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FIGHT AGAINST IS Iraqi forces converge on Mosul airport

Pentagon chief arrives in Baghdad to show support for security forces

Iraqi forces backed by jets and helicopters battled their way to Mosul airport yesterday as they prepared to take on the Islamic State group's stronghold in the city's west bank.

The fresh push in the four-month-old operation to retake Mosul has sparked fears for 750,000 trapped civilians who risk getting killed trying to flee and face starvation if they stay.

"The federal police has resumed its advance... Our cannons are targeting Daesh defence lines with heavy fire," federal police chief Raed Shaker Jawdat said.

Federal police forces, as well as elite units from the interior ministry, army soldiers and Hashed al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilisation) paramilitary fighters, launched a major assault on Sunday.

On the second day of the renewed offensive, they pushed northwards towards Mosul airport, which lies on the southern approach to the city, on the east bank of the Tigris River.

The assault marks a new phase in the broad operation launched on October 17 to retake Mosul, Iraq's second city and the jihadists' last major stronghold in the country.

The recapture of Mosul would deal a death blow to the "caliphate" which IS chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi proclaimed in the city in June 2014 but has been shrinking steadily for two years as anti-IS forces advanced.

But it took the Iraq's most seasoned forces, the elite Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS), two months to retake east Mosul, where IS put up stiffer than expected resistance.

IS also "likely has stronger support within western Mosul, and the ISF (Iraqi security forces) are more likely to

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Instead of using a footbridge just a few yards away, a woman along with a child and a man cross the Airport Road amid onrushing traffic, risking their lives. Inset, policemen taking jaywalkers to a mobile court near the airport intersection. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Earn trust of people

President asks new Election Commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid yesterday asked the new Election Commission to carry out its duty transparently to gain people's confidence.

He also urged the newly constituted EC to perform its job, taking assistance of political parties and other concerned stockholders to hold elections in a free, fair and impartial manner.

"Election is an essential element in the democratic process. And cooperation from all political parties and people is a must to hold elections in a free, fair and credible manner," the president said when the chief election commissioner and four other election commissioners called on him at the Bangabhaban in the afternoon.

Talking to The Daily Star after the meeting, Joyanal Abedin, press secretary of the president, quoted Hamid as saying.

"The president hoped that the new election commission will perform their duties with accountability and transparency," said Joyanal.

UNB adds: on the other hand, Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul

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MP Liton's killers identified: IGP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Investigators have identified the killers of ruling Awami League lawmaker Manzurul Islam Liton, said Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday.

"Three persons who went on a motorcycle are under watch and we have also recovered the motorcycle. They will be arrested anytime soon... We have made significant progress in investigations," he said.

Once nabbed, the perpetrators would be brought before the media, he told journalists on inaugurating construction of a multistorey barrack and an arms depot of Industrial

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 21
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-20 12-45 4-30 6-03 7-30
JAMAAT 5-55 1-15 4-45 6-07 8-00
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Elephant blows out 56 candles on birthday cake



IANS, Guatemala City

With a cake made of watermelon, papaya, bananas, carrots and corncoobs, Guatemala's elephant Trompita celebrated her 56th birthday on Sunday.

The pachyderm, whose original name is Bombi, is an Asian elephant rescued by the La Aurora zoo from a circus in 2008 and subsequently adopted as a special member of the family, Efe news agency reported.

"Trompita's handler and 'lifelong friend,' Romeo Lopez-- better known in the circus world as 'Tarzan Lopez' -- said that the elephant and he had been together since they were both 7 years old.

"We grew up together and have a special connection," he said.

Since their early years, the pair have grown up, cried and laughed together, and there's an unspoken bond between them, according to Lopez.

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বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল

২০৩, শহীদ সৈয়দ নজরুল ইসলাম সরণী, (পুরাতন ৮৬, বিজয়নগর), ঢাকা-১০০০
ফোনঃ ৯৫৫৫৫৩৮, ৯৫৮৬৭২৭, ফ্যাক্সঃ ৯৫৫৫২৩৬
e-mail: info@bmdc.org.bd, admin@bmdc.org.bd
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বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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(পুরাতন ৮৬, বিজয় নগর), ঢাকা-১০০০

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