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Iraqi forces close in on Mosul

Baghdadi calls upon IS men to fight to the last, attack Saudi Arabia, Turkey

AFP, Gogjali

The reclusive leader of the Islamic State group broke a nearly year-long silence as Iraqi forces closed in on Mosul yesterday, urging his jihadists to hold their ground.

It was Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's first statement since Iraqi forces launched a massive offensive on October 17 to retake Mosul, where the IS chief declared the group's "caliphate" two years ago.

"Do not retreat," Baghdadi said in a purported message released by an IS-affiliated outlet. "Holding your ground with honour is a thousand times easier than retreating in shame."

In June 2014, days after jihadist fighters swept across swathes of Iraq, he made a rare public appearance in Mosul and announced the creation of an Islamic "state" straddling Iraq and Syria.

The "caliphate" has been shrinking steadily since last year and Iraqi forces earlier this week reached the outskirts of Mosul, the jihadists' last major stronghold in Iraq.

If authentic, the recording entitled "This is what God and his messenger have promised us", would be Baghdadi's first since December 2015 and a rare sign of life.

Rumours have swirled about the Iraqi jihadist leader's health and movements but his whereabouts are unclear.

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Displaced Iraqi family holds a white flag as they flee during Iraqi force's battle with Islamic State militants in Kokjali village near Mosul yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

UN funding on decline

Bangladesh to receive \$1.22b in next 4 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations funding for Bangladesh is declining.

The country will receive \$1.22 billion in the next four years beginning 2017 from \$1.76 billion in the previous five years.

This was revealed at the signing ceremony of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017-2020. The programme was attended by heads of different UN bodies and government officials.

Economic Relations Division Senior Secretary
SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

No rally on Nov 7-8

Says DMP as BNP seeks permission for Nov 7 rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police has refused BNP the permission for holding a rally in Suhrawardy Udyan to mark what it calls the National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

Citing multiple parties wishing to hold rallies at the same venue at the same time, Deputy Commissioner (media) Masudur Rahman of the DMP last night said they had to deny the permission for November 7-8.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed had said, "We have sought permission from the

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SIBL
Social Islami Bank Limited
PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 4
Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-50 12-30 4-00 5-32 7-15
JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-35 7-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Kamdeb, a rare, evergreen tree



MOKARAM HOSSAIN

I visited the National Botanical Garden in Mirpur more than once last year to take photographs of a few trees and flowers. The garden not only gives you the space to relax and get some fresh air, it also provides visitors and nature lovers with the opportunity to see some rare trees, herbs and shrubberies.

Kamdeb is one such rare tree in the garden. Its scientific name is *Callophyllum Polyanthum*, while it is locally known as *Kiroli*, *kaan*, *chandua*, *toilo*, etc. According to botanist Shamsul Huq, there are three trees in the garden. No sapling of the tree was produced. No grafting is possible either.

Kamadeb is an evergreen tree of medium height. They can grow up to 45 metres. The barks can be of yellow, grey or black with curves. The thick pointed leaves are straight and grow up to six

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Stalker kills RMG worker in Savar

Father killed for protesting daughter's stalking in Manikganj; speech-impaired girl raped in Bogra

STAR REPORT

Amid a rise in violence against women in the country, a female garment worker has been killed and a speech-impaired girl raped in Savar and Bogra.

In another incident, a father was allegedly killed for protesting against stalking of his school-going girl in Manikganj.

As many as 294 women and children were admitted to eight one stop crisis centres (OCC) across the country between July and September, indicating a rise of above 10 percent compared to the period from April to June, said Abul Hossain, project director of the OCC.

The garment worker, identified as Kalpona Begum, 24, was attacked around 1:30pm on Wednesday by a "mentally-

challenged" man named Shirajul who had been stalking her for a while, said SM Kamruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Savar Model Police Station.

He stabbed her with a knife at Hemayetpur Natunpara of Savar when she was going for her evening duty at Apparel Four Ltd, the OC quoted witnesses as saying.

Local people caught Shirajul, beat him up and handed him over to police.

Kalpona, married to Abdur Razzak, was rushed to Enam Medical College Hospital with severe injuries around 2:00pm that day. But struggling with excessive bleeding, she died yesterday morning, the hospital authority said.

In another incident, a speech-impaired

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

New software can spot crooks 100 times faster

THE STRAITS TIMES, Tokyo

Programme developed by Japanese IT giant NEC scans a million faces from footage within 10 seconds, making police work easier.

New software developed by Japanese information technology giant NEC promises to help law enforcement agencies weed out criminal suspects

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



This event is dedicated to Faraaz, Abinta, Tarishi, Ishrat and those killed in the Holey Artisan Cafe massacre



১৮তম বার্ষিকী ২০১৬

প্রথম আলো আয়োজিত

On the occasion of 18th anniversary an art exhibition by Prothom Alo

Self/Identity

A visual art exhibition by young artists

Curator : Wakilur Rahman & Kehkasha Sabah

Opening: 5 November 2016, 4 pm

6-15 November 2016, 10:00 am. to 7:30 pm.

Friday, 2:30 to 7:30pm. Performance art will take place during the exhibition

Bangladesh National Museum Shahbag, Dhaka

প্রথম আলো

১৮তম বার্ষিকী

তারুণ্যের প্রবল শক্তিতে যারা পৃথিবীকে দেখছে তাদেরই খুঁজছি

যাদের চোখে-মুখে, ভাবনায়, স্বপ্নে আছে আগামীর বাংলাদেশ, আমরা খুঁজছি সেই তরুণদের। তোমাদের হাত ধরে এ দেশের বুকে আঠারো আসুক নেমে।

যোগাযোগ করো **প্রথম আলোতে** www.prothom-alo.com/18amar