



## KARZAI SAYS GOODBYE

The outgoing Afghan president advises the next govt to be careful about the US

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## DAZZLING RMG FUTURE

Retailers hail Bangladesh as sourcing hotspot

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## ABDUL ALIM'S LEGACY

Daughter, who follows in the footsteps of the folk maestro, releases debut album

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# US, allies strike IS in Syria

*Five Arab nations join offensive; 120 militants killed; Obama says this is not 'America's fight alone'*

AGENCIES

The United States and its Arab allies unleashed deadly bomb and missile strikes on jihadists in Syria yesterday, opening a new front in the battle against the Islamic State group.

Dozens of IS and al-Qaeda militants were reported killed in the raids, which Washington said had partly targeted extremists plotting an "imminent attack" against the West.

Bahrain, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates joined the operation, which involved fighter jets, bombers, drones and Tomahawk missiles fired from US warships.

President Barack Obama, who had already launched strikes against IS militants in neighbouring Iraq, said "the strength of this coalition makes it clear to the world that this is not America's fight alone."

"It must be clear to anyone who would plot against America and try to do Americans harm that we will not tolerate safe havens for terrorists who threaten our people," he added.

Pentagon described the strikes as "very successful".

It said they hit targets including IS positions, training compounds, **RELATED STORIES ON PAGE 10**

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In this US Navy handout photograph provided yesterday, an F/A-18E Super Hornet and an F/A-18F Super Hornet prepare to launch from the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS George HW Bush in the Arabian Gulf to conduct strike missions against IS targets.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## THREE AND A HALF YEARS OF CONFLICT

2011

MARCH 15-16

First protests demanding greater civil liberties and freedom for political prisoners. The regime cracks down heavily in Damascus and Daraa, denouncing "an armed rebellion by Salafist groups".

MARCH 23

Crackdown reportedly kills 100 people in Daraa.

JULY 30

Creation of the Free Syrian Army, made up of civilians who have joined the rebellion, backed by army deserters.

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# Govt seeks to certify journalists

*Aims to amend Press Council Act*

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

In yet another move to tighten its grip on mass media, the government has decided to amend the Press Council Act, 1974, to incorporate some stringent provisions in the law.

Provisions in the draft amendment include suspension of newspapers' declarations and journalists' accreditation cards for publishing false, instigating, slanderous and anti-state reports. Suspension of government ads and duty free import of newsprint for similar offence is also in the draft.

Under the existing law, the Press Council can only warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency or a journalist,

as the case may be.

But the proposed amendment drafted by the Council will suggest punishment also, including fine of up to Tk 10 lakh, for publishing reports that hurt the interests of the country or instigate chaos and destroy religious harmony, official sources said.

The amendment will also propose taking mandatory certificate from the Press Council for doing journalism.

Persons willing to take up journalism will have to take exams while those already in the profession will collect certificates from the Council through their editors, senior officials of the Council told The Daily Star yesterday.

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Journalists must have certificate from Bangladesh Press Council

Persons willing to become journalist have to face eligibility test

Tk 1 lakh to Tk 10 lakh fine for carrying false, fabricated report

# It's all aimed to control judiciary

*Khaleda on Sangsad's power to remove judges*

RASHIDUL HASAN from Brahmanbaria

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said the government restored parliament's powers to remove judges in a bid to keep them in fear and force them to give verdicts against opposition leaders and activists.

"If the judges don't punish the opposition men, Sheikh Hasina will remove them by using two-thirds majority in the illegal parliament," she said.

Khaleda was speaking at a rally organised by the BNP-led 20-party alliance at Niaz Mohammad High School ground in Brahmanbaria.

She said the alliance already observed a day-long hartal demanding cancellation of the 16th amendment to the constitution, and it would go for tougher programmes if the government didn't scrap the amendment



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# Trade surplus for first time

*But no recipe for cheer*

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

For the first time in its history, Bangladesh recorded a trade surplus in a month, but it was because of a decline in imports indicating signs of slowing down of the economy.

The trade surplus stood at \$195 million in July, the first month of the current fiscal year. There was a deficit of \$129 million in the same month a year ago, according to data from the central bank.

In an immediate reaction, a central bank official said it was the first time a trade surplus happened in the country's history.

Both export and import growths were negative in July. But it was the steep fall in imports that contributed to the surplus.

In July, exports dropped 1.03 percent to \$2.96 billion from the same month a year ago, while imports plummeted by 11.36 percent to \$2.77 billion.

Historical figures suggested that total imports were

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks during the opening session of the Climate Change Summit at the United Nations in New York yesterday. The summit preceded the 69th session of the UN General Assembly.

PHOTO: AFP

## UN CLIMATE SUMMIT

# PM urges big nations to cut emissions

BSS, United Nations

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the large carbon emitting countries to make their robust voluntary carbon reduction commitment to save the motherly earth from onslaught of climate change.

"It's our commitment to low-carbon and climate-resilient development path. The large emitting countries should reciprocate by robust voluntary commitments like ours," she told the National Action and Ambition Announcement session of the UN Climate Summit-2014 at the UN headquarters in New York.

She assured that Bangladesh as a responsible member of the international community would never exceed the average per-capita emission limit of the developing world.

Adaptation, said Hasina, is the key for vulnerable countries like Bangladesh. "We can't be left to adapt to 'degradation' because of climate change"

she added.

The PM said the issues of "adaptation" and "loss and damage" are also crucial for Bangladesh for sustainable development. Critical balance should be maintained between adaptation and mitigation. Support to finance, technology development and transfer and capacity building is also important as well, she observed.

She said every country should have a clear, measurable and verifiable Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). Bangladesh is working on her possible INDCs, but new and additional resources would be needed for their implementation, mentioned the premier.

Urging the world leaders to pay attention to "Carbon budgeting" and "de-carbonisation pathways", the prime minister said robust and early capitalisation of Green Climate Fund (GCF) is crucial for us.

**RELATED STORIES ON PAGE 10, 16**

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# Formalin testing kit unfit: BCSIR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Formaldehyde Metre Z-300, a kit used in the country for detecting formalin in food for more than two years, has been found inappropriate for the test, said Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

"Z-300 machine's reading of formaldehyde in soaked and fresh fruits varies depending on time, temperature and moisture," BCSIR said in a report.

"Even, it indicates gradually higher level of formaldehyde in fresh fruits in warm temperature. So the kit's reading of formaldehyde level won't be accurate if fruits are kept in warm temperature."

The BCSIR submitted the report to the

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**Eid Mubarak**

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