

# Syrian army

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30," Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said.

Many of Russia's air strikes so far have been focused on the area where Hama, Idlib and Latakia provinces meet.

Latakia province on the Mediterranean coast is a stronghold of the regime and the location of Assad's ancestral village.

Idlib province is controlled by the powerful Army of Conquest rebel alliance which includes Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front.

In recent months, the alliance has sought to expand from Idlib into Hama and the strategic Sahel-al-Ghab plain between the three provinces in a bid to target Latakia.

Abdel Rahman said the rebels were sending reinforcements to Kafir Nabuda to battle the regime, which was also shelling other parts of Hama and Latakia provinces.

Syria's army command also reported advances in northern Latakia province and said regime forces had taken control of the "duty free zone" outside Aleppo city in the north.

Aleppo city is divided between rebel control in the east and government control in the west, but the situation is largely reversed in the countryside surrounding the city.

A military source said the advance by regime forces would help protect territory it holds in the area, including the Sheikh Najjar industrial area to the city's north-east.

Moscow said yesterday its air force had hit 53 targets in Syria in the past 24 hours, in Hama, Homs, Latakia and Idlib provinces.

Russia's air strikes in Syria began on September 30, with Moscow saying it was targeting IS and other "terrorists".

But rebels and their backers accuse Moscow of focusing on moderate and Islamist opposition fighters, rather than jihadists.

The EU yesterday expressed "deep concern" about the focus of Russia's strikes.

"The recent Russian military attacks that go beyond Daesh (Islamic State) and other UN-designated terrorist groups, as well as on the moderate opposition, are of deep concern and must cease immediately," the bloc's 28 foreign ministers said in a statement.

The statement also reiterated the need for a political transition in Syria to end the conflict that began with anti-government protests in March 2011.

"There cannot be a lasting peace in Syria under the present leadership," the ministers said.

More than 240,000 people have been killed in Syria's conflict and upwards of four million Syrians have become refugees.

The war has fractured the country and attracted thousands of foreign fighters to the ranks of jihadist groups such as IS, which controls large swathes of territory in Syria and neighbouring Iraq.

In Baghdad, security services said yesterday they were checking reports that IS chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi had been wounded in a strike on his convoy.

"We are still collecting and cross-checking information to reach an accurate assessment," interior ministry spokesman Saad Maan told AFP.

Iraq's security forces said in a statement Sunday that Iraqi warplanes had struck Baghdadi's convoy as it was heading to an IS leadership meeting in Karabla near the border with Syria.

But such claims have been made in the past and never verified, and pro-IS social media accounts mocked the latest reports of Baghdadi's targeting.

# BRIBE-TAKING OFFICIAL

## Probe body sends report to ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A probe committee yesterday submitted to the commerce ministry its primary investigation report on the alleged bribe-taking by Md Shahidul Haque, former controller at the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports (CCI&E).

"The committee sent its preliminary report to me today [Monday]. We will further probe into the incident to take action against the accused," said Hedayetullah Al Mamoon, senior secretary to the commerce ministry.

He, however, declined to give details of the probe findings.

The ministry on September 21 formed the committee, led by Joint Secretary Sadar Ali Biswas, to verify the authenticity of the video clip that showed Shahidul taking bribes from service seekers.

On Sunday, the ministry with-

drew Shahidul from his post on recommendations of the committee and attached him to the ministry.

Video clips available on the social media shows the official counting notes at his Motijheel office, bargaining with service seekers over the amount of bribe and putting the cash in his trouser pocket.

It was unclear when the video was shot. But commerce ministry sources said their top officials came to know about the incident before the Eid-ul-Azha (September 25).

According to the rules, businesses have to obtain registration certificates from the CCI&E to import or export goods. The fees for imports and exports vary depending on the volume of goods.

Some businessmen alleged that they had to pay bribes for getting certificates even after submitting all the required documents to the CCI&E.

## Indian activist

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he left his home in Mumbai by a group of activists from the Hindu nationalist Shiv Sena party who wanted to intimidate him.

Kulkarni condemned the incident as an "assault on democracy" as he addressed the media in Mumbai, his face and hair covered in ink.

Mumbai police pointed the blame at Shiv Sena, whose spokesman described the incident as a "non-violent protest".

India and Pakistan have been arch-rivals since gaining independence from Britain in 1947, and have fought three wars.

