

SAARC SUMMIT
Dog squads to be deployed

UNB, Dhaka
Dog squads will be deployed along with thousands of security personnel as part of foolproof security during the 13th Saarc summit in the capital November 12-13.

The decision was taken at a law and order review meeting yesterday at the Rab headquarters. State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar attended the meeting.

Meeting sources told the news agency that some 1,845 members of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) would be posted at 10 key areas.

Besides, two helicopters will carry out reconnaissance overhead while five dog squads and three bomb disposal units will be deployed as part of the security measures.

The Rab will patrol the rivers, including the Buriganga and the Turag surrounding the capital, during the summit

Two more intelligence units of
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Israel rules out state for Palestinians

8 killed in airstrikes

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel's hardline defence minister dismissed the Palestinian leadership as a partner for peace and ruled out any Palestinian state in the foreseeable future after a night of attacks by Israeli warplanes.

In an echo of the Israeli stand against the late Yasser Arafat, Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said: "I don't think that one day we can reach a peace accord with the present leadership of the Palestinians. We must wait for the next generation."

Quoted by the Yediot Aharonot newspaper, Mofaz added: "I don't think that a Palestinian state will see the light of day in the coming years."

The minister, a close aide of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, was speaking

two days after a suicide bomber blew himself up in northern Israel and killed five civilians.

As Israel forged ahead in the early hours with its offensive against militants, Palestinians on Friday prepared for the funerals of two militants and six bystanders killed in an airstrike late Thursday in the Gaza Strip.

They died late on Thursday when Israeli planes slammed three missiles into a vehicle in the northern Gaza Strip, in a targeted operation against a senior Islamic Jihad operative and his assistant.

Mofaz's comments brought swift condemnation from chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat who accused the Jewish state of taking "one sided measures" and not wanting a partner to revive the largely non-existent peace

process.

"Israel's problem is not with a specific person, or with this generation, Israel's problem is with all the Palestinians. There is a Palestinian partner who wants a real peace process to end the occupation," he told AFP.

The Israeli pullout from the Gaza Strip last month had raised hopes in the international community of a genuine breakthrough in the Middle East peace process but optimism was largely evaporated with no let-up in violence.

The latest raid drew sharp condemnation from Palestinian officials, who called on Israel to end its bombing campaign.

"This Israeli escalation will
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1 killed as rival gangs of smugglers trade fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, KUSHITIA

A gang member was killed and at least 10 others were injured in Daulatpur upazila in the district on Thursday night during a gunfight between two rival groups over taking control of smuggling points.

According to police, local groups Faisal-Fahmid bahini and Habbale bahini locked in the fight after the cadres of the latter group beat a cadre named Tamzi of the other group at a place near the border at about 8:00pm. Both the groups were engaged in smuggling from India.

Later, the groups gathered their strength at the local market in Pakuria village where smuggled goods are sold.

The groups exchanged at least 100 shots during the fight, which left Abdul Mannan, 35, of Habbale bahini, dead. Ten others of both the groups were injured in the incident.

The criminals fled the scene as a Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) patrol team rushed to the spot.

Police recovered the body of Mannan and sent to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy. A case was filed with Daulatpur Police Station.

Sources said police and BDR stepped up patrol in the area to check further violence.

2 cops injured in Chuadanga bomb attack

BDNEWS, Chuadanga

Unidentified miscreants hurled bombs at police in Chuadanga town last night, leaving a policeman injured.

The injured was identified as Shahidul Islam, a traffic police inspector. He was admitted to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital.

No one was, however, arrested in connection with the bomb attack as of 10:00pm yesterday.

Police Superintendent Mohammad Sarwar said the miscreants threw three bombs on police while they were checking the pedestrians near the district livestock office at about 8:00pm.



Devotees coming to say the Jum'a prayers at the Baitul Mokarram national mosque spill onto the adjacent road as many more than usual attend there, assuming yesterday to be the Jum'atul Wida.

Homebound Eid passengers wander for tickets

SURANJIT DEBNATH

Government measures to check scalping of tickets of inter-district buses, launches and trains appear to have failed to work as the counters now barely hold any ticket for the passengers bound for home.

Disgruntled, a huge number of people were wandering in desperation for tickets at Sadarghat launch terminal, Kamalapur railway station and bus stations at Gabtoli, Mohakhali and Saidabad yesterday.

Those who have managed to get tickets from the black marketers had to pay much higher. They said they had to count extra taka for the advance tickets as the law enforcers have yet to take action against the scalpers demanding three to four times the regular rate.

To make things worse, influential people affiliated with the ruling parties had already booked a large number of seats in launches, buses and trains even before the sale of advance tickets started, said sources at the terminals.

Scalpers with the connivance of a section of staff of the buses, launches and trains have stockpiled the advance tickets under the law enforcers' nose, adding to the crisis, alleged some of the people trying to secure tickets.

Government has opened a mobile court at each bus station, Sadarghat Launch terminal and Kamalapur Railway Station to curb sale of tickets on the black market and reduce the difficulties in securing tickets in the run-up to Eid.

