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Police want no more Ansars to help them

Propose sending back 2,311 Ansar members now working in aid of cops

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Despite acute manpower crisis, the police department has proposed sending back 2,311 Ansar members who are now working with police to their own department. This will make them jobless as the Ansars were recruited on "no service no payment" basis.

Besides, of the 2,311 Ansars, 494 special Ansars who were earlier the members of outlawed Purba Bangla Communist Party, active in the country's southwestern region, may restart their previous activities, sources concerned apprehend. Pointing out the logical ground of the proposal, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad told The Daily Star

that if police department takes forces from other departments, police posts would remain vacant. For doing any fault, policemen are blamed but not the Ansars, so police personnel themselves should do their duty, he added. He said policemen also face some problems due to less courteous manner

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Banks may remain open tomorrow

Huge transactions ahead of Eid

UNB, Dhaka

Commercial banks can keep their branches open tomorrow (Saturday), if they wish to facilitate the emergency transactions of clients ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

"The banks may keep open all or certain branches in their own consideration ensuring proper security measures to facilitate pre-Eid transactions," according to a

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Rajuk allots 1,077 Purbachal plots

Lottery held for four categories

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday announced the names of 1,077 plot winners in four categories for the Purbachal New Town Project.

Among the winners, Rajuk allotted plots through a lottery in three categories -- freedom fighters, artistes/cultural personalities/sportspersons, and Bangladeshi expatriates -- while 14 plots were allotted to judges directly (one seven-and-a-half-katha and 13 ten-katha plots).

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan formally inaugurated the draw at Osmani Memorial Hall. Some 2,536 freedom fighters applied for the plots and 296 of them won, while 713 applications were cancelled for failing to fill in the forms in proper manners.

Of these plots, 16 are ten-katha ones, 36 seven-and-a-half-katha, 134 five-katha and 110 three-katha plots.

In the artistes/cultural personalities/sportspersons category 313 applications were submitted and 176 plots were allotted.

In this category, nine plots were 10 kathas each, 21 were seven and a half kathas, 80 were five kathas, and 66 are three kathas each. The number of cancelled applications in this category is 74.

For the expatriates 591 plots were allotted against 22,673 applicants. Thirty-two of these plots are 10 kathas, 72 seven and a half kathas, 267 five kathas and 220 three kathas.

A total of 1,513 applications were cancelled during scrutiny. Prof Masroor Ali of a Buet team, which has been working to scrutinise the applications, conducted the lottery.

State Minister Abdul Mannan Khan said the lottery has been

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4 suspects of Jessore gun attack held

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Police yesterday arrested four people including three ruling party men in connection with Wednesday night's gun attack that left Awami League leader Imamul Hasan Tutul dead and seven others injured at Chawgachha upazila in Jessore.

The arrestees are Jubo League president Debashis Misra Joy, UP member of Fulshara union and ruling party activist Masud Parvez, Jubo League activist Hasanuzzaman and Liyakot Ali of Kirtipur village under Jhikargachha upazila.

Tutul, 42, son of Rayhan Biswas of Roghunathpur village under Chawgachha upazila, was shot dead in front of upazila Awami League office.

He was elected UP chair

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US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (R) answers a question as Foreign Minister Dipu Moni looks on during a joint press conference following their meeting at the State Department in Washington on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Over 80 civilians killed in Yemen air raid

Most of the dead are displaced women, children

AFP, Sanaa

More than 80 civilians were killed in an air raid, which blasted a makeshift camp of displaced people in northern Yemen, witnesses said yesterday, as the army pursued its offensive on Shia rebels.

One witness, reached by telephone, told AFP that most of those killed in Wednesday's raid were women and children.

The attack was carried out by a "warplane (that) targeted displaced families who had gathered under trees in the area of Adi," in Amran province -- scene of heavy fighting between the army and the rebels, the witness said, asking not to be identified.

Another witness, also reached by telephone, told AFP that "at least 87 were

killed" in the attack, which was acknowledged by a Yemeni official.

"The jet fighter targeted Huthi (rebels) who were firing (while hiding) among the displaced people," the official told AFP requesting anonymity. He declined to comment on the death toll.

A rebel statement condemned the attack, accusing the Sanaa government, which has vowed to crush the five-year-old rebellion, committing a massacre.

"The bloodthirsty authorities have committed a new massacre," said a statement issued by the Huthi rebels.

It said that government MiG warplanes at 12:00 noon (0900 GMT) on Wednesday had targeted displaced people gathering along the Barata road, close to Adi village near Harf Sufyan, which lies on the route linking Saada to the capital.

"Dozens were killed and the bodies were blown away by the impact of the strike," the statement said.

The Yemeni army, which launched operation Scorched Earth against the rebels on August 11, said Thursday it has delivered heavy blows "over the past hours."

A military commander claimed the army had killed and wounded many rebels, whom it accused of using civilians as human shields. He did not elaborate.

New York-based Human Rights Watch urged the Yemeni government to "promptly and impartially investigate responsibility for any attacks on civilians."

In a statement it also urged all parties to the armed conflict in the region to "respect the prohibition under international law against targeting civilians."

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Barapukuria Villagers lay siege to coal mine office for compensation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Thousands of villagers in Parbatipur upazila laid siege to Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd for two hours yesterday seeking compensations for their properties taken away, or land subsidised due to mining.

The protesters also asked for permanent resettlement of the villagers affected by mining activities.

During the demonstration,

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Cab driver stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals stabbed a taxicab driver to death yesterday in the city's Mirpur area during an attempt to hijack the vehicle that police recovered later.

According to Pallabi police, three criminals in the guise of passengers hired the taxicab and at one stage they stabbed its driver Nuruzzaman, 30, around 12:00 midnight at Mirpur-6, leaving him critically injured.

A police team shot at the criminals while chasing them.

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Terror king Noordin Top killed

AP, Solo

Noordin Muhammad Top, a militant mastermind who eluded capture for nine years and terrorized Indonesia with a string of deadly al-Qaeda-funded bombings, was killed during a raid in central Indonesia, the country's

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জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আসন্ন পবিত্র ঈদ-উল-ফিতর এবং দুর্গা পূজা নিরাপদ ও নির্বিঘ্নে উদযাপনের জন্য সম্মানিত জনসাধারণকে নিম্নোক্ত পরামর্শ গ্রহণের অনুরোধ জানানো হচ্ছে-

- রেল, বাস ও লঞ্চ টার্মিনালে, যাত্রা পথে এবং চলার পথে পাশের যাত্রী, অপরিচিত কোনো ব্যক্তি, হকার কিংবা ফেরিওয়ালার নিকট থেকে ইফতার সামগ্রী, চা-সিগারেট, পান-বিড়ি, কলা-কুটি, চকলেট, শরবত, জুস, কোমল পানীয় বা অন্য কোনো খাবার গ্রহণ করবেন না। অন্যকেও যেতে নিরুৎসাহিত করবেন।
- কোন ব্যক্তি, বস্ত্র ও গাড়ি সম্পর্কে সন্দেহের সৃষ্টি হলে তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে নিকটস্থ পুলিশকে জানান।
- পূজা মতপসমূহে সার্বক্ষণিক স্বেচ্ছাসেবক নিয়োগ করুন।
- অতিরিক্ত যাত্রী হয়ে ট্রেন, বাস, লঞ্চ বা স্টিমারে চলাচল করবেন না। ট্রেন/লঞ্চ/বাসের ছাদে ভ্রমণ করবেন না। ভীড় এড়িয়ে চলুন, নিরাপদে ভ্রমণ করুন।
- প্রয়োজনে ঢাকা মহানগর পুলিশের সহায়তার জন্য ০১৭১৩৩৯৮৩২৫, ০১৭১৩৩৯৮৩২৬, ০১৭১৩৩৯৮৩২৭, ০১৭১৩৩৯৮৩২৮, ০১৭১৩৩৯৮৩২৯ এবং র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়নের (র‍্যাব) ০১৭১৩৪৪৪৩৩৩ মোবাইল নম্বরে, পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্সের কন্ট্রোল রুমে ৯৫৬১৯৬৭, ৯৫৬০৬৬১ নম্বরে এবং জেলা পুলিশ সুপার ও ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তার (ওসি) সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

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