Iraqi PM opposes Arab air strikes

Backed by US-led coalition, Kurds battle to defend key Syrian town; UK launches more attacks in Iraq; blasts at school kill dozens in Syria

AGENCIES

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi yesterday opposed Arab nations' air strikes against so called Islamic State in his country as Kurdish fighters backed by US-led coalition air strikes locked in a fierce battle to prevent a key Syrian border town from falling into the hands of jihadists.

In an interview with BBC, Abadi said Western air power had "filled many gaps" in Iraq's fight against the jihadist group.

Several Arab states, including Saudi

Arabia and Jordan, have joined the international coalition against ISIS. Their aircraft have carried out strikes in Syria, but only those from the US, UK and France have hit targets in Iraq.

Talking to the BBC in Baghdad, Abadi said Iraq's army would defeat ISIS "if we have good air cover" but stressed that no foreign ground troops were needed.

"We are very clear we will not accept any

troops on ground except Iraqi troops," he



Not finding the space even to stand inside the carriages, people get on the roof of Meghna **Express heading for** Chandpur at **Chittagong Railway** Station yesterday as people rush out of cities to celebrate Eid and Puja holidays at home.

ANURUP KANTI DAS

'Mastermind' of 4-murder arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion has arrested three more people, including the mastermind, in connection with the murders of a couple and their two children in Keraniganj.

The arrestees are Sumon Dhali alias "Dakat Sumon", 28, who masterminded the killing, his wife Afsana, 22, and Chan Mia, 30.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab team in Mymensingh arrested Sumon and Afsana on Tuesday at Barabazar in the town, said Lt Col Golam Sarwar, commanding officer SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

The Hally Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with noted

educationists that the DU

admission test results reflect

the low quality of education

at schools and colleges?

TOTAL VOTES: 239

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was

justified for the BNP

leader Tarique Rahman to

say that Bangladesh's

independence and

sovereignty are not safe

in Hasina's hand?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

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(10%)

■ No

Diversify crops, change diets

Experts call for a shift from rice-centric farming to address malnutrition challenges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rice-centric agriculture would not help much in addressing the challenges of malnutrition in Bangladesh, experts opined at a workshop in the capital yesterday underscoring the need for policy support to diversify both crops and diets.

"People in Bangladesh depend on rice for 71 percent of their total calorie intake and 57 percent of protein. Rice cultivation alone takes up nearly 77 percent of total farmlands in the country," states a report presented at the workshop titled "Evidence-based Policy Options for Food and Nutrition Security in Bangladesh."

Anti-loneliness chair

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

There are times in every-

Japanese company has

come up with a chair

a comforting cuddle.

will do. Now one

one's life when only a hug

that's always ready to give

The "tranquility chair"

is built in the shape of a

larger-than-life fabric doll

with a friendly face and a

fetching hat, but more

user in an affectionate

embrace.

importantly, it has long

arms that wrap around the

"It makes you feel safe.

Anyone can use it, but it is

ple," said a spokesman for

UniCare, which is selling

International Home Care

Around a quarter of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

the chair, at the

and Rehabilitation

Exhibition in Tokyo.

designed for older peo-

BOMB ATTACK ON TEACHERS' BUSES

CU suspends 5 Shibir men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong University has suspended five activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir for allegedly carrying out a crude bomb attack on teachers' buses last month that left 15 teachers injured.

At a meeting yesterday morning, the CU syndicate took the decision, said

Prof Mozaffar Ahmad Chowdhury, a syndicate member and a teacher of philosophy department.

The suspended students are Mohammad Yusuf, Tauhidul Islam, Amin Uddin and Ibrahim Khalil of Islamic Studies department and Abdul Halim of mathematics department, he

The syndicate also made a decision to issue show-cause notices to the students, asking them why they would not be suspended from the educational institute permanently, Mozaffar mentioned.

The students, who have been suspended, are activists of the CU unit of SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

ARRESTED 'MILITANT'

UK seeks consular

access

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The British High Commission in Dhaka has sought consular access to Samiun Rahman alias Ibn Hamdan, a UK citizen of Bangladesh origin who was arrested in Dhaka on Sunday night.

