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Saudi moves 'jets, troops' to Turkey

Ground ops in Syria possible, says Turkish FM; Ankara hits Kurds in Aleppo; Russia sees 'new Cold War'

Turkey and Saudi Arabia could launch a ground operation against Islamic State jihadists in Syria, the Turkish foreign minister said yesterday, as Russian prime minister said the simmering East-West tension has plunged the world into a "new Cold War".

The coordinated plans by Riyadh and Ankara, who are pursuing an increasingly tight alliance, add a new element to the explosive situation in Syria where Russia has been backing a successful regime offensive against rebels.

In another development, Turkish artillery yesterday bombarded areas of Aleppo province in northern Syria controlled by Kurdish forces, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The monitoring group's head, Rami Abdel Rahman, said Turkish shelling struck areas of Aleppo, including Minnigh, recently taken by the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militia from Islamist rebels.

Britain's daily Independent reported that Saudi Arabia was sending troops and fighter jets to Turkey's Incirlik military base ahead of a possible ground invasion of Syria.

The Turkish foreign minister, Mevlut Cavusoglu, confirmed the deployment in a statement to the Yeni Safak newspaper yesterday.

"Saudi Arabia declared its determination against Daesh (the Arabic term for IS) by saying that they were ready to

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bKash agents shot, Tk 13 lakh looted

Another stabbed to death in Tangail Friday night

Muggers ran away with Tk 13 lakh after shooting two sales representatives of bKash at Kafrol in the capital yesterday morning.

In another incident, assailants killed an agent of the mobile banking service provider while snatching Tk 1 lakh from him in Tangail Sadar upazila on Friday night.

The sales representatives -- Mosharrif Hossain, 33, and Al-Amin, 22, -- were undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Sentu Chandra Das, assistant sub-inspector of DMCH Police Camp.

Mosharrif was shot five times in the hands while Al-Amin once in the backside, he added.

Zainal Abedin, manager of AID bKash Distribution where the victims work, said the incident happened around 10:30am when the two staff were returning to their office at Mirpur 14 on a motorcycle.

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The young Tigers signed off from the ICC U-19 World Cup with a dramatic three-wicket win against their Sri Lankan counterparts at Fatullah yesterday. The victory sealed the third place, the best-ever finish for Bangladesh in the U-19 World Cup.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Plenty in the pipeline

SPORTS REPORTER

In the build-up to the ICC Under-19 World Cup, there were high hopes for Bangladesh. Not only were they going to have the advantage of being hosts, they had played and excelled in the numerous series they embarked upon before the tournament itself.

Those factors, logically so, gave rise to high expectations

and although they did not make it to the final, their best-ever finish -- they became third after a hard-fought win against Sri Lanka yesterday -- showed that there are many up-and-coming cricketers in the pipeline for the Tigers.

And none of the youngsters seem more impressive than their captain Mehedi Hasan Miraz. With 242 runs in the tournament, the 18-year-old all-rounder was

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Valentine's Day vulgar!

Pakistan dist assembly seeks to ban the day; president asks youth not to celebrate it

Pakistan president Mamnoon Hussain has urged the nation to refrain from celebrating Valentine's Day, while a Islamist party blasted it as "vulgar and indecent" as they moved to outlaw festivities.

The president made the remarks to a crowd of students on Friday, saying the day -- traditionally celebrated in the West by lovers -- had no place in the Muslim-majority nation.

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SIBL
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PRAYER TIMING
FEBRUARY 14
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-25 12-45 4-30 5-57 7-15
JAMAAT 6-00 1-15 4-45 6-01 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Obituary



Mrs. Seleena Begum Wife of Mr. AKM Mayeedul Islam MP, Former Minister and Chairman of Quasem Group & Foundation passed away at Apollo Hospital, Dhaka on 13th February at 9:10 a.m. (Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un).

She left behind her husband, one son, two daughters, a large number of relatives and well wishers.

She was buried at Banani Graveyard after namaz-e Zanaza at Mohammedpur New colony Mosque and Gulshan Azad Mosque.

Her Kulkhani will be held on 15 February 2016 after Magrib at her residence A-1/6 Asad Gate, Mohammedpur, Dhaka.

All relatives and well wishers are cordially invited to attend the Kulkhani and pray for the departed soul for eternal peace.

- FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE DECEASED



Robin Ghosh passes away

Legendary music composer Robin Ghosh passed away at a city hospital yesterday.

He was 79.

Robin, also the husband of renowned Bangali and Urdu film actress Shabnam, breathed his last around 8:00am at Cure Care Hospital in the capital's Gulshan.

The composer of many popular romantic songs like *Tomare Legechhe Eto Je Bhalo* (Rajdhanir Buke), *Ami Roop Nogorer Rajkonna* (Harano Din) and *Ke Shoroner Prantorey*, he left behind his wife, son Ronnie Ghosh and a host of relatives and admirers.

Robin, famous for his

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

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