"A group of 10 or 15 Shiv Sainiks mobbed me, they stopped my car, asked me to come out, they caught me, started abusing me, they said we had ordered you to stop the launch this evening, you didn't listen to us, this is what we'll do with you," said Kulkarni.

The Shiv Sena, a junior partner in a ruling coalition with the Bharatiya Janata Party in the Maharashtra state government, was last week accused of using threats to force the cancellation of an appearance in Mumbai by Pakistani singer

Ghulam Ali.

There are growing concerns over freedom of speech in India after the execution-style killing in August of M M Kalburgi, a leading secular scholar who had angered hardline Hindu groups.

Several Indian winners of the prestigious Sahitya Akademi (National Academy of Letters) award have handed back the prize in recent days to protest at that incident.

The writers said they were also protesting at the government's failure to condemn the lynching last month of a Muslim man suspected of eating beef.

India's Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma criticised yesterday's attack, saying protests should be "within the democratic framework of our constitution".

"In our democracy we should ensure that all our views and protests stay within the constitutional principles," he told AFP.

Shiv Sena spokesman Sanjay Raut said he supported the protestors' actions but stopped short of admitting that activists from his party had been responsible.

## Tangail MP absconding

FROM PAGE 16

January 18, 2013.

Three days after the killing, Faruk's wife Nahar Ahmed filed a case with Tangail Model Police Station, accusing unidentified criminals.

Initially, the police investigated the lawsuit but it was handed over to the Detective Branch (DB) of police later.

The DB investigators then found involvement of Rana and his three brothers in the killing, said Golam Mahfuzur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Tangail DB police.

The three brothers are Tangail Municipality Mayor Shahidul Rahman Khan Mukti, Tangail Chambers and Commerce Industry President Jahidur Rahman Kakon and former vice-president of central

Chhatra League Saniyat Khan Bappa. Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, the DB official said they were raiding different places to arrest the four "traceless" brothers who have been absconding for the last 11 months.

He also said the charge sheet in the sensational murder case would be submitted to the court soon.

However, after Rana went into "hiding" in November last year, his family members claimed he was in Ghatail when Faruk was killed in

Tangail town and "innocent Rana's political rivals were trying to falsely implicate him in the murder".

At a press briefing at the district press club, Tangail AL had made similar claims.

On July 14 this year, the High Court directed Rana and his younger brother Mukti to surrender before a Tangail court in two weeks in Faruk murder case.

The HC bench of Justice Farid Ahmed and Justice Mohammad Ullah passed the order after hearing a petition filed by the brothers, seeking anticipatory bail in fear of their arrest or harassment.

The duo, however, did not surrender before the court in the given time due to "unfavorable situations", their lawyer Asaduzzaman Liton had said.

The Daily Star could not reach the lawmaker or any of his brothers for comment over phone, despite repeated attempts.

Contacted, Rana's supporter Nazul Islam Khan Samu, Ghatail upazila chairman and also convenor of the upazila AL, said he had not been in touch with the MP for the last 11 months.

"He [Rana] should be punished if he is really involved in any sort of crime but we don't want his harassment if he is innocent," he said.

## Hong Kong lensman to face Thai trial over flak jacket

AFP, Samui Prakan

A Hong Kong photographer detained in Thailand for carrying a bulletproof jacket and helmet will face trial after pleading not guilty yesterday to a weapons possession charge.

The case has sparked an outcry from media freedom groups, who say journalists should not be punished for carrying body armour and protective gear in and out of dangerous zones.

Anthony Kwan Hok-chun, who works for the Hong Kong-based Inition media group, was briefly held on August 23 after trying to depart Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi airport with a flak jacket and helmet in his hand luggage.

## Teenage boy

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was under treatment at the hospital, while the other two left the hospital after receiving first aid.

No case was filed as of filing of this report at 1:30am today.

## 12 countries

FROM PAGE 1

government to put in place extra security measures at their missions and offices, and the places where their diplomats and citizens reside or visit.

Asked, Assistant Commissioner (Gulshan zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Rafiqul Islam said he was unaware of the matter.

He, however, said security measures have already been beefed up in the entire diplomatic zone.

## BRTC boss asked

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Quader yesterday afternoon visited Postagola and Jatrabari areas, and talked to passengers to know if bus operators were charging additional fares than the ones set by the government.

Many passengers alleged that the buses of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) are charging commuters at least Tk 10 higher than the private bus operators on Dhaka-Mawa and Dhaka-Narayanganj routes.

The minister then directed the secretary to issue the show cause notice to the BRTC chairman, said an official of the ministry.

Contacted, BRTC Chairman Mizanur Rahman last night said, "I have heard about the notice, but have not got it in my hand. I'll give my explanation after seeing the notice."

The government increased bus fares by 10 paise a kilometre from October 1. After this, bus operators started charging passengers higher fares than the official rate.

## 7 killed

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on Dhaka-Chittagong highway around 5:30am when the rice-laden truck suddenly fell into a roadside farmland as the driver lost control over the steering. The vehicle was heading for Chittagong from Naogaon, said Jahidul Kabir, officer-in-charge of Joraganj Police Station.

Talking to The Daily Star over mobile phone, one of the injured, Shah Alam, a toy seller, who was on the truck, alleged that the helper of the truck started driving the vehicle after it crossed Feni as the driver asked the helper to do so as he felt drowsy.

Police would investigate the allegation, said OC Jahidul, adding that the driver and the helper managed to flee.

Police from nearby Chowdhuryhat highway police outpost removed the vehicle and took it to their custody.

The bodies were handed over to the victims' families.

## 2 CU students

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hills behind the Arts Faculty building, to take bath.

While returning from there, Pabel slipped and fell off a steep slope near the deep waterfall. Rifat went down too while trying to save his friend. Both of them went missing immediately, added Zakaria.

On information, the university authorities, including the vice-chancellor and the proctor, rushed to the spot. Following an hour of efforts, divers recovered the bodies which were later sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Assistant Proctor Anwar Hossain said the seven students went to the "risk" waterfall defying university prohibitions.

"Even the guards at the Arts Faculty building had asked them not to go there," he added.

The distance between the scene and the building is almost a kilometre.

# GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2015

## BD slips down 16 notches

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has slipped 16 places to 73rd in the Global Hunger Index 2015, despite making significant longer-term achievements over the last quarter-century in fighting hunger.

Bangladesh is still one of the countries suffering from "alarming level of hunger", with a score of 27.3, according to the 2015 GHI released yesterday by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Welthungerhilfe, and Concern Worldwide.

The lower a country's score in the index, the better its rank. Kuwait, with a score of 5, tops this year's ranking, followed by Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

Bangladesh was ranked 57th in the

2014 GHI.

The 2015 GHI combines four component indicators -- undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality -- a slightly different metric to previous years. Retroactive scores based on this measurement are provided in the report at five-year intervals stretching back to 1990 (except 2010), even though the GHI itself was first published only in 2006. Bangladesh's score in the 1990 index was 52.2.

That means over a period of 25 years, if the GHI is to be believed, Bangladesh has managed to reduce hunger by 47.9 percent.

Yet progress has been slowing down in recent years, although that may just have to do with higher base from which Bangladesh started.

## Freedom fighter status

FROM PAGE 16

"We will honour other Biranganas phase by phase," said Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haq.

With a retrospective effect from July this year, the 41 war heroines will get all the facilities that freedom fighters have been enjoying, he said.

A freedom fighter gets Tk 8,000 as allowance, which will be increased to Tk 10,000 from January next year. Besides, the ministry is building houses for homeless freedom fighters, Mozammel told The Daily Star.

The ministry formed a committee for each upazila, which will look for Biranganas in the area, verify their identities and make a list of them. The top woman government officer of an upazila will lead the committee.

More than two lakh women of the country were raped and tortured by the Pakistan Army and their local collaborators during the nine-month-long Liberation War. Many of them gave birth to war babies.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in recognition of their glorified sacrifices, honoured them as war heroines immediately after independence. He pleaded with his countrymen to give due honour and dignity to the women oppressed by the Pakistani army, wrote the International Crimes Tribunal-2, now dormant, in its verdict in the case against Syed Mohammad Qaisar last December.

The post-war government established Women's Rehabilitation Board to institutionalize the rehabilitation of these women, with the Central Women's Rehabilitation Organisation coordinating the government policies, reads the verdict.

After the assassination of Sheikh Mujib, the rehabilitation programme was put to an end, the records were seized and all the

Dhaka and district centres were turned over to women's directorate, says the judgment.

Around the same time, the ICT-1 in its verdict in the case against ATM Azharul Islam said the government should incorporate stories of sacrifices and torments of the Biranganas into textbooks so that the new generations can learn the real history of the war.

However, the demand has long been pressed for the state recognition of the Biranganas as freedom fighters.

