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# ISIS an hour away from Baghdad

## Iraqi army unable to make successful counter-attack

AGENCIES

US air strikes are failing to drive back ISIS in Iraq where its forces are still within an hour's drive of Baghdad. Three and a half months since the Iraqi army was spectacularly routed in northern Iraq by a far inferior force of ISIS fighters, it is still seeing bases overrun because it fails to supply them with ammunition, food and water.

The selection of a new Prime Minister, Haider al-Abadi, to replace Nouri al-Maliki last month was supposed to introduce a more conciliatory government that would appeal to Iraq's Sunni minority from which ISIS draws its support. Abadi promised to end the random bombardment of Sunni civilians, but Fallujah has been shelled for six out of seven days, with 28 killed and 117 injured. Despite the military crisis, the government has still not been able to get its choice for the two top security jobs, the Defence Minister and Interior Minister, through parliament.

Meanwhile, ISIS released a new propaganda video Monday featuring British hostage John Cantlie, a photographer who worked for the Sunday Times newspaper before he was abducted in 2012, reports NBC news.

The video is the third video ISIS has released of Cantlie and the second 'episode' of a series called 'Lend Me Your

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## Lonely, in need of care

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sexagenarian Duli Begum is an invalid in need of constant care. Once an owner of 13 decimals of land, she now has practically no place to go and no one to look after her.

Her five daughters who now own the land are too busy with their own lives to take her responsibility. They have been looking for a place where their mother could live. However, none of the old homes in the country, whether run by the government or NGOs, provides space for bed-ridden or invalid old citizens.

She now lives with her second daughter in Tangail who finds it utterly difficult to provide her bed-ridden mother with the care she requires.

"I have to work from morning till evening at my office. So who would feed my mother and take her to the toilet during the day?" said one of Duli's daughters, who is a cleaner at a private firm in the capital.

Another daughter, wishing anonymity, said she cannot afford to keep an attendant with her meagre income.

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Mira Chowdhury waits for her son to take her back home.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## 7-MURDER ACCUSED Nur jailed for keeping wild birds

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanj

A Narayanjanj court yesterday sentenced Nur Hossain, the prime accused in the sensational seven-murder case, to one-year imprisonment for keeping wild birds at his residence illegally.

Senior Judicial Magistrate HM Shafiqul Islam passed the order, Md Nasir Ahmed, inspector of Special Branch of Narayanjanj police told The Daily Star.

The court also fined Nur Hossain Tk 50,000, in default, to suffer three months more rigorous imprisonment, he added.

Following a court order, police raided the residence of Nur Hossain at Shimrail area on May 15. Forty one species of wild animals, including several Macaw birds, were found there.

Later, forest official Md

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# Political violence blocks progress

## UN Resident Coordinator tells The Daily Star about Bangladesh's potential, challenges

PORIMOL PALMA and WASIM BIN HABIB

Bangladesh's development will skyrocket if it can avoid political violence, and ensure constructive politics and gender equality, outgoing UN Resident Coordinator Neal Walker has said.

There is no doubt that Bangladesh will be a marvelous place, if it can avoid violence, provide conducive environment for investment and development, ensure law and order and uphold justice, he said in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star.

Politics needs to be focused more on the needs of people and alternative voices. It will happen only when the two main political parties speak to one another, Walker said.

He leaves for Ukraine this weekend to join as the top UN official there after his three-and-a-half year stint in Bangladesh.

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Neal Walker

He worked here closely with the government and different development partners in many programmes and policies.

Earlier, he had worked for the UN in Central Asia, Latin America, Northeast Asia and Africa since 1990.

Bangladesh faced many challenges because of a horrific war, famine and cyclone in the initial years of its birth, but it made tremendous strides on the social and economic fronts that were rarely possible for any country in such a short time, said Walker.

Even before the UN set the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000, successive governments in Bangladesh since the 1990s had prioritised growth with equity and social objectives associated with the MDGs.

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## PM portrayed Bangladesh as a militant state

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her recent speech at the 69th United Nations General Assembly tried to portray Bangladesh as a militant state to the world, BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman has alleged.

"Whenever Hasina is in power, she tries to portray Bangladesh as a militant state. This time, she did this at the UN summit," Tarique said at a discussion on his party founder Ziaur Rahman at York Hall in East London on Monday.

The elder son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, however, did not elaborate how in New York the prime minister tried to portray Bangladesh as a militant state.

At the programme, Tarique also urged all to initiate a mass movement

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# Malnutrition remains a big challenge

## Experts suggest incorporating nutrition education in social safety net programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malnutrition and high rate of childhood stunting in the country could have been reduced significantly if nutrition education had been incorporated in different social safety net programmes (SSNPs), experts say.

A recent study conducted by the Washington-based global food policy think-tank International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has found out that mere transfer of food or cash under the SSNPs would not make much difference in terms of improving people's nutrition level unless the SSNPs were tagged with nutrition behaviour change communication (BCC).

Speaking on the sideline of a press briefing at a city hotel yesterday, IFPRI Chief of Party in Bangladesh Akhter Ahmed told The Daily Star that incidences of malnutrition and stunting could be reduced four times faster, provided SSNPs are tagged with nutrition education.

