the southwestern part of the country on May 25, 2009, Sabitri, a resident of South Betkashi union of Koira in Khulna, has been living on the embankment along with 3,200 others.

Since then saline water rushing through the crack during high tide swamps a vast area of over 5,000 acres of the Betkashi union twice every day.

The rest 2,000 inhabitants of the union live in tong, a house built on a raised platform made of bamboos in the water. They are living in the conditions as BWDB could not plug the crack the cyclone had created in a part of the embankment two years ago.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Twice a day during high tide the 5,000-acre land at Koira in Khulna is inundated by saline water rushing through the breach cyclone Aila had created in the coastal line embankment two years back. Inset, the coastal embankment that requires urgent repair.

PHOTO: EMRAN HOSSAIN

PERFORMANCE IN KEY PUBLIC ISSUES

AL stalwarts, allies critical of govt

HASAN JAHIID TUSHER and RASHIDUL HASAN

Frustrations deepen within the ruling Awami League and its allies over the government's handling of crucial issues like soaring food prices, power and gas crises and sliding law and order.

In recent months, several AL stalwarts and chiefs of Jatiya Party, Workers Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal--components of the grand alliance--have criticised the Hasina administration for its poor performance in addressing key public issues.

They also reminded the government of its election pledges and the heavy price it

might have to pay for failure to make good on those.

Speaking in parliament in February, AL advisory council member and veteran parliamentarian Tofail Ahmed blasted Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain for failing to improve the road and rail communications in the last two years.

Most of the lawmakers and Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali, who was presiding the session, echoed Tofail's observations.

But the next day, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took the floor and shielded Abul

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

GRAMEEN, YUNUS SC hearing on appeals today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court will hold today the hearing on the appeals filed against the High Court verdict that upheld a central bank order sacking Prof Muhammad Yunus from the post of Grameen Bank managing director.

A seven-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque, yesterday morning fixed the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3

AUG 21 ATTACK, SLOW PROBE

CID warned yet again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court warned the investigation officer (IO) of an August 21 grenade attack case for the second time yesterday for delaying the probe, and asked him to submit the report by April 20.

With this, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) got 20 months and 15 days in eight phases for further investigation of the case filed under Explosive Substances Act.

The court will not extend the time any more, Judge Mohammad Zohurul Hoque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court told Abdul Kahar Akand, CID's special superintendent of police.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

Land trader murdered in the city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A land trader was stabbed dead at the capital's Gulshan yesterday morning.

The dead, Golam Rabbani Roman, 40, son of MA Mazid of Comilla, was a resident of the city's Khilkhet.

Sub-inspector of Gulshan Police Station Firoz Kabir said Roman went to a club named Club 29 at Gulshan around midnight and left it around 6:00am

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

A member of an Islamist group kicks a policeman hard during the hartal yesterday. More photos on page 5, 8.

10 killed as storm lashes 7 districts

UNB, Dhaka

At least 10 people were killed and more than 150 injured as tornado lashed scores of villages in Jamalpur, Thakurgaon, Sherpur, Mymensingh, Gaibandha, Joupurhat and Bogra districts yesterday late afternoon and evening.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

YEMEN UNREST

Troops, cops open fire

REUTERS, Sanaa

Police and armed men in civilian clothes opened fire on demonstrators in the Yemeni cities of Taiz and Hudaida yesterday as a

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

ONLINE POLL

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

Yes (34.7%)
No (62.5%)
No Comments (2.8%)

TOTAL VOTES : 536

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think BGMEA authorities should stop further persuasion to save the building that has been declared illegal and asked to demolish by the High Court?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

IVORY COAST CONFLICT

Fresh assault to remove Gbagbo

REUTERS, Abidjan

Forces backing Ivory Coast presidential claimant Alassane Ouattara began a fresh assault to remove Laurent Gbagbo from his last stronghold in Abidjan yesterday.

As the conflict escalated, France ordered more troops into the West African country to protect civilians.

A convoy of several dozen vehicles containing heavily armed pro-Ouattara troops and outfitted with mounted machineguns entered Ivory Coast's main city at midday, the first elements of a large force that had massed on the northern outskirts for what they called a "final assault," according to a Reuters eyewitness.

Heavy machinegun fire and a few explosions could be heard minutes after they entered the city limits.

The commanding officer of the forces, Issiaka "Wattao" Ouattara, told Reuters he had 4,000 men with him plus another 5,000 already in the city. Asked how long he would need to take Abidjan, Wattao said: "We know when it starts, but could take 48 hours to properly clean (the city)."

Gbagbo has refused to cede power after a disputed November 28 election which U.N.-certified results showed Ouattara won, but Gbagbo rejected the results

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2