"I have been waiting for the last 40 years. My wishes are fulfilled today. I am very happy as Biranganas have been given equal rights as those of freedom fighters," Surya Begum, one of the 41 Biranganas, told BBC Bangla Service yesterday.

The Biranganas recognised this time are Moimona Khatun and Halima Khatun of Phulpur; Zahera Khan and Fatema Khatun of Haluaghat in Mumensingh; Mazeda Begum alias Mageda Khatun of Madhobpur in Habiganj; Eshnu Begum of Zakiganj in Sylhet; Elejan Nesa, Momeba Khatun, Goljar Nesa and Mojiron Nesa of Kumarkhali in Kushtia; Mansura Begum of Rangpur Sadar; Sumi Basugi, Maleka, Moni Kisku, Niharani Das, Nurjahan Begum and Hafeza Begum of Ranishankail in Thakurgaon; Maleka Begum of Shibganj in Chapainawabganj; Rabia Begum, Hasina Begum, Joly Begum, Safeda Begum, Ayesha Begum, Renu Begum, Hazera Begum, Arbi Begum and Rahela Begum of Gomastapur; Lili Begum of Chapainawabganj Sadar; Asia Begum of Kazipara in Sirajganj; Aimonra, Surya Begum, Komla Bawa, Joygan, Suraiya Khatun, Mahela Begum, Hamida Bawa, Hasna Begum, Rahima Bawa, Samena Khatun, Shamsunnahar Bawa of Sirajganj Sadar; and Srimati Rajubala Dey of Kamarkhand.

## Tweets were 'from Bangladesh'

FROM PAGE 1

the persons who uploaded the posts were self-claimed Islamic State (IS) members. He also claimed they collected funds from Saudi Arabia several times but did not explain how.

Different law enforcement agencies sent us letters to know the identities of many internet users. We just work on those demands," Tanveer told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said, "All tweets were uploaded from Bangladesh with motives."

Asked whether the same group that killed

the bloggers was behind the murders of the two foreigners, he said he did not know anything about this.

"I will brief media in details in three to four days," he told The Daily Star.

Italian aid worker Cesare Tavella was gunned down on September 28 in the high security Gulshan diplomatic zone area while Japanese national Hoshi Kunio was shot dead in Rangpur on September 3.

Following the murders, Site Intelligence Group, a website monitoring terrorist activities, ran two stories claiming that two Arabic posts of IS claimed the responsibility of both the murders.

**DESCO** Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd. (DESCO)  
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Tel. No: +88 02 8900110-11, 8900820-23, Fax No: +88 02 8900100  
E-mail: pit@desco.org.bd, Web: www.desco.org.bd

**Invitation for Tender**

1	Agency	Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (DESCO).		
2	Procuring Entity Name	Procurement, Inspection & Testing Division, DESCO.		
3	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.		
4	Invitation for	Procurement of Commercial Operation Support Services (COSS).		
5	Tender No.	28/2015		
6	Invitation Ref No.	DESCO/Procurement/Local Tender/2015/883		
7	Date	07/10/2015		
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
8	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (Single Stage Two Envelope).		
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
9	Budget and Source of Funds	DESCO's own fund.		
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
10	Tender Name	Procurement of Commercial Operation Support Services (COSS).		
11	Tender Selling Date, Closing & Opening Date and Time	Last Selling Date	Closing & Opening Date	Closing Time
		11 / 11 / 2015	12 / 11 / 2015	12.00 Noon
12	Date & Time and Address of the office for Pre-tender Meeting	21 / 10 / 2015, 10.30 AM		
		DESCO Conference Room, Office of the Managing Director DESCO, House # 22/B (3 <sup>rd</sup> floor), Faruque Sarani, Nikunja#2, Uttara, Dhaka-1229.		
13	Name & Address of the office for selling Tender Document, receiving & opening tender	Selling	Receiving	Opening
		Office of the SE (P,I&T), DESCO, House # 22/B (1 <sup>st</sup> floor), Faruque Sarani, Nikunja#2, Dhaka-1229.	Office of the SE (P,I&T), DESCO, House # 22/B (1 <sup>st</sup> floor), Faruque Sarani, Nikunja#2, Dhaka-1229.	Office of the SE (P,I&T), DESCO, House # 22/B (1 <sup>st</sup> floor), Faruque Sarani, Nikunja#2, Dhaka-1229.
		Office of the Executive Engineer (Gulshan S&D Division) DESCO, House-47, Road-134, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212		
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>				
14	Eligibility of Tenderer	Contractors/firms having valid trade license, income Tax certificate & VAT registration from concerned authority of Bangladesh. Detail described in tender document.		
15	Brief Description of Goods	The employer shall engage contractors to smoothly maintain its consumer services for .Meter Reading, Bill Distribution, Meter Installation/ Reconnection/ Disconnection/ Removal, Identification of Defaulter/ Illegal Users, Serving Notices etc. in the area under the jurisdiction of DESCO. Detail described in Section 6: General Specification, Section 7: Particular Specification and Section 8: BOQ of the tender document. No. Of packages: 03 (Three); Total Number of Lots: 15 (fifteen).		
16	Price of Tender Document	Tk.4,000/- (four thousand) only payable in the form of Pay Order/Bank draft from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of 'Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (DESCO)'. The amount of the Tender Security for each lot shall be : (a) Tk.8,00,000/- (eight lac) only for any lot under Package 01: Mirpur Zone, (b) Tk. 8,00,000/- (eight lac) only for lot G / H / I and Tk.10,00,000/- (ten lac) only for lot-J under Package 02: Gulshan Zone. (c) Tk.8,00,000/- (eight lac) only for lot K / L / M / N and Tk.9,00,000/- (nine lac) only for lot-O under Package 03: Uttara Zone. Tender Security shall be in the form of Bank Guarantee/Bank Draft/ Pay Order from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited.		
17	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	The amount of the Tender Security for each lot shall be : (a) Tk.8,00,000/- (eight lac) only for any lot under Package 01: Mirpur Zone, (b) Tk. 8,00,000/- (eight lac) only for lot G / H / I and Tk.10,00,000/- (ten lac) only for lot-J under Package 02: Gulshan Zone. (c) Tk.8,00,000/- (eight lac) only for lot K / L / M / N and Tk.9,00,000/- (nine lac) only for lot-O under Package 03: Uttara Zone. Tender Security shall be in the form of Bank Guarantee/Bank Draft/ Pay Order from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited.		
18	Contract Period	36 (thirty-six) months from the commencement date of contract.		
19	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.			

Engr. Md. Shofiqul Islam  
Superintending Engineer (P,I&T)

## US-British expert Deaton wins Nobel

FROM PAGE 16

has enhanced this understanding," it said.

Deaton was honoured for three related achievements: for developing with his colleague John Muellbauer around 1980 a system for estimating the demand for different goods; studies of the link between consumption and income that he conducted around 1990; and the work he carried out in later decades on measuring living standards and poverty in developing countries with the help of household surveys.

His research has shown how the clever use of household data can shed light on issues such as the relationship between income and calorie intake, and the extent of gender discrimination with the family.

"Deaton's focus on household surveys has helped transform development economics from a theoretical field based on aggregate data to an empirical field based on detailed individual data," the Academy said.

Deaton is optimistic about economic progress in the world. In his

2013 book "The Great Escape" he outlined how overall human welfare -- especially longevity and prosperity -- has risen so much over time.

Speaking to reporters at the Nobel press conference by video link, Deaton said he believed poverty would continue to decline.

"I do foresee a decrease. I think we've had a remarkable decrease for the past 20-30 years. I do expect that to continue," he said, noting however that there were still 700 million extremely poor people according to the World Bank "so we are not out of the woods yet."

Deaton said poverty reduction would for example resolve the current refugee crisis.

"What we see is the result of hundreds of years of unequal development ... that left a whole part of the world behind," he said.

"Poverty reduction in poor countries would solve the problem but not in the short term."

Deaton, 69, was born in Edinburgh and has been a professor of economics and international affairs at Princeton University in the United States since 1983.

He wins the prize sum of eight

million Swedish kronor (about 860,000 euros, \$950,000).

Last year, French economist Jean Tirole won the prize for his analysis of big companies, market power and regulation.

Deaton will receive his prize at a ceremony in Stockholm on December 10, the anniversary of the death of the prizes' creator, Swedish scientist and philanthropist Alfred Nobel.

The economics prize is the only Nobel not originally included in Nobel's last will and testament. It was established in 1968 by the Swedish central bank to celebrate its tricentenary, and first awarded in 1969.

The other prizes have been awarded since 1901.

The economics prize caps this year's Nobel season.

Last week, the two most closely-watched prizes, those for literature and peace, went respectively to Belarusian writer Svetlana Alexievich and Tunisia's National Dialogue Quartet, four civil society groups that helped rescue the only democracy to emerge from the Arab Spring.