Besides deployment of law enforcers, closed-circuit television (CCTV)

cameras have been put up at Sadarghat launch terminal, temporary police booth opened at the Kamalapur Railway Station and vigilance teams of Bus-Truck Owners Association activated at all bus terminals to lessen the sufferings of the people leaving the capital for home.

SADARGHAT
Five more mobile courts have started to work at the Sadarghat Launch terminal to contain illegal sale of advance tickets and overloading of transport.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) officials said from October 31 a number of additional launches and ferries will ply the routes to Bhola, Barisal, Barguna, Chandpur, Ichuli, Madaripur, Kalaiya, Borhanuddin,
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AL vows to hold grand rally Nov 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) will announce tougher agitation programmes including hartal, long march and blockade at its grand rally at Paltan Maidan on November 15 as part of its out-governments movement, said the main opposition leaders yesterday.

The AL said this at a press briefing at the party's Dhanmondi office following a working committee meeting chaired by its chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina.

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said they will also take elaborate programmes to observe the 'Jail Killing Day' on November 3.

He said the price hikes of essentials and gas and electricity crises have paralysed the people's life. The government has completely failed to

address Monga (near-famine situation) in the northern districts, and is misleading the people about it, he added.

The government has also failed to maintain law and order, but extrajudicial killings are continuing in full swing, he said. Every appointment under the alliance government has been politicised, he alleged.

He termed the chief election commissioner's move to prepare fresh voters' list ignoring the two election commissioners anti-constitutional.

"We will force the government to quit to implement our reformation proposal through the successful holding of the grand rally," Jalil said, adding, without reformation
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Govt firm to keep peace during Saarc Summit

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The government is planning to curb entry to the capital as part of tightened security measures ahead of the Saarc summit scheduled for November 12-13 when attendees at the November 15 opposition grand rally are likely to be on way to Dhaka.

The BNP-led ruling coalition is also planning to impose a ban on gatherings in the city during the summit, raising a fear of confrontation with the 14-party opposition combine's move to hold the grand rally.

The 14-party led by the main opposition Awami League (AL) has planned to start bringing thousands of leaders and activists from across the

country a week before the grand rally at Paltan Maidan.

"We will take strict steps in peoples' entrance to the capital from the first week of November due to security measures," a senior minister told The Daily Star yesterday asking not to be named.

The minister said they will not allow anyone to hold gatherings in the capital inside the security areas from Zia International Airport to Bangabhaban in Motijheel.

Leaders of the ruling BNP are, however, divided over the opposition combine's grand rally. A section of BNP leaders are in favour of not barring the rally if held peacefully.
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The road beside the Gausia market in the city gets overcrowded, mostly with shoppers, just a week ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr yesterday.

Bombs recovered in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, KHULNA

Police recovered three live bombs from Maheshwarpasha slum in the city's Daulatpur area yesterday morning.

Two persons, identified as Jamal, 30, and Sumon, 28, were taken into custody for interrogation.

Being tipped off, Daulatpur police cordoned off the slum at about 9:00am and started searching the shanties. During the search, they found the bombs kept in a sandbag at a shanty.
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Clarification

In a clarification of our Thursday's report headlined "2 lakh govt staff won't get Eid bonus under new pay scale" the Finance Division has said the new pay scale 2005 will be implemented in three phases and all the government employees will get festival bonuses under the new pay scale after July 1 next year. It also said a total of 78,367 government employees are working under different development projects.

Deadly bird flu virus spreads to Romania

China insists no human cases of flu

AFP, Bucharest/Beijing

Romania announced yesterday that the virulent H5N1 strain of bird flu has spread to the country's northeast from the Danube delta region, after tests on a dead heron proved positive for the virus that is potentially deadly to humans.

The heron was found a week ago in the Vaslui region near Romania's border with Moldova.

"Tests carried out by the laboratory

in Weybridge (England) have confirmed the presence of the H5N1 virus" in the heron, Agriculture Minister Gheorghe Flutur said.

Flutur announced last week that the H5N1 virus had been detected in two other locations in the southeast of the country, an outbreak he later said had been contained.

But Friday's announcement marks the first time the H5N1 virus
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Saddam lawyer wants trial moved to The Hague

AFP, Doha

A defence lawyer for ousted Iraq president Saddam Hussein wrote to UN chief Kofi Annan yesterday calling for the court trying him on charges of crimes against humanity to be moved to The Hague and its Iraqi judges replaced by foreign ones.

"We submit to you our request for your involvement and your good office in the present circumstances to call upon the US authority and the present government of Iraq to review

the legal status of the present court and to reallocate the present court outside Iraq, i.e. The Hague, Netherlands," said the letter to Annan from defence lawyer Najib al-Nawimi.

He called for the court to be given "independent and impartial international judges" and also for pressure to be put on the Iraqi authorities and their US backers to recognize Saddam and his co-defendants as prisoners of war.

Nawimi reiterated that his client
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Sehri-Iftar			
Ramadan	Oct	Sehri	Iftar
24	29		5-25
25	30	4-42	5-24



Prayer Timing		
October 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-42	4-48
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-25	5-40
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation