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# Fire for fish

Locals setting fire to Sundarbans to catch fish; some 13 acres of the forest damaged in one month

Staff Correspondent

Abrupt rusty patches here and there in the otherwise vast green forest look like deep burn wounds from the sky.

Forest officials say those patches of black are the places where locals set fire in the Chandpai range in the East Sundarbans.

Recently, the environment and forest ministry took a group of journalists for a trip by a chopper over the forest to have a bird's eye view to determine how much of the forest was burned in the recent spate of fire.

It was not possible to have an exact measure from the sky, but officials say at least 13 acres of the forest got burned down in four incidents of fire in four different areas in Nangli in the last one month. Locals say some 20 acres have been affected.

Admin and forest officials claim locals have set fire to the forest at least 21 times in the Chandpai range.

Asked, Environment and Forest Minister Anwar Hossain Manju told journalists that the fire destroyed only a few acres of land out of around 6,000 sq km of the forest in the Bangladesh part.

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Two boards in front of Hatirpool kitchen market showing prices of daily essentials at wholesale markets. As per the date shown on one of the boards, the charts were updated on March 21 though it is supposed to be done regularly. The photos were taken around noon yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



# Manmohan, Sonia, Rahul detained, released

The Hindu

Congress president Sonia Gandhi, party vice-president Rahul Gandhi and the former Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, were arrested for a brief time on Friday morning as they led a "Save Democracy" march. They were taken to the Parliament Street police station and released within 20 minutes.

In the meantime, about 2,000 Congress workers attempted to break police cordon and barricades, chanting slogans: "Down with dictatorship; Agusta Westland is BJP's game." The police cane-charged some protesters to control the crowd.

Prior to the police action, Congress leadership trained its guns on the Central

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PHOTO ON PAGE 8

# BANGLADESH BANK FUND HEIST RCBC CEO quits

Daily Inquirer, Manila

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp (RCBC) accepted the resignation of its president, CEO Lorenzo Tan and the resignation took effect immediately, said the bank in a statement yesterday.

RCBC, however, cleared Tan of any wrongdoing, saying an internal investigation into the \$81-million money laundering caper "had cleared [him] of any breach of bank rules and policies."

"He resigned to give the board a free hand to direct the course of the bank's future," RCBC said.

In a separate statement, Tan said "despite having been cleared of any wrongdoing, as president and CEO of RCBC, I take full moral responsibility for this sad incident in the history of the bank."



Lorenzo Tan

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# Family meets Nizami in jail

Our Correspondent, Gazipur

Family members met condemned war criminal Motiur Rahman Nizami in Kashimpur jail in Gazipur yesterday.

Six members of the family -- Nizami's wife Begum Shamsunnahar Nizami, his daughter, two sons and their wives -- were allowed to meet Nizami for 40 minutes in the jail, said Nasir Ahmed, jailer of Kashimpur Jail-2. They entered the jail around 11:30am.

The meeting took place a day after the Supreme Court dismissed the Jamaat-Islami chief's petition for reviewing its

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# RANA PLAZA DISASTER US court scraps case against 3 retailers

AP, Dover, Delaware

A judge in Delaware dismissed a lawsuit filed against three major US clothing retailers following the massive collapse of Rana Plaza complex, where over 1,100 people died in 2013.

The lawsuit was filed last year by an injured worker and a man who lost his wife during the collapse, claiming the companies -- Wal-Mart Stores, JC Penney and the Children's Place--failed to ensure safe work-

ing conditions at the garment factory in Bangladesh.

The judge this week agreed with the defendants that the lawsuit was filed after the one-year deadline under applicable Bangladeshi law had expired.

She also agreed that the plaintiffs had failed to establish that the US companies owed a duty of care to the workers, who were directly employed by the garment factory, not the retailers.

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**SIBL**  
Social Islami Bank Limited

PRAYER TIMING MAY 7

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:20	12:45	4:45	6:29	8:00
JAMAAT	4:55	1:15	5:00	6:34
				8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



# London gets first Muslim mayor

AFP, London

London became the first major Western capital to elect a Muslim mayor yesterday as Labour claimed victory for its candidate Sadiq Khan despite setbacks elsewhere in Britain for the main national opposition party.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn hailed Khan's win over Conservative Zac Goldsmith, after a bitter campaign in which Prime Minister David Cameron sought to link Khan to Islamic extremists.

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# Fighting kills 73 near Aleppo despite truce

UN brands attack on refugee camp war crime; Syria regime denies involvement

AFP, Aleppo

Fighting between Syrian regime forces and al-Qaeda-affiliated jihadists and their allies has left more than 70 dead south of the battleground city of Aleppo, a monitor said yesterday.

Al-Nusra Front and allied Islamists seized Khan Tuman and surrounding villages after less than 24 hours of clashes, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

"At least 43 Al-Nusra and allied fighters, including a local commander, and 30 on the side of the regime and allied militia were killed in the battle," said the British-based Observatory, which relies on a network of sources in Syria.

Pro-regime troops had driven the jihadists out of Khan Tuman, located about 10 kilometres southwest of Aleppo, in December.

"The recapture of the area and surrounding villages means that the regime's lines of defence south of the country's second city have been pushed back," Observatory head

Rami Abdel Rahman said.

Meanwhile, condemnation mounted yesterday over deadly air strikes on a camp for displaced people in northern Syria as the regime denied involvement, while a fragile ceasefire held in Aleppo.

Women and children were reported to be among the 28 civilians killed in Thursday's raids near the Turkish border, which left 50 others wounded.

The strikes in Idlib province came as a 48-hour ceasefire took hold in Aleppo city to the east.

That truce entered its second day yesterday, allowing residents some respite from two weeks of fighting that killed more than 280 civilians, even as fighting raged to the south of the city.

The halt in fighting is part of international efforts to revive a landmark February ceasefire and galvanise peace talks to end a five-year war that has killed more than 270,000 people and displaced millions.

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A passenger shade on the entrance road to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport is in extremely bad shape. Even the shade overhead to protect passengers from the sun or rain is gone. The photo was taken a few days ago.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



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