UN chief pledges combat troops to DR Congo

AFP, Kigali

UN chief Ban Ki-moon pledged yesterday that UN troops will be in place within "one or two months" to battle armed rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo's volatile east, as he toured the flashpoint city of Goma. Ban's visit came after

three days of sometimes deadly fighting between rebels and government forces that ended a precarious calm spell in the mineral-rich east of the country, an area gripped by conflict for more than two decades.

The latest bout of fighting near Goma, which was briefly seized by the M23 rebel group in an armed uprising last year despite the presence of a large UN peacekeeping force, has sent thousands of people fleeing. But the Congolese army

and rebel forces said the situation on the ground on Thursday was calm. Ban later travelled to Kigali, capital of neighbour-

ing Rwanda, a nation that plays a key role in the region, and has been accused by the UN of backing M23 fighters, claims it denies. Ban had said earlier this week that deployment of a

UN intervention force made up of about 3,000 African troops should be accelerated in view of the fresh unrest. On Thursday, the UN

chief gave a firmer deadline, saying: "It will arrive (in) about one or two months." The force made up of

Tanzanian, Malawian and South African soldiers was approved by the UN Security Council in March as its first ever "offensive" peacekeeping brigade. It will join the 17,000-

strong peacekeeping force -the biggest currently deployed in the world by the UN -- already in place in DR Congo, but it will have an additional mandate of fighting and disarming the rebels.

The latest unrest was unleashed barely a week after the first troops from the UN "offensive" brigade arrived in the east, an area rich in minerals including gold and coltan, which is used in cell phones and other electronic equipment.

EU warns

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They expect an investigation Bangladesh is found to be in serious and systematic violation of the principles laid down in these conventions.

Following the recent fires and building collapse at factories in Bangladesh, the MEPs called for justice for victims and EU action to prevent similar events in

They want the Commission to promote responsible business conduct among EU companies operating abroad and ensure strict compliance with all legal obligations in the areas of human rights, labour and the environment, according to the EU

parliament website. The resolution insists that those responsible for the collapse of the Rana Plaza, the Tazreen factory fire or any other fire should be brought to justice, that the victims should have full access to the justice system, and that a financial compensation plan should be

established. MEPs recognise the importance of the recently finalised Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh between the trade unions, NGOs and some 40 multinational textile retailers and call on all other relevant textile brands to support this

effort. The action plan adopted in early May with a view to reforming the labour laws is also a welcome measure, say MEPs.

However, they want the government and the relevant judicial authorities to investigate allegations that the national building regulations were not implemented due to collusion between corrupt officials and landlords seeking to

reduce their costs.



The Objet1000, a top of the line 3D printer from stratasys, makes a wheel.

The magic of 3D printing

LIVESCIENCE.COM

The cost of 3D printing has long kept the technology in a select few hands, but all that is changing as 3D printing blossoms into a fullfledged trend.

This June, Staples will start retailing a consumer 3D printer, the Cube 3D Printer, for \$1,299 — not cheap, but not out of reach of the dedicated techie, either. A working gun

Last year, Cody Wilson, a

radical libertarian/anarchist from the University of Texas' law school, announced plans for printing a gun. In early March, Wilson

and his team achieved their dream, successfully testing the "Liberator" on a Texas firing range. Except for a

Dimension SST 3D printer. The gun successfully shot a .380 caliber bullet, but exploded when its creators tried to modify it to shoot a larger 5.7x28 rifle cartridge. A make-it-yourself violin

DIY violin-maker Alex Davies used 3D printing to make a plastic form for the violin's body, which he and his team then covered in newspaper and glue. A piece of cardboard made the neck and some picture-hanging wire served for strings.

A dead king's face

After discovering the skeleton of long-lost King Richard III under a parking lot in Leicester, England, archaeologists turned over

firing pin made from a the skull measurements to metal nail, the gun is made facial reconstruction expert from plastic pieces printed Caroline Wilkinson of the on an \$8,000 Stratasys University of Dundee. Wilkinson and her colleagues sculpted computerised flesh to computerised bone and then 3D printed the resulting bust — a lifelike look at a man dead more than 500 years.

> Human stem cells Don't expect to see this in Staples anytime soon, but scientists have developed a 3D printer for stem cells.

The device works by creating uniform droplets of living embryonic stem cells, which are the cells present in early development that are capable of differentiating into any type of tissue. The printer is so gentle that it can squirt out as few as five cells at a time without dam-

A bionic ear

The bionic ear, made from calf cells, a polymer gel and silver nanoparticles, can pick up radio signals beyond the range of human hearing.

