



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



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France strikes ISIS targets

IS stronghold in Syria bombarded; Hollande says France is 'at war', swears to 'destroy' the terror group

AGENCIES

Twelve French warplanes have bombarded Raqqa, the de facto "capital" of IS in Syria, two days after bombing and gun attacks in Paris killed 129 people.

The air strikes late on Sunday were the first since the Paris attacks, and saw 12 French air force planes drop 20 bombs on Islamic State group positions.

Sunday's bombing was the biggest French air raid that has taken place in Syria so far, and was described as a "massive" attack by a French defence ministry spokesman, reports UK-based The Independent.

According to a statement released by the ministry, the first target that the planes destroyed was a command post, which housed a recruitment centre and arms and munitions depot.

The second target to be destroyed in the raid was a "terrorist training camp".

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A French fighter jet taxis at an undisclosed airbase late November 15. French warplanes launched their biggest raids in Syria targeting the ISIS strongholds, in the map. Bottom, suspected mastermind of Paris massacres, Abdelhamid Abaaoud. PHOTO: REUTERS



Belgian man 'mastermind'

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A French official has named the suspected mastermind behind the Paris attacks as a Belgian man called Abdelhamid Abaaoud.

He was reportedly involved in previously thwarted train and church attacks.

RTL radio in France reported that the 27-year-old is "one of the most active Isis executioners" in Syria.

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IS 'threatens attack on Washington'

REUTERS, Cairo

Islamic State warned in a new video yesterday that countries taking part in air strikes against Syria would suffer the same fate as France, and threatened to attack in Washington.

The video, which appeared on a site used by

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PHOTO: REUTERS

Barack Obama chats with Vladimir Putin at the G20 summit in Turkey yesterday.

G20 vows more intel sharing

Leaders agree on need for tighter coordination; divisions remain on Syria

REUTERS, Belek

World leaders promised to tighten border controls, step up intelligence sharing and crack down on terrorist financing at a summit in Turkey on Monday, but there was little sign of a dramatic shift in strategy against Islamic State in Syria.

The G20 summit in Turkey's coastal province of Antalya has been dominated by Friday's attacks across Paris, which killed 129 people at a concert, restaurants and a soccer stadium and underlined the threat posed by the radical jihadist group far beyond its strongholds in Syria and Iraq.

The two-day summit brought together leaders including U.S. President Barack Obama and Russia's Vladimir Putin just 500

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We can help them [Syrian refugees] form an army...They can go to fight to liberate their country.

WITOLD WASZCZYKOWSKI
POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER

Education, health sectors need more investment

Speakers at Bangladesh Development Forum meet; training, good governance also emphasised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac founder and Chairperson Sir Fazle Hasan Abed has suggested a 10-year rigorous plan to draw talented graduates to the teaching profession for improving the country's education quality.

Teaching seems to be the last option to those seeking jobs after graduation, which is disappointing, he said at a discussion on health and education at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday.

Due to a lack of inspiring teachers, many at the secondary level do not take up math and science -- the subjects that are essential at this time of technological advancement, he added.

Abed was speaking at the high-level meeting of Bangladesh Development Forum 2015, which brought together ministers, officials, development

partners and civil society members to find the areas of strengthening partnership for the country's development. Yesterday was the last day of the two-day event.

Stipends can be offered to graduate students at government colleges so that they can prepare themselves for teaching in primary and secondary schools.

In ten years, a good number of quality teachers would be in service then. Two to three teachers can work as nucleus to transform the classrooms, Abed said.

"If we cannot do it, our education will suffer."

He made the recommendations at a time when Bangladesh has achieved 97.7 percent enrolment in primary schools but 20 percent of them drop out before completing primary education. Besides, the quality of education has been questioned.

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MOJAHEED, SQ CHY VERDICTS SC hears review petitions today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court is set to hear today two petitions of condemned war criminals Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and Salauddin Quader Chowdhury seeking review of its judgments that upheld death penalties for them.

The pleas have been included on the day's hearing list of the four-member Appellate Division bench, headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, according to the SC website.

Meanwhile, a High Court bench yesterday refused to hear a writ petition filed by Salauddin's wife Farhat Quader Chowdhury challenging the constitutional provision that allows trial of an individual for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

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TRANSIT FEE India agrees to pay Rs 192 per tonne

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday agreed to pay Bangladesh a transit fee of Rs 192.22 per tonne of goods to be transported from its Tripura state to Ashuganj port in Bangladesh.

The announcement came after a meeting between shipping secretaries of the two countries at a hotel here.

Indian Transport and Shipping Secretary Rajive Kumar said the fee has been agreed upon on an "experimental basis" and this is "subject to review".

He said an extra Rs 50 would be charged for ensuring security to the goods to be transported through Bangladesh territory to Ashuganj port.

This means that India has accepted Bangladesh's proposal on the transit fees.

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Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali welcomes Queen Máxima Zorreguieta Cerruti of the Netherlands with a bouquet at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday. The queen is here on a three-day visit at the invitation of Bangladesh.

Dutch Queen Máxima in Dhaka

BSS, Dhaka

Queen of the Netherlands Máxima Zorreguieta Cerruti arrived here yesterday on a three-day visit to support global efforts to reduce poverty, achieve economic development and empower women.

A special aircraft carrying the Queen, also the UN secretary-general's special advocate for inclusive finance for development, touched down at Shahjalal International Airport around 8:00am.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman received the Queen at the airport, said a foreign ministry spokesperson.

Earlier, the UNDP in a statement said Queen Máxima is visiting Bangladesh on an invitation of the Bangladesh government as the UN

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PHOTO: PID

NEWS ANALYSIS

MANPOWER FOR MALAYSIA

Will our workers get better deal this time?

PORIMOL PALMA

Would Bangladesh ever be able to protect the rights of its citizens who work on foreign soil? The ongoing negotiation on labour recruitment with the Malaysian government makes it doubtful.

The scepticism becomes stronger because labour relation between the two nations has been tarnished by corruption linked to powerful lobbies that led to egregious labour abuses. The on again off again worker recruitment with Malaysia does not exactly give confidence that the workers will get a better deal this time.

Manpower is one of the most important exports of Bangladesh and it earned around \$15 billion last year from foreign remittance, about 33% of its total foreign currency earnings. These figures are enough to underscore the importance of this sector and the need to provide the material, moral, and humane support the workers deserve.

The government's negotiating skills in labour deals with foreign countries fall far short of a position of strength and dignity. Considering that Bangladeshi workers frequently face mistreatment when corruption remains rife in recruitment stage, the government must protect its citizens

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