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## Union Parishad polls

# Army deployment plea turned down

REZAUL KARIM

The government has decided to provide all logistic support to the Election Commission, except army deployment, to ensure peaceful holding of Union Parishad elections.

The decision was taken at a recent high-level meeting, which came to the conclusion that the current law and order situation did not warrant army deployment in the grassroots-level polls.

Highly placed sources said that the prime minister had an exclusive meeting with her senior cabinet colleagues and policymakers, including

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda and Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Haq.

It was unanimously decided at the meeting that the army would not be deployed in the UP elections.

The meeting followed the chief election commissioner's letter to the Armed Forces Division, seeking deployment of the army in the UP polls.

However, the meeting decided to give adequate logistic support to the

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## Mystery shrouds torture on two brothers in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When Wahidul Hasan Milton, 30, a businessman at the Khilgaon market, answered the calling bell at

around 9:00am on Thursday, he had no idea that a hellish future waited for him.

He opened the door to find a

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Wahidul Hasan Milton



Tawhidul Hasan Tofi

## Transport fares shoot up

### Police deployed at petrol pumps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Buses, taxicabs and three-wheelers charged much hire fares from passengers in the city yesterday following increase in fuel prices.

Taxicab drivers were however realising the extra fare by charging Tk 10 to 20 over meter readings.

Police were deployed at most of the petrol pumps in the city to avert any untoward incident as those were selling fuel at per enhanced rates. Some pumps were seen closed.

The Bangladesh Road Transport Association and Dhaka Road Transport Association, which on

Sunday demanded 40 percent enhancement in bus fare, yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) to fulfil it.

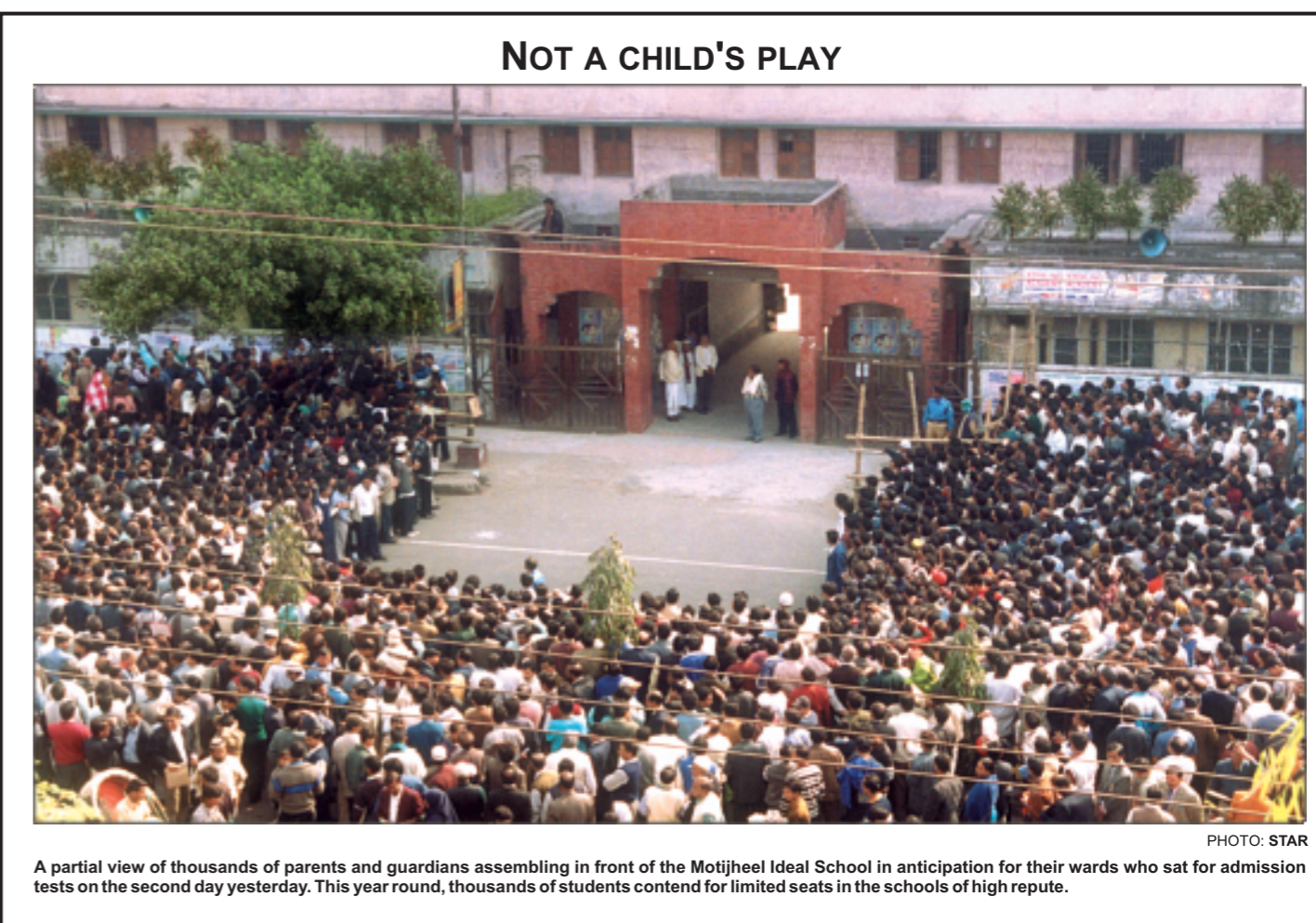
They will submit a memorandum to the communications minister today.

