

# Security scurry for Eid

20 strike forces, 15 mobile courts to be deployed

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to immediately deploy 20 strike forces and 15 mobile courts in the capital in the run-up to Eid-ul-Azha under a security measure.

A combined force of 4,258 Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), 460 Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), 215 Armed Police Battalion (APBn) and 251 Ansar personnel have been deployed in this large-scale security operation, an official announcement said shortly after a decision to this effect was taken at a meeting at the Home Ministry.

Besides, plainclothes cops and Rapid Action Team will be in action in different areas of the capital.

Special arrangements have been made for ensuring security at Eid congregations and for clearing cattle skins and filth during the Eid

holidays on an area to area basis.

The strike forces and mobile courts will remain in place till February 5 in areas under 22 police stations in Dhaka city, according to the decision of the meeting that also planned Eid security across the country.

Presiding over the high-level meeting on law and order situation, State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar directed the law enforcers to take all-out measures for checking criminal activities before and during the festival of Eid-ul-Azha.

Home Secretary Muhammad Omar Farooq, Inspector General of Police Shahudul Haque, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Ashraful Huda and other high officials from ministries concerned, divisions and departments were present at the meeting.

Magistrates will lead the mobile courts in the operation. The strike forces comprise personnel from BDR, DMP and APBn. Besides, vigilance tams comprising police, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) and Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) personnel will go into action at launch, bus and railway terminals.

Police, BDR and Ansar will be deployed at 400 key points of the capital to curb criminal activities. Block raids will be carried out in different areas, checkpoints will be activated and preventive measures taken to curb extortion and robberies on the roads and highways throughout the country.

Additional police and Ansar will be deployed at 25 key points for

## Female examinee 'kidnapped' at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

A female examinee who came to sit for 'Ga' unit admission test of Dhaka University was kidnapped from the business studies faculty of the university on Friday, her family said.

They said a youth named Himel along with some leaders and activists of the Hazi Mohammad Muhasin Hall unit of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the ruling BNP, kidnapped Jannat Ara Rani from the business studies faculty at around 11:30am.

The abductors also confined to hall her two cousins Dulal and Ripon who escorted her to the campus, the family said. The JCD men then came to Rani and asked her to follow them if she wanted to see them alive. However, the cousins were released on Saturday.

"Rani talked to us over mobile phone and told us that she does not know where she has been confined," a family member said, adding that they did not file any case as the JCD

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Demonstrators demand scrapping of Modhupur eco-park project in Tangail at a rally in the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday, organised by Bangladesh Adibashi Forum.

## More graft at DFP

REZAUL KARIM

More irregularities have surfaced in the purchase of equipment under a project of the Department of Films and Publications (DFP), as authorities are moving closer to press graft charges against the director general (DG) of the department.

Officials at the Ministry of Information said documents show that DG Syed Mahbubur Rahman paid \$19,371 in foreign currency to the local agent as its commission, although the agreement signed with the suppliers stipulates the payment has to be in local currency.

By so doing, the DG caused huge loss to the national exchequer, they observed and added that the DG did not care to take permission from the higher authorities to pay commission to the local agent in foreign currency.

The ministry officials believe the DG may have siphoned off the foreign currency.

Rahman already faces charges of embezzling around Tk 36 lakh in purchases and in use and supply of films.

An inquiry has revealed that around Tk 36 lakh has been withdrawn against fake bills for four

documentaries and three video films and through tender manipulation and irregularities in 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 financial years.

The DG undertook production of four documentaries and three video films without prior approval of the ministry and illegally obtained raw materials, causing loss to the national exchequer.

The ministry launched proceedings against the DG with the approval of the prime minister and president. He has been accused under articles 7 (1) (A), 3 (B) and (D) of the "Public Servant (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1985" following the report of a committee probing the charges.

The ministry this time found the DG and some other officials of the department misappropriated funds in purchasing ultrasonic film cleaning machine and spare equipment for sound and projection under the BMRE project.

According to official documents, the DFP signed agreement with RTI-UK Limited, UK represented by their Bangladeshi agent on June 9, 2002 to purchase 16/35 mm ultrasonic film cleaner at a cost of \$1,04,115.68 (around Tk 60 lakh), including a 4 percent commission for the local agent.

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PHOTO: STAR

Traders and businessmen of Nawabpur in old part of the city yesterday protest in a procession the killing of businessman Shariful Haq Siraji on Tuesday night.

## PROTEST AT TRADER'S MURDER 8,000 Nawabpur shops keep shutters down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 8,000 shops in Nawabpur area of the capital kept their shutters down for two hours from noon yesterday as part of a token strike demanding a proper probe into the murder of a local trader and immediate arrest of the killers.

More than a dozen trade bodies, which jointly called the strike, issued a 20-day ultimatum for arrest of the killers of SM Shariful Haque Siraji. Their earlier ultimatum ended on Sunday with police

probe into the murder making little headway.

The associations threatened to go for tougher programmes including strikes in the whole city if the killers are not nabbed within the fresh deadline.

A procession was brought out after the token strike.

SM Shariful Haque Siraji, 39, was killed after being mugged on January 20 by unidentified people. Police recovered his body from

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## Two-year-old boy rescued after abduction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Pahartali police recovered a child from East Joypur village, Chhagalnaiya, Feni on Sunday, 10 hours after he was abducted from the port city.

Family sources said Anik, son of Anwar Hossain of Padmapukur, was

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Prayer Timings		
January 27		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-45	6-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-48	5-54
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## BTTB CELLPHONE PLAN

# JS body against fresh tender

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary standing committee yesterday differed with the Cabinet Committee on Public Procurement and asked the telecoms ministry not to float fresh tender for the \$53 million project by the state telecoms monopoly to launch 250,000 cellphones.

The Cabinet Committee on Public Procurement on Saturday rejected state monopoly Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board's (BTTB) proposal on the project, saying it was riddled with gross inconsistencies. It also asked the state telephone monopoly to float tender afresh.

The parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications at a meeting yesterday at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban also asked it to review the project and submit its plan again to the purchase committee.

"Different committees like public scrutiny committee and technical evaluation committee and the judgement of the High Court observed no irregularities in the tender process. So there is no need to float fresh tender for introduction of BTTB's cellphone," GM Fazlul Haque, chairman of the committee,

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