

# NEWS IN brief

## UN to announce new Syria talks date

REUTERS, Geneva  
The UN mediator of Syrian peace talks was scheduled to announce the date for a new round of talks later yesterday after consulting the UN Security Council, despite the continuing violence on the ground, he told reporters in Geneva. "There is a sense of urgency in having the talks resume, because we need to keep the momentum," UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura said.

## More possible MH370 debris found

AFP, Sydney  
Three new pieces of debris have been found in Mauritius and in Mozambique that could be linked to missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, Australia's transport minister said yesterday. The fate of the passenger jet, which is presumed to have crashed at sea after disappearing en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 passengers and crew on board in March 2014, remains a mystery.

## NY rap concert shooting kills 1

AFP, New York  
One person was killed and three others injured at a prominent New York music venue late Wednesday during a show to be headlined by rapper T.I., police said. Witnesses reported shots ringing out just after 10 pm shortly before T.I., an Atlanta rapper with a history of legal run-ins, was to take the stage at Irving Plaza.

## Pvt firms to hunt for Egyptair black boxes

AFP, Paris  
France and Egypt will hire two private firms to help in the hunt for the black boxes from the EgyptAir plane that crashed last week on route from Paris to Cairo, the French foreign ministry has said. EgyptAir Flight MS804 crashed in the Mediterranean last Thursday between the Greek island of Crete and Egypt's north coast with 66 people aboard, including 30 Egyptians and 15 French nationals.

## Clashes kill 2 rebels in eastern Ukraine

AFP, Kiev  
Two pro-Russian rebels were killed and another injured in fresh clashes with government forces in the country's war-torn east as simmering violence showed little sign of abating, separatist authorities said yesterday. The new casualties came the day after Ukraine scored a major diplomatic victory by securing the return of Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko as part of a prisoner swap with the Kremlin.



Protesters hold placards depicting French President and Prime Minister, during a protest against the government's labour market reforms in Rennes, northwestern France, yesterday. Masked youths clashed with police in Paris and striking workers blockaded refineries and nuclear power stations yesterday as an escalating wave of industrial action against labour reforms rocked France. PHOTO: AFP

# Huge task ahead

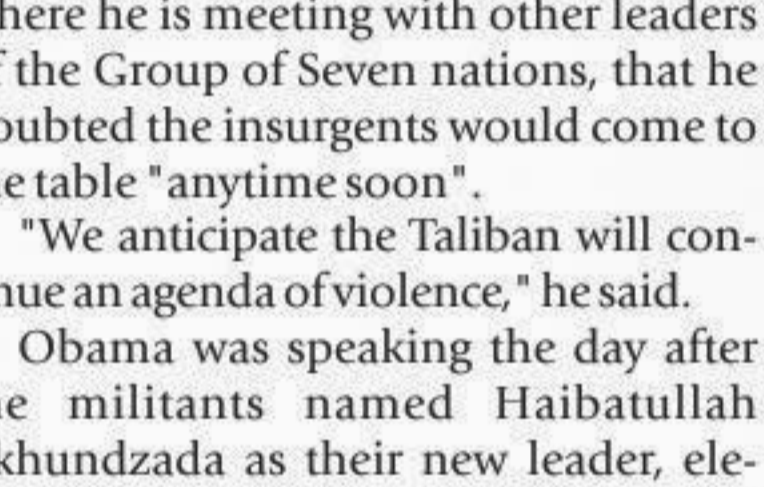
## Modi tells Wall Street Journal after two yrs in power; Congress describes the period as 'disappointing'

AGENCIES  
Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has defended his record of reforming India's stuttering economy after two years in power, but conceded that his right-wing government faced "an enormous task ahead".  
In an interview with The Wall Street Journal published yesterday, his second anniversary in office, Modi said he had set a path for faster growth, including opening up the economy to foreign investment and curbing corruption.  
But Modi also said he needed India's 29 states to take up the challenge of reforming land purchasing and rigid labour laws, which businesses have long complained hamper manufacturing and development.  
"I have actually undertaken the maximum reforms," Modi said. But, he added, "I have an enormous task ahead for myself."  
The Hindu nationalist premier swept to power at elections in May 2014 with the biggest mandate in 30 years, promising to reform and revive the struggling economy.  
Meanwhile, the Congress yesterday described the two years of the Narendra Modi government as disappointing because it had failed on all fronts, including in reviving the economy, reports IANS.  
"This government lives on advertisements. This government has totally failed to revive the economy. Core sector growth negligible. Rupee is sliding, inflation is very high and job creation is lowest. The Prime Minister had promised 10 crore jobs per year but job creation (rate) is 1.32 lakh," senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad told reporters here as the BJP-led NDA government completed its two years of government.  
"It is the two years of disappointment and the big achievements of this government are creation of social tension, provocation by BJP leaders, unnecessary controversies and mob violence," said Azad, who is also the leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha.  
The Congress also lashed out at the Narendra Modi government's "consistently inconsistent" foreign policy.  
"The foreign policy of the government is consistently inconsistent vis-a-vis China and Pakistan," senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad told the media.

