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'Share info with partners'

Says Interpol secretary general at cop chiefs' meet in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police forces of the 190 Interpol member countries need to share knowledge and experience with each other because terrorists are now connected across borders, said Interpol Secretary General Jurgen Stock yesterday.

"We are facing global activities of international terrorist groups being connected with each other, and we see organised crime groups are developing multi-billion [sic] criminal industries by exploiting the desperation of people who want to go to other countries to find a better life," he said at the inauguration of a conference of top police officials from different countries in the capital.

Hence, the impact of the work of a police officer in today's world goes beyond national jurisdiction, he said, adding that timely sharing of information could save lives.

"Let me highlight that we are facing an unprecedented level of global threats. The security situations all around the globe has never been so complex and so international as we can see it right now regarding international terrorism, organised and emerging crimes and cyber crimes," he said at the event organised by Interpol and Bangladesh Police.

Top level police officials from 14 South Asian and neighbouring countries are taking part in the three-day event titled "Chiefs of Police Conference on Regional Cooperation in Curbing Violent Extremism and Transnational Crime".

Addressing the inauguration at the Sonargaon hotel yesterday morning, the Interpol official said, "Another unprecedented threat is cyber crime, which is borderless by

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President Abdul Hamid rides on a rickshaw yesterday to see the construction work of a road that connects Astagram and Mithamain upazilas of Kishoreganj.

PHOTO: PID

ILLEGAL BUILDING BGMEA gets 6 months for demolition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday gave the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) six months to demolish its 15-storey building, constructed illegally in the capital's Begunbari canal and Hatirjheel Lake.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha passed the order following a petition filed by the BGMEA on March 8 seeking three years for shifting the offices from the building.

The apex court said three years was unacceptable as the BGMEA was a wealthy organisation and it could run its offices hiring rooms at the Sheraton hotel or any other place in Dhaka.

The BGMEA has already applied to Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) to allocate 5.5 bighas of land in the capital's Uttara for constructing

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NEWS ANALYSIS

A crucial battle lost, not only for women

SHAKHAWAT LITON

No plea, no criticism, no opposition worked. The controversial provision allowing child marriages under "special circumstances" has been brought into force with the president signing the Child Marriage Restraint Bill 2017 on Saturday.

This development will do nothing but reverse the achievement from years of struggle to restrain child marriages.

During the British colonial rule 90 years back, women in the Indian sub-continent waged a strong movement demanding a law to discourage child marriages. The demonstrations were such that the then leading politicians felt the need to support a bill in favour of anti-child marriage law.

Different women's organisations had participated in campaigns making people aware that child marriage was the very obstacle to women's progress, that the social menace was what caused women to lose any opportunity for education and left them stunted physically and mentally.

Under the banners, "All India Women's Conference", "Women's Indian Association" and "National Council of Women in India", women placed their arguments in favour of raising the permissible age for marriage before a committee that scrutinised the bill.

Muslim women also presented their views before the committee in support of increasing the age limit, knowing very well that they would face strong opposition from Muslim Ulemas.

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BNP protests PM's remarks on 2001 polls

Rejects claim that party gave undertaking to sell gas to India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday outright rejected Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's allegation that the party came to power in 2001 through giving an undertaking to sell gas to India.

Terming Hasina's comment "irresponsible" and "unfortunate," BNP leaders demanded that the PM withdraw her comment.

"The prime minister often forgets that she is holding an important position and such an irresponsible comment cannot be made by one holding an important position," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir told The Daily Star yesterday. He strongly criticised

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SC dismisses tanners' plea

Upholds HC order to shut down Hazaribagh tanneries for pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that directed the director general (DG) of the Department of Environment to immediately close the tanneries running in Hazaribagh and disconnect their utility lines.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division led by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha dismissed a petition filed by the chairman of Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leather Goods and Footwear Exporters Association (BFLGFEA) seeking a stay on the HC order until June.

While talking to The Daily Star, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association's (Bela) Chief Executive Syeda Rizwana Hasan said the DG of the DoE now must shut down the tanneries in Hazaribagh and disconnect their utility services.

BFLGFEA's lawyer Mehedi Hasan Chowdhury told this correspondent that his client had submitted the petition seeking the stay as the construction of Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CEIP) was not complete at the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate.

The tannery owners are now bound to accept and comply with the HC directives, he said.

During the hearing yesterday, BFLGFEA's lawyer Sheikh Fazole Noor Taposh prayed to the SC to stay the HC order, saying that tanners have received only Tk 112 crore of the government-promised compensation for moving out of Hazaribagh. He said more than Tk 250 crore was yet to be paid.

The apex court said environment had been polluted for a long period

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'Ghosts' drive Brazil leader from palace

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

Brazil's President Michel Temer blames bad vibes and even ghosts for driving him from his sumptuous official residence in the capital Brasilia, a Brazilian news weekly reported Saturday.

Temer surprised Brazilian politics watchers this week with the revelation that he has decamped from the Alvorada Palace and moved with his former beauty queen wife and their seven-year-old son down the road to the smaller vice presidential residence.

The modernist Alvorada, which means Dawn and was designed by Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer, would be a dream home for many. It has a huge pool, football field, chapel, medical center and vast lawn.

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During a joint drive, authorities raid a chemical factory in Lalbagh of Old Dhaka yesterday and recover flammable liquids stored there illegally. The factory was closed and fined Tk 2 lakh.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

No more licence to chemical shops in Old Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From now on, the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) will not issue any licence to chemical factories in Old Dhaka that use flammable materials.

"We will also not allow any godown [warehouse] to store flammable materials in Old Dhaka for the safety of innocent neighbours," said DSCC Mayor Mohammad Sayeed Khokon yesterday.

He made the announcement while inaugurating a joint drive in Lalbagh area against the chemical factories that did not relocate outside Old Dhaka within the March 1 deadline.

The drive is being run by the DSCC, deputy commissioner's office, fire service and civil defence and the Department of Environment.

In 2010, a devastating inferno in Nimtoli was caused by flammable chemicals stored on the ground floor of a residential building. It killed 123 people and injured 200 others.

But that seems to have been a less than stern warning against such chemical storage as many buildings at Nabab Katra, Bangshal, Siddique Bazar, Sat Rowza, Babu Bazar, Lalbagh, Agamasi Lane and Armanitola still have factories with flammable materials.

Asking to move the factories elsewhere from Old Dhaka, Khokon on January this year declared that a joint drive would be conducted against them.

According to the findings of a recent fire inspection, all of the surveyed 360 stores, warehouses, factories and shops with chemicals were found highly hazardous in terms of fire safety, handling of the chemicals and explosion management.

All the stores and shops were found lacking even the basic fire safety equipment, like extinguishers, let alone a

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'MIXED WITH INSECTICIDE' Two kids die drinking tea

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Two children died while four family members were hospitalised in Thakurgaon sadar upazila yesterday after their great-grandmother served the entire family tea and took some herself, apparently mistaking pesticide for tea granules.

Sohan, 7, died in his grandparent's residence in Harinda village and his two-and-a-half-year-old sister Sohana in Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital, where their mother Sabina Begum, 25,

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 13

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5-05	12-45	4-30	6-12
JAMAAAT	5-40	1-15	4-45	6-15
	8-00			

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION