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Interference made cops' job difficult

Complain SPs; police chief asks them to work neutrally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid growing number of complaints from superintendents of police (SPs) about feuds between ministers and lawmakers, the police chief yesterday instructed the SPs to be impartial and strict in enforcing the law.

The instruction came at the quarterly crime conference at the Police Headquarters yesterday where many district police chiefs claimed that they face problems in doing their duties due to the interferences of the ministers and lawmakers who are rivals.

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque said despite being asked to do their duties and follow the rules and laws strictly, many SPs were unable to perform their duties properly.

Chief Justice SK Sinha attended the conference as the chief guest while IGP Shahidul chaired the conference attended by SPs of all districts, deputy commissioners of the metropolitan cities and other high-ups in police.

The police boss told the SPs that the performance of around 25 percent of them were very poor. He named none.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



A bird inside an earthen pot tied to a tree branch in front of a house in Agnukali village of Sirajganj. The pot is set for providing shelter to birds. The photo was taken last month.

PHOTO: MAMUN BISWAS



A gift from bird lovers

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

When a bunch of youths gathers in your front yard and asks your permission for climbing the trees in your village house, you usually feel annoyed fearing they will pluck and take away the fruits.

But the house owners of a village in Shahzadpur upazila of Sirajganj were not annoyed at all. When approached, they walked the youths to the rows of trees planted in many parts of their spacious homes.

The young men, all aged between 20 and 25, dexterously climbed the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 3

ISIS blast kills 76 in Baghdad

More than 200 injured in the blast at a busy market

REUTERS, Baghdad

At least 76 people were killed and 212 wounded yesterday in a blast claimed by Islamic State in Baghdad's Sadr City, police and medical sources said, one of the biggest attacks on the capital since Haider al-Abadi became prime minister a year ago.

"A refrigerator truck packed with explosives blew up inside Jamila market at around 6:00 am," police officer Muhsin al-Saedi said. "Many people were killed and body parts were thrown on top of nearby buildings."

A statement circulated online by supporters of Islamic State said the blast had targeted what it called a stronghold of the "charlatan army" and Shia Muslim militias.

The market in the Shia

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

'An atomic bomb?'

Asks a terrified resident as huge blasts at Chinese port kill 50, hurt more than 700

REUTERS, Tianjin

Two huge explosions tore through an industrial area where toxic chemicals and gas were stored in the northeast Chinese port city of Tianjin, killing at least 50 people, including at least a dozen fire fighters, officials and state media said yesterday.

At least 700 people were injured, more than 71 seriously, the Tianjin government said on its Weibo microblog, and the official Xinhua news agency said two fires were still burning.

Wednesday night's blasts, so large that they were seen by satellites in space, sent shockwaves through apartment blocks kilometres away in the port city of 15 million people. Internet videos showed fireballs shooting into the sky and the US Geological Survey registered the blasts as seismic events.

Vast areas of the port - the 10th largest in the world - were devastated, crumpled shipping containers were thrown around like match sticks, hundreds of new cars were torched and port buildings left as burnt-out shells, Reuters witnesses said.

"I was sleeping when our windows and doors suddenly shook as we heard explosions outside. I first thought it was an earthquake," Guan Xiang, who lives 7 km away from the explosion site, told Reuters by telephone.

Guan, 24, said he saw flames and a mushroom cloud in the sky as he and other residents scrambled to get out of the building.

Video posted on YouTube from what appeared to be an apartment building some distance from the scene showed an initial blast followed by a second, much bigger, explosion. Shockwaves hit the building seconds later.

"Our building is shaking. Is this an atomic bomb?" said a frenzied voice inside.

Xinhua said the explosions, the first equivalent to 3 tonnes of TNT and the second to 21 tonnes of TNT, ripped through a warehouse.

Tianjin authorities said 12 firefighters were among the 44 killed. The cause of the blasts was being investigated but Xinhua said several

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

UGC ON PVT UNIVERSITIES

Conditions, rules flouted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A good number of private universities are flouting many conditions and rules set by the Private University Act-2010.

Many of them are still running unauthorised outer campuses and disobeying the rules regarding syndicate meetings. Despite extending deadlines three times, only 17 universities have so far moved to their own campuses.