Although Bangladesh spends 12 percent of its annual

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## Subhan's trial at next stage

Defence completes cross-examination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War crimes case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdus Subhan steps into next stage as the defence yesterday completed cross-examining the last prosecution witness at the International Crimes Tribunal-2.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan fixed October 15 for the defence to produce their witnesses.

During cross-examination of Noor Hossain, also the second investigation officer in the

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PRAYER TIMING			October 1
Fajr	4-45	5-20	
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	4-15	4-30	
Maghrib	5-53	5-56	
Esha	7-30	8-00	

Source: Islamic Foundation



Vehicles caught in heavy congestions on Uttara-Tongi road yesterday. Passengers say this is a regular picture and they blame it on queues of cars at two CNG stations on both sides of Tongi bridge. The photo was taken at the capital's Uttara sector-13 in the afternoon.

# INJURED IN CYLINDER BLAST Five more die in hospital

STAR REPORT

Five people, who suffered severe burns in a cylinder explosion at a CNG filling station in Manikganj on Monday, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Enam Medical College and Hospital in Savar yesterday, raising the death toll to six in two days.

With 85 to 95 percent burns, four of the victims succumbed to their injuries yesterday afternoon at the DMCH burn unit, said Partha Sankar Paul, resident medical officer of the burn unit.

The deceased are filling station manager Shamsul Haque

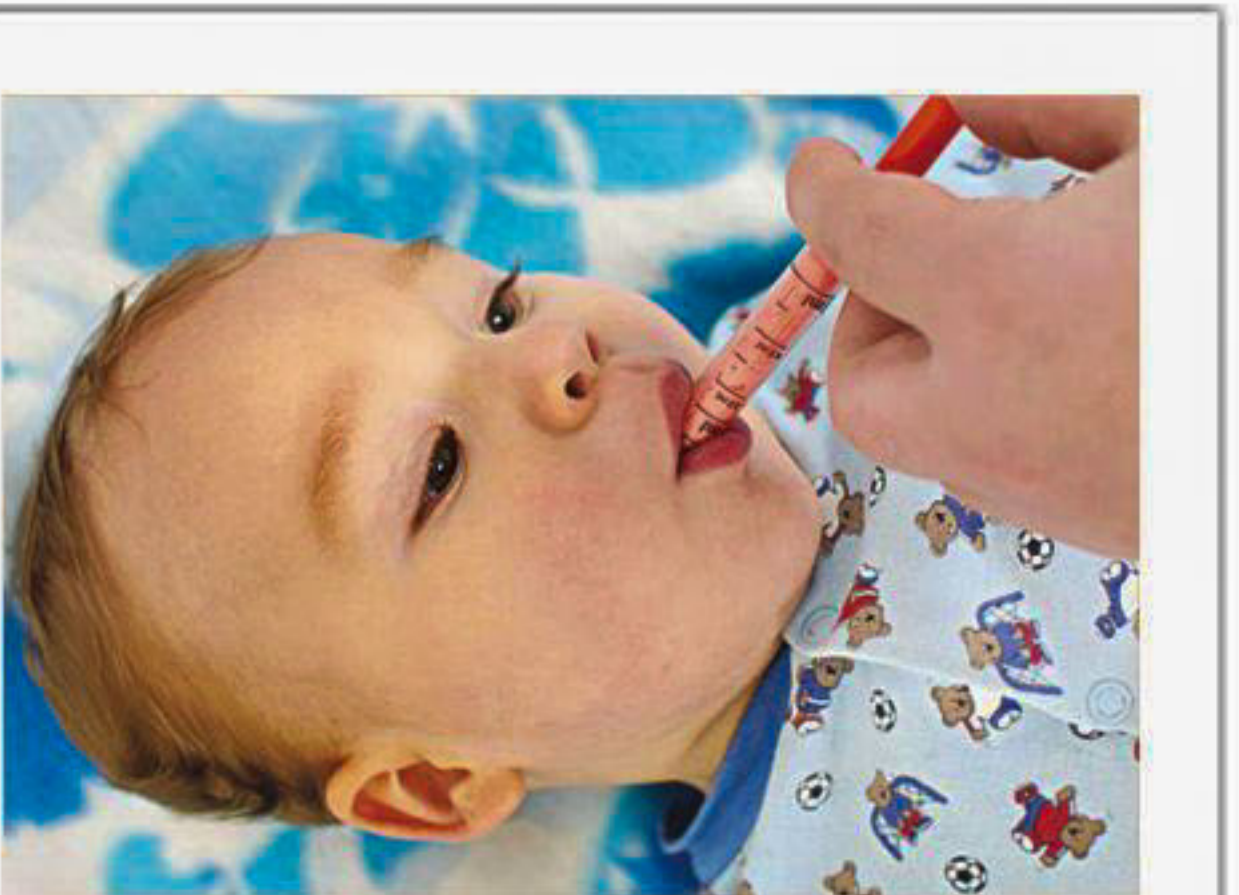
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## Antibiotics linked to child obesity

THE TELEGRAPH ONLINE

Babies who have four or more courses of antibiotics before the age of two are more likely to become obese, a study has found.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with education minister Nurul Islam Nahid that the admission test system of Dhaka University (DU) is faulty and incomplete?

Yes (29%)

No (71%)

TOTAL VOTES: 224

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with noted educationists that the DU admission test results reflect the low quality of education at schools and colleges?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net