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## Pakistan wrap-up: French Alps in the news, aborted summit pushes in Karakoram

(Angela Benavides) The French Alps, not Karakoram, were in the news this weekend after 6 climbers were found dead on a slope.

In Pakistan, a couple of early summit pushes on the 8000ers were unsuccessful. Among them by French Sophie Denis, who wants them all, and she wants them fast. Teaming up with Lakpa Sherpa from FTA, she launched an attempt on Broad Peak yesterday.

### In the news

Six French climbers were found dead at the Neige Cordier peak (3,614 m) in the Alps this weekend. Conditions were reportedly good and avalanche has been ruled out. Seems the rope team slipped at the top of the corridor and fell 200 metres (650 ft) fairly soon after starting out on Saturday morning.

According to media sources, a missing alert was never issued in spite of the victims failing to reach their lodge Saturday evening. The mountaineers, aged 16 - 64 years, were found lifeless on the route by a hiker on Sunday morning.

### Broad Peak

Last year, French young gun Sophie Denis wrote ExplorersWeb to introduce herself. Sophie saw the light during a hard trip that included new routes in the Andes: she would chain-climb the 14x8000ers. The budding high altitude mountaineer planned a strategy, and as it turned out, wasn't kidding.

Sophie summited Cho Oyu and Lhotse within two weeks this past May. On Friday, barely days after arriving Broad Peak BC with FTA, Sophie chanced a rapid summit attempt with Lakpa Sherpa - himself fresh from an Everest summit - hoping probably to utilize what acclimatization they had left from the recent Himalaya climbs.

Forging their way from the end of the ropes at Camp 2, they pitched a tent in C3 but were forced back by high winds yesterday. After Broad Peak, Sophie hopes to bag K2 as well in this one, long summer.

The rest of the group, on a first rotation trip to C1 and C2, is in high spirits and good health says FTA leader Chris Szymzec. Working with Altitude Junkies and DAV (German Alpine Club), they hope to break open the route to C3 this week.

### K2

Kinga Baranowska and Fabricio Zangrilli expected to reach BC today.

### Nanga Parbat

High winds never gave a chance to Amical in C3. The Germans, whose climbing permit was about to expire, were packing up and preparing to leave BC yesterday.

Target Mazeno ridge, Basque climbers Alberto Zerain and Juan Carlos "Txingu" Arrieta reached BC at 4,500m yesterday. The climbers will acclimatize on Nanga's Kinshofer route before trying the unclimbed, 13 km long ridge.

### Gasherbrum I

The ABC team set up C1 on GI this weekend until a change in weather sent them back to BC today. The Polish-Ukrainian team is holding in C1, still hoping to proceed to C2 tomorrow, according to Jacek Teler.

### "Keep Karakoram Clean" effort continues

Launched by the Italian EvK2Cnr Committee (manning the solar powered Everest Pyramid near Gorak Shep, keeping the live web cam at Kala Patar and running the weather station near Everest summit), Maurizio Gallo leads this year's "Keep Karakorum Clean" expedition.

Italian climbers and a team of porters will clean Baltoro valley, base camps on K2 and Broad Peak, and the entire route up to C4 on Gasherbrum II.

Ongoing for the third consecutive year, since 2009 the campaign has cleared the area of 20 tons of junk, and hopes to remove another 7-8 tons this season.

Gallo is also distributing an "environmental handbook for expeditions" among climbers he meets en route.

*Links to 2011 Pakistan teams:*

### K2 – Pakistan (south & east) side:

[Kinga Baranowska](#)  
[Fabricio Zangrilli](#)  
[Robert Springer](#)  
[Christian Stangl](#)

### K2 – China (north) side:

Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner  
Ralf's Amical  
Mountain.kz

**Broad Peak:**

Field Touring Alpine  
Sophie Denis  
Altitude Junkies  
DAV Summit Club  
Luis Stitzinger  
Ryszard Pawlowski  
Antunas Taiwan team  
British BP expedition  
Xavi Arias

**Nanga Parbat:**

Andrew Lock  
Alberto Zerain  
Marek Holecek

**Gasherbrums:**

Gerfried Göschl  
Alex Tikon  
Louis Rousseau  
Giuseppe Pompilli  
Jacek Teler  
Kari Kobler  
Carlos Pauner  
Italian GII expedition

**Lower peaks & spires:**

Ermanno Salvaterra  
David Falt  
Elisabeth Revol

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