# Taliban violence to continue

## Says Obama at G7 summit, doubts insurgents would come to table 'anytime soon'

AFP, Ise-shima  
Hopes of negotiating peace with the Afghan Taliban's new leader were swiftly fading from all sides yesterday, as US President Barack Obama warned the extremist movement will continue killing in Afghanistan.  
Obama told reporters in Japan, where he is meeting with other leaders of the Group of Seven nations, that he doubted the insurgents would come to the table "anytime soon".  
"We anticipate the Taliban will continue an agenda of violence," he said.  
Obama was speaking the day after the militants named Haibatullah Akhundzada as their new leader, elevating a low-profile religious figure in a swift power transition after the death of Mullah Akhtar Mansour in a US drone strike.  
Analysts have said it is unclear if Akhundzada, who faces the enormous challenge of unifying the increasingly



fragmented militant movement, will emulate his former boss in shunning peace talks with the Afghan government.  
But the US killing of Mansour showed that Washington has at least for now abandoned hopes of reviving the direct peace talks between Kabul and the Taliban, which broke down for the first time last summer.  
Obama acknowledged that he was never going to find a willing negotiating partner at the helm of the extremist group.



"I was not expecting a liberal democrat to be appointed," he told reporters.  
"My hope, although not my expectation, is that there comes a point where the Taliban realise what they need to be doing" and start getting into a dialogue with the government, he said.  
"I am doubtful that it will be happening anytime soon."  
The Taliban has made no official statement on the future of peace negotiations since announcing Akhundzada's leadership.  
But Obama's comments were reinforced by a senior Taliban source speaking to AFP in Pakistan, where Mansour was killed in the strike Saturday, who said there would be no shift in the militants' stance.  
President Ashraf Ghani was more hawkish, tweeting yesterday: "Taliban groups have yet another chance to end violence/lay their arms & start normal life. Or they'll face the same fate as their leadership."

# Child rapists to get death, castration

## Says Indonesia president

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK  
Indonesia has introduced the death penalty and chemical castration for child rapists.  
President Joko Widodo said the sanctions "intended to overcome the crisis caused by sexual violence against children", the BBC reports.  
The maximum sentence for rape, of a child or an adult, was previously 14 years in prison.  
Those jailed for child sexual offences may also be electronically tagged after their release.  
The change follows public outrage over rising levels of violent crimes in the past year, including the gang-rape and murder of a 14-year-old girl as she walked home from school on the western island of Sumatra last April.  
It was introduced by presidential decree and will come into effect immediately, although the country's parliament could overturn the measure at a later date.  
President Widodo was elected in 2014, having previously served as mayor of Surakarta and governor of Jakarta.  
Having allowed the implementation of the death penalty on a wide-spread basis against convicted drug users and traffickers, his stance on execution has drawn international scrutiny.  
Brits Lindsay Sandiford, from Teeside, and Gareth Cashmore, from Yorkshire, are among those currently on death row, facing death by firing squad, after being convicted of drug smuggling.  
Last April, the country was widely condemned after a group of prisoners was executed on Nusakambangan Island - including Australian men Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran, Brazilian Rodrigo Gularte, Nigerian men Martin Anderson, Sylvester Nwoli, Okwudili Oyatanze and Raheem Salami, and Indonesian Zainal Badarudin.



## TIMES OF INDIA SURVEY 62pc give Modi government a thumbs up

TNN, New Delhi  
Two years into its term, the Narendra Modi government has been rated by 62 percent of metropolitan Indians as having done a good or very good job in a survey done exclusively for TOI. That's a touch lower than the 67 percent who voiced the same opinion a year ago.  
Meanwhile, the proportion of those saying it has done a poor or very poor job has risen from 9 percent to 16 percent.  
Modi himself was perceived by nearly half the respondents to the survey (47 percent) as a strong leader with intent who was being handicapped in delivering on that intent by those around him, a perception that could explain the slightly lower ratings. This also fits in with the finding that just over half (51%) felt that the strength of Brand Modi had eroded since 2014, though about one in five felt it had actually become stronger.  
As was the case a year ago, the Swachh Bharat programme remains the most popular of the various initiatives launched by this government, with 42 percent picking it as the best. Make In India came in distant second at 13 percent. The failure to create enough jobs was seen as the government's biggest failing with 43 percent choosing this.

# Israeli planes bomb Hamas sites in Gaza

AFP, Gaza City  
The Israeli air force carried out strikes on Hamas sites in Gaza early yesterday in response to a rocket attack targeting the Jewish state, the army and Palestinian officials said.  
The rocket, which hit an open area in southern Israel, caused no damage or casualties.  
In response, the Israeli air force "targeted two Hamas sites in the southern Gaza Strip," the military said in a statement.  
A statement from Ajnad Beit al-Maqdis, a small Salafist jihadi group, claimed the rocket attack, which came hours after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sealed a deal to bring headline nationalist Avigdor Lieberman into his coalition as defence minister.  
"We announce our responsibility for targeting the Nahal Oz military base with a missile," it said.  
According to the army, nine projectiles fired from the Gaza Strip -- which is run by Islamist movement Hamas -- have hit Israel since the start of 2016.  
Smaller, more radical Islamist groups have often been blamed, with Hamas forces either unwilling or unable to prevent the rocket fire.



Rescue personnel work at the site of an explosion at a chemical factory in an industrial area in Dombivli, on the outskirts of Mumbai, India, yesterday. The explosion tore through the chemical plant, killing three workers and injuring up to 35 others, officials said. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Mugabe 'frees all female prisoners'

REUTERS, Harare  
Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has granted amnesty to all female prisoners except those on death row or serving life sentences, as prisons struggle to feed inmates due to lack of funding from the government.  
Five prisoners died in March 2015 after being shot by police in a protest over food shortages, which turned violent as some of them attempted to break out of jail.  
Mugabe announced the pardon through a government notice on Monday, without stating a reason for the move, and the release of prisoners started on Wednesday.  
Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional Services spokeswoman Priscilla Mthembo said yesterday there were 580 female inmates across the country's 46 prisons, and those eligible would be set free. At the country's top security jail in Harare, two female prisoners serving life sentences remained after the amnesty, while vetting was ongoing at other prisons.  
In all, Mthembo said more than 2,000 prisoners would benefit from Mugabe's pardon. These included all juveniles, irrespective of their crimes, as well as some men not serving time for serious crimes like murder, armed robbery, treason, rape or carjacking.  
Zimbabwe's prisons hold 20,000 inmates, more than their capacity of 17,000, causing congestion and shortages of everything from food to uniforms.  
Under the constitution of the Southern African nation, Mugabe, who routinely pardons prisoners, is required to consult his cabinet on all amnesties.

# US lists two Pak outfits as terror groups

AFP, Washington  
The United States on Wednesday designated two Pakistan-based Islamist groups with links to the Taliban as global terrorist threats.  
As "Specially Designated Global Terrorists", US citizens are forbidden from associating with the Tariq Gidar Group (TGG) and the Jamaat ul Dawa al-Quran (JDQ).  
Any assets owned by the groups in places under US jurisdiction will be frozen, and US law enforcement will be authorized to investigate their activity.  
According to the US State Department, the TGG is linked to the Tehreek-i-Taliban -- the Pakistani Taliban -- and is based in Darra Adam Khel, Pakistan.  
The faction, US officials believe, was responsible for the December 2014 massacre at an army-run school in Peshawar that left more than 130 children dead.

# FISHERMEN MURDER India allows Italian marine to go home

AFP, New Delhi  
India's top court yesterday allowed an Italian marine accused of killing two fishermen to return home pending a ruling on where he should be tried in a long-running case that has soured ties between the two countries.  
Salvatore Gironne and fellow marine Massimiliano Latorre are accused of shooting the fishermen while protecting an Italian oil tanker as part of an anti-piracy mission off India's southern Kerala coast in 2012.  
Latorre was allowed to travel back to Italy in 2014 for treatment after suffering a stroke.  
But Gironne has been barred from leaving India pending the resolution of a dispute between New Delhi and Rome over who has jurisdiction in the case.  
Gironne, who has been living in Italy's embassy in New Delhi, will be home next Thursday, Italy's Republic Day, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said in a tweet.  
"We confirm our friendship with India, its people and its government," said Renzi, who has been under pressure domestically to secure the provisional liberty of both marines.  
"And we see welcome back to seaman Gironne who will be with us on June 2."  
The Supreme Court yesterday agreed to alter Gironne's bail conditions allowing him to return, after a tribunal in The Hague ruled this month he should be free to go, pending the final outcome of arbitration.  
"Having considered submissions of the parties, subject to conditions, the Italian marine Salvatore Gironne's bail conditions are modified," Justices PC Pant and DY Chandrachud said in a written judgement read out in court.

## মাইলস্টোন কলেজ

৪৪ গরিব-ই-নেওয়াজ এডিনিউ, সেক্টর-১১, উত্তরা, ঢাকা।  
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ভর্তি-২০১৬

একাদশ শ্রেণি (সকল শাখা): বাংলা ও ইংরেজি (জাতীয় শিক্ষাক্রম) মাধ্যম

- শ্রেষ্ঠত্বের স্বীকৃতি: কলেজটি ২০০৮ সালে ঢাকা বোর্ড কর্তৃক শ্রেষ্ঠ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসেবে স্বীকৃতিপ্রাপ্ত।
- সাম্প্রতিক ফলাফল: ২০১৪ সালে এইচএসসিতে ঢাকা বোর্ডে ৭ম স্থান এবং ২০১৫ সালে বাংলা ও ইংরেজি মাধ্যমে ১৮৩৬ জন ছাত্র-ছাত্রী এইচএসসি পরীক্ষা দেয় এবং পাসের হার ছিল ৯৯.৪০%। এ বছর এসএসসি'তে পাস ১০০%, জিপিএ-৫ পায় ৫৯.৭৬% এবং ২৫৫৬ জন ছাত্র-ছাত্রী এইচএসসি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করছে।
- বিশেষ সুবিধা: মফস্বল এলাকার ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের জন্য আলাদা হোস্টেল ও পরিবহনের ব্যবস্থা রয়েছে। ছেলে ও মেয়েদের ক্লাস আলাদা ক্যাম্পাসে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়।
- আবেদনের যোগ্যতা: বিজ্ঞান: ছাত্র/ছাত্রী-৪.০০, ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা: ছাত্র/ছাত্রী-২.৫০, মানবিক বিভাগ: ছাত্র/ছাত্রী-২.০০।
- অনলাইনে আবেদন: বোর্ড নির্ধারিত website: www.xiclassadmission.gov.bd -এ প্রবেশ করে EIIN:108572 এর মাধ্যমে ১ম পছন্দ নিয়ে আবেদন করা যাবে।
- SMS এর মাধ্যমে আবেদন: টেলিটক প্রি-পেইড মোবাইলের message অপশনে গিয়ে CAD<space>108572<space> ভর্তিচ্ছ গ্রুপের নামের দুই অক্ষর (SC, HU বা BS) <space> যে বোর্ড থেকে পাস করেছে তার নামের প্রথম তিন অক্ষর <space> SSC রোল নম্বর <space> পাসের সাল <space> রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর<space> শিফট (M)<space> ভলন (বাংলা হলে B, ইংরেজি হলে E)<space> কোটা যদি থাকে (মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কোটা FQ, শিক্ষা কোটা EQ, বিশেষ কোটা SQ, প্রবাসীদের কোটা PQ) লিখে 16222 নম্বরে Send করতে হবে।
- ফিরতি এসএমএস-এ আবেদনকারীর নাম, কলেজের নাম, শিফট, গ্রুপের নাম এবং ভার্শননং ফি বাবদ কত টাকা কেটে নেওয়া হবে তা জানিয়ে একটি PIN প্রদান করা হবে। আবেদনে সম্মত থাকলে message অপশনে গিয়ে CAD<space>Yes<space>PIN<space>Contact Number (নিজের ব্যবহৃত ব্যাংকম্যাট্রিক পদ্ধতিতে রেজিস্ট্রেশনকৃত যে কোনো মোবাইল নম্বর) লিখে Send করবেন 16222 নম্বরে।
- অনলাইনে ভর্তির আবেদন/এসএমএস করার তারিখ: ২৬/০৫/২০১৬ থেকে ০৯/০৬/২০১৬ পর্যন্ত।
- ভর্তির জন্য মেধা তালিকা প্রকাশ: ১৬/০৬/২০১৬।

কর্ণেল নূরন নবী (অব.), উপদেষ্টা // প্রফেসর মো. সহিদুল ইসলাম, অধ্যক্ষ  
ফোন: ৫৮৯৫৭৭৩৩, ৭৯১০৪০৭; মোবাইল: ০১৬৬৬৯৭২২২, ০১৯২৭৫৪৮৫৯, ০১৭৭১৫৮১৬০৫, ০১৮১৫০৫৪৪০১, ০১৯১৩৪০১৬০১, ০১৮১৯১৩৪০১৬০১, ০১৭১৫২৯৪৪১৬, ০১৮১৯১৩৪০১৬০১, ০১৯১১১৬২২৮২, ০১৮৫০৯৭৭১১৭, ০১৭৩২২১৬৬৫৭।