To make the ear, the researchers printed the gel into an approximate ear shape and cultured the calf cells on that matrix to create something appropriately biological.

Your very own fetus Japanese company Fasotec can take magnetic resonance images (MRI) of a developing fetus in the womb and convert them into a 3D-printed paperweight of your fetus in white plastic, surrounded by a clear plastic tummy.

Malaysian student activist charged with sedition

KUALA LUMPUR

A Malaysian court yesterday charged a student activist with sedition and three others, including two opposition politicians, were arrested on the same charge in what critics decried as a crackdown on dissent.

Prime Minister Najib Razak pledged last year to repeal the Sedition Act, widely seen as oppressive. Critics slammed the fresh arrests under the law, believed to be in connection with calls to protest against alleged fraud during the May 5 election.

Najib's Barisan Nasional (National Front) coalition won the election, extending its 56-year rule, but the opposition has alleged that fraud marred the polls and

cost them victory. Adam Adli Halim was charged under the Sedition Act over a statement made at

a public post-election forum

on May 13, and had been claims. held in custody for five days until Thursday, said his

was released on bail. The 24-year-old is accused

After being charged, he

lawyer Fadiah Nadwa Fikri.

of calling on people to protest at the election results, Fadiah said. He pleaded not guilty to the charge, which carries a penalty of up to three years in jail.

Also Thursday senior opposition politician Tian Chua and activist Haris Ibrahim were detained under the Sedition Act. Another opposition politician was also detained, lawyer Malik Imtiaz said.

Malik did not immediately have further details.

Kuala Lumpur police chief Mohmad Salleh declined to comment, saying he would make a statement later. Police have previously said they are investigating

Fadiah, the student's lawyer, slammed the use of the Sedition Act, which Najib pledged to repeal last year as part of a muchtouted drive to strengthen civil liberties, after criticism of its use mounted.

"It's clearly still being used to stifle dissent," Fadiah told AFP. "The law is open to abuse... it's an infringement to freedom of speech and freedom of assembly."

London-based human rights group Amnesty International has slammed Malaysia's use of the Sedition Act.

"The Malaysian authorities must ensure that peaceful political dissent is protected both in law and practice," it said in a statement

on Wednesday. Malaysian activists and the opposition have disthose who challenge the missed Najib's moves to government over the fraud amend a series of security

laws to guarantee greater civil liberties as windowdressing to appease voters.

Police said earlier this month they may pursue sedition charges against speakers at a May 8 mass stadium rally organised by opposition leader Anwai Ibrahim to launch nationwide protests against alleged poll fraud.

The opposition claims the voter rolls used in the national polls were full of irregularities, such as huge numbers of voters registered in closely fought constituencies, allegedly to sway the results in favour of Barisan.

The government has denied the elections were unfair.

Barisan won 133 of 222 parliamentary seats, seven seats fewer than in the previous polls in 2008 but holding on to a comfortable majority. But they only gained 46.6 percent of the popular vote.

PM trashes civil society formulas

policy of "justice for peace" to establish the ideals of secularism, democracy and progressivism.

She said the government

had initiated the trials of war criminals and the International War Crimes Tribunals have started pronouncing judgements in the cases to ensure justice, which is one of the main prerequisites for peace.

Hasina mentioned that her government was taking the country towards development despite facing various obstacles, including destructive activities by the

opposition. In this connection, she

ments in the capital by ment's previous term. Hefajat-e Islam. Hasina said her government was committed to the

mentioned the incidents of

rule of law, which helped to bring about peaceful settlements of disputes with neighbouring countries. She mentioned her coun-

try's triumph in the maritime boundary case against Myanmar, and hoped that added.

Bangladesh would get a

solution to problems with

India by upholding its

dignity.

Hasina also referred to vandalism, including the the signing of the entcountry. burning of copies of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace holy Quran, looting of Accord and the Ganges

The World Peace Council awarded Juliot-Curie Peace Prize to the Father of the Nation four decades ago for his role in establishing peace across the world, she

"It was the first international honour that Bangladesh earned," she

Hasina recalled with deep gratitude the World Peace Council's contribution to the emergence of

Bangladesh as an independ

Earlier, the premier distributed prizes among the shops and launching arson Water Sharing Treaty with winners of a painting comattacks on various establish- India during her govern- petition, arranged on the occasion to celebrate the 40 years of winning the Juliot-Curie Peace Medal by the Father of the Nation. With Mozaffar Hossain

Pramud Chandra Sinha.