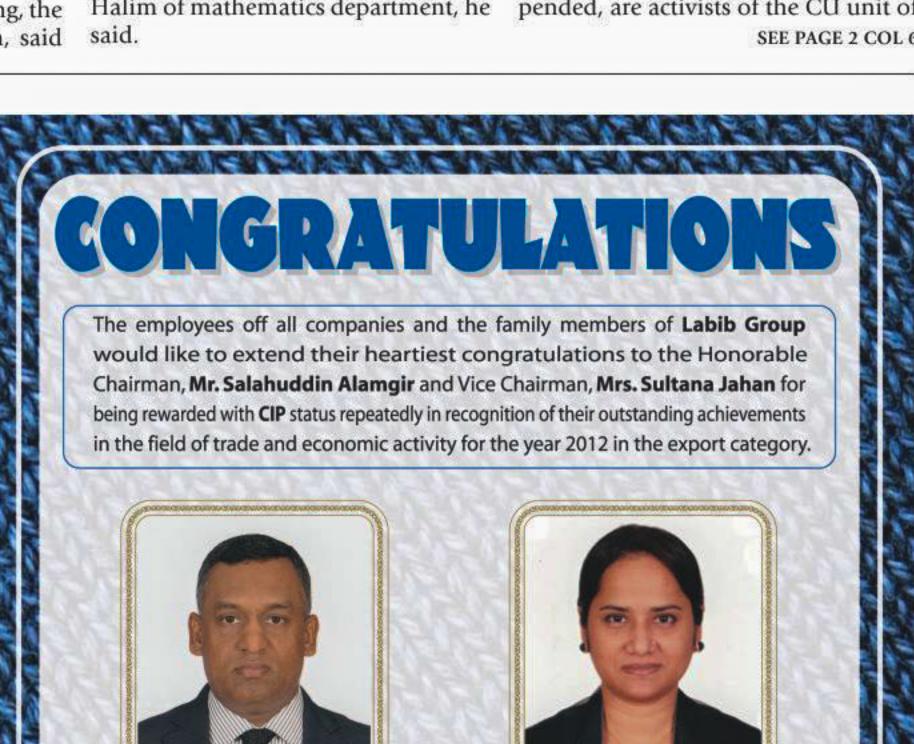
"We are in touch with the Bangladeshi authorities to arrange consular access," the spokesperson of the high commission told The Daily Star yesterday.

The spokesperson also said, "We've sent a request for consular access to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on September 29 and await a response."

Samiun was arrested for recruiting jihadists for the Islamic State, also known as ISIS, claimed detectives.

The foreign ministry has already forwarded the request to the home ministry. Officials of the two ministries said such a request is usually entertained as per the Vienna Convention.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Mr. Salahuddin Alamgir Chairman **Labib Group**

Mrs. Sultana Jahan Vice Chairman Labib Group

Labib Group is renowned worldwide as one of the largest 100% export oriented sweater manufacturing and yarn dyeing industries in Bangladesh. The aim of the company is to fully guarantee maximum satisfaction for every customers.

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- * SWEATER COTTAGE LTD.
- * RAIDHA COLLECTIONS LTD.
- * RAIDHA & RABEYA AGRO COMPLEX LTD.
- * LABIB DYEING MILLS LTD.
- * NICE COTTON LTD.
- * LABIB POULTRY & FISHERIES LTD. * JUTHI PACKAGING IND. LTD.
- * EXCEL TELECOM (PVT) LTD.



Congratulations

For the contribution to National Export Earning Sk Momin Uddin, Managing Director of Akij Footwear Ltd. & SAF Industries Ltd. has been Selected as a C.I.P. (2012) at Hotel Radisson, Water Garden on 1st October, 2014 by the Honorable Commerce Minister of People's Republic of Bangladesh.

We tender our hearty Congratulations and greetings to our Honorable Managing Director.

> All Officers and Staffs Akij Footwear Limited **SAF Industries Limited** & Akij Group





