



Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal, who scored 95, was the lone positive in the Tigers' abject collapse to 182 all out in their Champions Trophy Group A game against Australia at The Oval yesterday. PHOTO: BCB



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## EU slaps cargo curbs on Dhaka

*Puts Bangladesh on list of high-risk countries from June 1, wants proper bomb detection system; businesses fear huge adverse impact on export*

RASHIDUL HASAN

The European Union has put Bangladesh on the list of high-risk countries in terms of operating cargo services by air and sea to the EU countries, said sources at the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.

EU Ambassador in Dhaka Pierre Mayaudon disclosed the decision at a meeting with CAAB Chairman Air Vice-Marshal Ehsanul Gani Chowdhury at the latter's office yesterday, meeting sources told The Daily Star.

Last year, Australia, the UK and Germany termed Bangladesh a high-risk country and imposed a ban on direct cargo flights citing poor security at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

Of the three countries, Germany is the

second largest apparel export destination for Bangladesh with garment items worth \$4.66 billion exported to the EU country in 2015-16, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau.

"Bangladesh has been red listed by the EU, which means it has been labelled as a high-risk country for cargo operations," said a top official of Shahjalal airport.

Following the latest EU decision, which came into effect from June 1, businesses now require re-screening of their goods at a third airport en route to an EU country, officials said.

To get its name dropped from the list, Bangladesh first has to ensure screening through bomb detection dogs or equipment before loading goods in aircraft.

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## Tigers at the mercy of the weather

AL-AMIN from London

Bangladesh's Champions Trophy dream, if there was any, was at the mercy of the London weather at the time this report was filed as rain interrupted the proceedings in their Group A match at The Oval yesterday.

Australia, chasing a modest 183, had raced to 83 for one in 16 overs to keep their trophy ambitions on track after a disappointing opening game against New Zealand. They shared the points of that abandoned game but would have felt lucky to be saved by the rain.

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## Top Arab nations sever ties with Qatar

*Accuse the Gulf state of destabilising the region through its support of Islamist groups; Doha calls the decision unjustified*

### QATAR DIPLOMATIC ROW

- Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE, Egypt, Yemen, Maldives cut diplomatic ties with Qatar
- The UAE has given Qatari diplomats 48 hours to leave the country
- Etihad and Emirates said they are to cancel flights to and from Doha
- The Gulf allies said they had closed their airspace to Qatar Airways, which has suspended all its flights to Saudi Arabia
- Bahrain said it was cutting its ties because Qatar was "shaking the security and stability of Bahrain and meddling in its affairs"



AFP, Riyadh

Arab nations including Saudi Arabia and Egypt yesterday cut ties with Qatar, accusing it of supporting extremism, in the biggest diplomatic crisis to hit the region in years.

Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and the Maldives joined Saudi Arabia and Egypt in severing relations with gas-rich Qatar, with Riyadh accusing Doha of supporting groups, including some backed by Iran, "that aim to destabilise the region".

Qatar reacted with fury, denying any support for extremists and accusing its Gulf neighbours of seeking to put the

country under "guardianship".

The crisis was likely to have wide-ranging consequences, not just for Qatar and its citizens but around the Middle East and for Western interests.

Qatar hosts the largest US airbase in the region, which is crucial to operations against Islamic State group jihadists, and is set to host the 2022 football World Cup.

Yesterday's announcement came less than a month after US President Donald Trump visited Saudi Arabia to cement ties with Riyadh and called for a united front among Muslim countries against extremism.

It also followed weeks of rising

tensions between Doha and its neighbours, including Qatari accusations of a concerted media campaign against it and the alleged hacking of the Qatar News Agency.

### BASELESS CLAIMS

The Gulf states and Egypt said they were severing diplomatic ties and closing transport links with Qatar, which relies on imports from its neighbours.

The Gulf states banned their citizens from travelling to Qatar and ordered Qatari citizens to leave within 14 days.

Saudi Arabia also closed its borders with Qatar, effectively blocking food and other supplies exported by land to Qatar.

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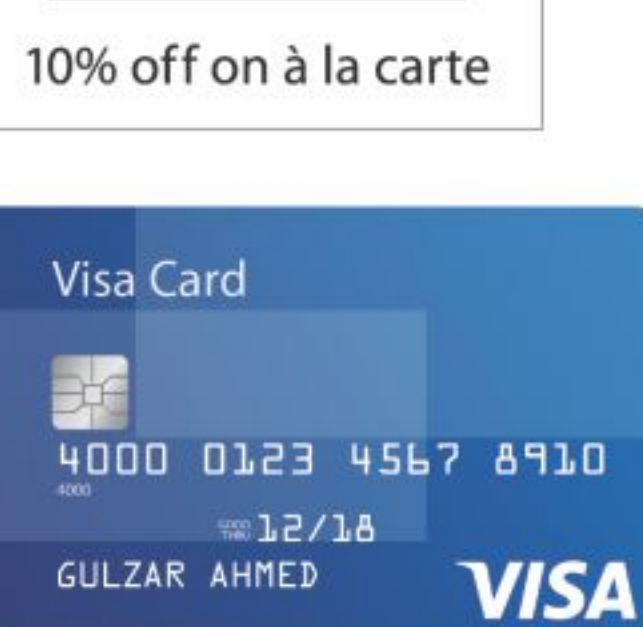
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