Many still have disputes within their trustee boards and do not have enough qualified teachers, properly equipped libraries and laboratories, and any publication of research journals.

This appalling picture was portrayed by none other than the chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC), the statutory apex body for higher education, at a views-exchange meeting with the authorities of private universities yesterday.

UGC convened the meeting to discuss the overall picture of the private universities at its auditorium in the capital's Agargaon. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, and vice chancellors and chairmen of the board of trustees of 76 private universities attended the meeting.

According to the act, private universities have to relocate to their own campuses

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

LA fights drought with plastic balls

MAIL ONLINE

With no apparent relief to California's record-breaking drought, Los Angeles has turned to more unusual methods to protect the city's water.

Officials recently released 96 million floating 'shade balls' into the 75-acre Los Angeles Reservoir in Sylmar, California.

The black plastic balls are designed to help protect the water against dust, rain, chemicals and wildlife, as well as prevent 300 million gallons of water from evaporating each year. The balls work by floating on the surface and blocking the sun's rays.

As well as protecting against evaporation, they also prevent the chemical reaction that creates the carcinogenic compound bromate. For most people, exposure to bromate - created from naturally-occurring bromide in water - is unlikely to be cause problems.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



TOXIC PARACETAMOL Verdict in two cases deferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday deferred until Monday its verdict in two cases filed against six owners and employees of now-defunct BCI (Bangladesh) Ltd for producing toxic Paracetamol syrups.

Judge M Atoar Rahman of the Dhaka Drug Court passed the order.

Only Shahjahan Sarker, director of the company, has been attending the trial. The other accused went into

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



PRAYER TIMING
AUGUST 14

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-25 12-30 4-45 6-41 8-00
JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-44 8-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Nothing on the instrument panel works and the driving seat is in tatters. There is a lot of play in the steering, and the windscreen has no wipers. During a drive against unfit vehicles yesterday, a BRTA mobile court stopped this bus on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue and had it impounded.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক ও বাংলাদেশের ব্যাংকিং খাতের ইতিহাস বিষয়ে প্রণীতব্য গ্রন্থ 'বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ইতিহাস' এ সংযোজনযোগ্য তথ্য/চিত্র/ফটো/ডকুমেন্ট আন্ধান।

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ইতিহাস রচনার কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে। বিভিন্নভাবে গৃহীত তথ্য-উপাত্ত ও মতামতের ভিত্তিতে উক্ত ইতিহাস গ্রন্থের একটি খসড়া প্রস্তুত করা হয়েছে। সন্নিবেশিত তথ্যের পাশাপাশি প্রাসঙ্গিক তথ্য, চিত্র, ফটো, ডকুমেন্ট সংযোজনের মাধ্যমে উল্লিখিত ইতিহাস গ্রন্থকে সমৃদ্ধ ও দৃষ্টিনন্দন করতে নিম্নোক্ত বিষয়াবলীর সাথে প্রাসঙ্গিক এরূপ তথ্য, চিত্র, ফটো, ডকুমেন্ট সরবরাহের জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে:

১. তৎকালীন পূর্ববাংলায় অবস্থিত স্টেট ব্যাংক অব পাকিস্তান/স্টেট ব্যাংক অব পাকিস্তান থেকে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক প্রতিষ্ঠা/ বাংলাদেশে কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংকের ভবন উদ্বোধন;
২. বাংলাদেশের জন্মলাগ্নে ভগ্নপ্রায় অর্থনীতির পুনর্গঠন ও বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতির বিকাশ;
৩. বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের প্রধান কার্যালয় ও বিভিন্ন শাখা অফিসের তৎকালীন ভবন;
৪. বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ইতিহাসে অন্তর্ভুক্ত হতে পারে এমন যে কোনো তথ্য, চিত্র, ফটো বা ডকুমেন্ট।

তথ্য, চিত্র, ফটো ইত্যাদি ডাকযোগে বা ই-মেইলে পাঠানো যাবে। তবে কেউ এগুলো ব্যক্তিগতভাবে হস্তান্তর করতে চাইলে সে উদ্যোগও গৃহীত হবে।

ড. আবুল কালাম আজাদ
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