BRTA Chairman Mohammad Jalal Uddin will sit with leaders of transport associations on January 14 to discuss their demands, Abdur Rashid Khan, president of Bangladesh Road Transport Association told The Daily Star yesterday.

When contacted, Jalal Uddin declined to make any comment. He is the convener of a committee form by the government on January 1 to settle transport fares.

Talking to this correspondent,

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NOT A CHILD'S PLAY

A partial view of thousands of parents and guardians assembling in front of the Motijheel Ideal School in anticipation for their wards who sat for admission tests on the second day yesterday. This year round, thousands of students contend for limited seats in the schools of high repute.

PHOTO: STAR

## Bahauddin Nasim freed after ten months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League leader Bahauddin Nasim was released from the Rangpur jail yesterday evening after ten months in prison.

Earlier on December 30 the High Court declared detention of Bahauddin Nasim illegal and asked the government to release him, if there were no arrest warrant pertaining to any other case.

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## Extension of Shahriar's detention illegal: HC

### Saber arrested for cinema blasts although detention declared unlawful

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) has declared illegal further detention of writer and columnist Shahriar Kabir for 90 days.

The detention of Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political advisor to Sheikh Hasina, was also declared illegal but he was shown arrested in connection with cinema blasts in Mymensingh.

Shahriar was given a fresh detention on Sunday although he was supposed to be released as per a HC order.

Meantime, the HC orders for release of historian Muntasir Mamun and Awami League leader Shafi Chowdhury have been sent to Dinajpur and Rangpur jails.

A Division Bench of the HC declared fresh detention of Shahriar illegal when defence counsel Barrister Amirul Islam made his submission before it. Justice Hamidul Haque and Justice Salma

Masud Chowdhury comprised the bench.

The counsel said by this time, the government passed an order for continuation of detention of his client but it was yet to be received by the detainee.

Amirul argued that the order for continuation of detention is illegal because the 'initial order is illegal.'

The HC observed it has now been well settled that if the initial

order for detention is found illegal, the subsequent orders for extension or continuation of the detention shall also be illegal. In this case, as the initial order was found illegal, the detainee should not be detained on the basis of any further order for extension or continuation of detention.

Earlier on December 8 last year, Shahriar was arrested without any

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