Paltu, president of Bangladesh Peace Council, in the chair, the function was addressed, among others, by Executive Secretary of the World Peace Council Iraklis Savdaridis and Vice-President of All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation

Five climbers feared dead on Nepal mountain

AFP, Kathmandu

Five climbers, including the first Hungarian to scale Mount Everest, are missing and feared dead on Nepal's treacherous Kangchenjunga mountain, tourism officials said yesterday. The climbers -- two from

Hungary, two from Nepal and one from South Korea -went missing on Monday afternoon as they attempted to climb the 8,586-metre (28,169-foot) peak, the officials said. "We are not sure what caused their disappearance -

- it could be an avalanche or

a fall," Dipendra Paudel, an official at Nepal's tourism ministry, told AFP. Kangchenjunga, which lies to the east of the world's tallest peak, Mount Everest,

is the world's third-highest Strawberry

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"Farmers in the area used to cultivate tobacco on 5-7 hectares of land, but after seeing Faruk's success, most are now eager to grow strawberries,

said Kazi Ramij Ahmed, plant

production officer of

Rangunia upazila agricul-

ture office.

Gauri Bhattacharjee, Caritas field officer in Rangunia, echoed Ahmed's view. "Some farmers

approached us for assistance. We expect at least 15 of them will switch to strawberry cultivation this year." Meanwhile, James

Gomes, regional director of Chittagong, told The Daily Star that they had long been encouraging farmers to grow vegetables and farm fish, instead of cultivating tobacco.

"Faruk's success has made our job a bit easier."

According to upazila agriculture offices in Chittagong, there are success stories like that of Faruk in the district, which have inspired many farmers to try their luck in strawberry cultivation this year.

Income rises

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The income this time has come from agricultural land, house rent, shrimp enclosures, Khaleque's remuneration as the KCC mayor, his wife's remuneration and allowances as an MP.

The value of Khaleque and his wife's property, both movable and immovable, was worth around Tk 95.85 lakh in 2008.

The property included cash, money deposited with his and his wife's bank accounts, money investment in 'sanchoypatra' and fixed deposit. In 2013, the value of mov-

able property of Khaleque and of his wife has stood at around Tk 4.9 crore, and immovable properties worth around Tk 4.62 crore. The movable property

includes money deposited with Khaleque and his wife's bank accounts, money invested in stock market, money fixed deposited with his and his wife's bank accounts and interest from postal fixed deposit.

While the immovable property includes some 23 bighas of agricultural land obtained from his father, fivestorey building, money invested in the shrimp enclosure and money shown as instalment for Razuk Purbachal project against a piece of land. Moreover, the couple has

three cars, 25 tolahs of gold, valuablefumiture, electronicgoods.

Justifying the increases in income and property over the years, Khaleque, also Khulna city unit Awami League presi dent and the ruling 14-party alliance-backed mayoral candidate, recently told The Daily Star that it was legal and his business had increased. On the other side, the BNP-

led 18-party alliance-backed candidate Moniruzzaman Mony's annual income has decreased to Tk 2 lakh in 2013 from Tk 8 lakh in 2008, according to the affidavits submitted to local EC. Contacted, Moniruzzaman

Mony said his income had decreased as he had been counting losses in his business for the last four years.

identified by Nepalese tourmountain and straddles Nepal's border with India.

The climbers were last seen at a level of 7,800 metres, Paudel said.

"There is a very slim chance of their survival," he said.

The missing men were Sherpa, 23.

ism authorities as Zsolt Eross, 45 and Peter Kiss, 27, of Hungary, South Korean Park Nam-Su, 47, and two Nepalese guides Bibash Gurung, 24, and Pho Dorchi

Khaleda warns

FROM PAGE 1 on the formation of an elec-

tion-time non-partisan neutral government, which will hold a free and fair election in which all parties will take The BNP national standing

policymaking body of the main opposition party, made the appeal last night through a press release. In response to ruling party claims that the BNP was engaged in a conspiracy to

oust the government by using

Hefajat-e Islam on May 5, the

committee, the highest

BNP standing committee said, "the BNP does not believe in hatching conspiracies to oust a government or in any violent activities." "With the silly excuse that the government might fall if Hefajat-e Islam was allowed to continue with its programme until the next morning [May 6], a barbaric crackdown was carried out

BNP standing committee cannot support." On May 5, Hefajat held a rally at Shapla Chattar in the capital. Following daylong violence in the area, law enforcers moved in after midnight and dispersed the agitating Hefajat men. Hefajat Secretary General Junaid Babunagari in a confessional statement recently said the BNP had funded the

against its followers late at

night [early May 6] which the

topple the government. The BNP committee yesterday observed that the govern-

agitation programme to

ment wanted to wipe out democracy through an undeclared introduction of one-

party rule in the country. "And to achieve this they [the government] have snatched away the democratic right to hold rallies and meetings through a foggy and illegal order for an indefinite period," said the press release signed by the BNP chairperson's adviser Shamsuzzaman

With BNP Chairperson

Khaleda Zia in the chair, the

national standing committee had sat for a meeting Wednesday night at the opposition leader's Gulshan office. KHOKA DENIES BNP Vice-Chairman Sadeque Hossain Khoka yesterday

dismissed allegations of his

Dudu.

having facilitated the Hefajate Islam rally on May 5 in Dhaka city. In a press statement, Khoka said Hefajat's Secretary General Junaid Babunagari's "so-called confessional statement" linking him and the BNP-led 18-party alliance to

entirely false and concocted. He claimed that the opposition alliance had no organisational or idealistic connection with Hefajat. "No one in the party was liaising with them [Hefajat]," he further said.

the Islamist group was

"I'm not personally acquainted with Babunagari. I have only seen him in the media," said Khoka, the former mayor of Dhaka city

Govt plans to filter

FROM PAGE 1

vendors last month through its website. Nearly two dozen companies have submitted their offers for the job. Through the expression of

interest, BTRC seeks a solution to keep Bangladesh safe from harmful internet content and material that threaten national unity and solidarity, and are derogatory to religious beliefs, or are obscene, indecent and morally inappropriate.

A BTRC official claimed that the move was being made to prevent online propaganda using religious sentiments, false pictures and news to trigger unrest in the country. In the last few months, the

Jamaat-e-Islami and the pro-Jamaat student body Islami Chhatra Shibir's online propaganda successfully instigated countrywide violence, the official said, adding that such filtering would be able to prevent such ploys.

However, the move actually stemmed from searchengine giant Google's refusal to take down the trailer of a religiously sensitive film from its website Youtube.com. Bangladesh even asked Google to install a mirror server for Bangladesh nine months ago so that such videos could be filtered out.

BTRC Chairman Sunil

Kanti Bose said when Google refused to set up a mirror server to block Bangladeshis from accessing the much talked about film clip of "Innocence of Muslims" that

government had to block Youtube. At that point, the BTRC

criticised the prophet

Mohammad (pbuh), the

took the initiative to set up a filtering system. Bose admitted that the Internet Safety Solution could become a tool of any non-democratic or autocratic government to take away

freedom of speech. He said, "The BTRC will

not allow misuse. He claimed that all data would not be monitored. "It will not harm the free flow of

internet," he added. Internet technology expert Sabir Ahmed Sumon said one can use safety solutions for good and bad purposes. And of course, it will hamper a free flow of internet,

he said. Another expert noted that it would be a costly filtering system which might affect common users and not those who spread propaganda. "People [who spread propaganda] always find a way of overcoming restric-

rial meeting yesterday, fam-

ily members of Khaled

demanded state recognition

of his becoming the fifth

Bangladeshi to conquer

government recognise

Khaled as a Mount Everest

conqueror," said Shakhwat

Hossain, adding that he had

died after completing his

mission to the summit of

organisations, including the

Everest Academy, North

Alpine Club Bangladesh and

Dhaka University

Mountaineering and

Adventure Club jointly organ-

ised the remembrance meet-

ing at the Russian Cultural

several co-mountaineers

and friends of Sajal said he

Addressing the meeting,

Various mountaineering

"We demand that the

tions," he said.

Govt to bring Khaled's body

Everest.

Everest.

FROM PAGE 20 28,000 feet above sea level

died," he said while talking to The Daily Star at around 10:00pm yesterday. "We hope to bring the body to Kathmandu on May

where mountaineer Khaled

30 or 31, and later it will be sent to Bangladesh. The government will bear all the expenses," Hossen added. The country's first Mount

Everest conqueror Musa Ibrahim last night said two Bangladeshi mountaineers -Reaz Ahmed and Mir Shamsul Alam Babu -- had

already reached Kathmandu to coordinate the task of bringing Khaled's body back to Dhaka. Musa and Khaled's elder brother Shakhwat Hossain

said officials at the Bangladesh Embassy in Nepal had contacted them and informed them about the government initiative to bring the body back. Khaled died on Monday

had died a victor's death on Everest, which Khaled had said was a holy place.

Centre in the capital.

while descending from the They also prayed for the highest peak of the world. salvation of the departed Meanwhile, at a memosoul of Khaled.

corporation.