



Amar Ekushey

FROM PAGE 16
and bomb squad, dog squad and special medical teams will also be deployed in the area for enhanced security.

Rab will set up 24 closed-circuit cameras in and around the premises of Azimpur graveyard and the Shaheed Minar while their uniformed and plainclothes members will be on alert.

Prof SMA Faiz, vice chancellor (VC) of Dhaka University (DU), sought all-out cooperation from students, teachers, officials and employees of DU and people from all walks of life so that due fervour and vigour of the day can be maintained.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University Central Coordination Committee for Observing Amar Ekushey 2008 released a special layout of the area with one-way entry and exit directions for the movement of human traffic.

To go to the Azimpur graveyard from the High Court, people have been urged to go towards Doyel Chattar, turn right towards TSC, turn left towards VC's residence, and go all the way crossing the intersections of Nilkhet Police Box and New Market.

After offering prayers at the graves of the martyrs, people wishing to go to the Shaheed Minar have to leave through the south gate of the graveyard, go all the way towards Jagannath Hall by crossing the intersections of Edna College, Palashi and Fuller Road.

Those who want to go only to the Shaheed Minar from the New Market intersection, have to go towards Home Economics College, turn left on Edna College intersection and go all the way towards Jagannath Hall by crossing the intersections of Palashi and Fuller Road.

People going to the Shaheed Minar from Chankharpool intersection near Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) will need to cross Bakshibazar intersection and go towards Palashi intersection, turn right on the intersection and go towards Jagannath Hall by crossing the Fuller Road intersection.

The roads leading toward DMCH and the Shaheed Minar from TSC, Fuller Road from VC's residence towards Jagannath Hall and the road towards Doyel Chattar from Chankharpool will remain closed.

After placing wreaths at the alter of the Shaheed Minar, people have to exit through the roads leading toward Doyel Chattar and Chankharpool intersections.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police will restrict movement of all modes of vehicles on the DU campus and some other adjoining roads from 9:00pm today till 2:00pm tomorrow, February 21.

Besides, vehicular movement will remain suspended on the roads surrounding the Shaheed Minar between 10:00am today and 2:00pm tomorrow.

Those who want to go only to the Shaheed Minar from the New Market intersection, have to go towards Home Economics College, turn left on Edna College intersection and go all the way towards Jagannath Hall by crossing the intersections of Palashi and Fuller Road.

People going to the Shaheed Minar from Chankharpool intersection near Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) will need to cross Bakshibazar intersection and go towards Palashi intersection, turn right on the intersection and go towards Jagannath Hall by crossing the Fuller Road intersection.

The roads leading toward DMCH and the Shaheed Minar from TSC, Fuller Road from VC's residence towards Jagannath Hall and the road towards Doyel Chattar from Chankharpool will remain closed.

After placing wreaths at the alter of the Shaheed Minar, people have to exit through the roads leading toward Doyel Chattar and Chankharpool intersections.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police will restrict movement of all modes of vehicles on the DU campus and some other adjoining roads from 9:00pm today till 2:00pm tomorrow, February 21.

Besides, vehicular movement will remain suspended on the roads surrounding the Shaheed Minar between 10:00am today and 2:00pm tomorrow.

Those who want to go only to the Shaheed Minar from the New Market intersection, have to go towards Home Economics College, turn left on Edna College intersection and go all the way towards Jagannath Hall by crossing the intersections of Palashi and Fuller Road.

People going to the Shaheed Minar from Chankharpool intersection near Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) will need to cross Bakshibazar intersection and go towards Palashi intersection, turn right on the intersection and go towards Jagannath Hall by crossing the Fuller Road intersection.

The roads leading toward DMCH and the Shaheed Minar from TSC, Fuller Road from VC's residence towards Jagannath Hall and the road towards Doyel Chattar from Chankharpool will remain closed.

After placing wreaths at the alter of the Shaheed Minar, people have to exit through the roads leading toward Doyel Chattar and Chankharpool intersections.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police will restrict movement of all modes of vehicles on the DU campus and some other adjoining roads from 9:00pm today till 2:00pm tomorrow, February 21.

Besides, vehicular movement will remain suspended on the roads surrounding the Shaheed Minar between 10:00am today and 2:00pm tomorrow.

Those who want to go only to the Shaheed Minar from the New Market intersection, have to go towards Home Economics College, turn left on Edna College intersection and go all the way towards Jagannath Hall by crossing the intersections of Palashi and Fuller Road.

JP set to curb

FROM PAGE 16
regarding any obscure or unexplained matter in the party constitution.

In the current party constitution, the chairman was given absolute power of interpreting the constitution.

The sub-committee also proposed to form new organisational units based on the country's parliamentary constituencies, the committees of which will elect an executive committee through a party council.

The sub-committee also advocated bringing transparency to the party fund.

"We want to ensure general members' participation in decision making process," GM Quader, convenor of the sub-committee told The Daily Star.

"All political parties are now operating without any specific political ideology as all the power remains in the hands of only three to four people, who only serve their own interests," GM Quader commented while explaining the reasons for curbing absolute power of the party chairman in the new draft constitution.

"Through amending the constitution we want to protect the interest of general members as well as of the people," GM Quader, who is also a presidium member of the party, said.

About bringing transparency to the party fund and sources of its earnings, JP presidium member Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu told The Daily Star, "All transactions of the party will be disclosed on the website of the party," adding that the initiative will ensure accountability and transparency.

About curtailing absolute power of the party chairman, he said, "We want to bring a balance of power in the party and modify the power of the chairman."

The issue of party reform got momentum in last June after now expelled secretary general of unified BNP, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, had disclosed a set of party reform proposals including one proposing removal of Khaleda Zia from the post of the chairperson.

AL presidium members Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, and Suranjit Sengupta also disclosed separate reform proposals which included a proposal for curtailing absolute power of their party chief.

According to the Election Commission's electoral roadmap, political parties will get three months from March to May to bring necessary amendments to their constitutions and to form new committees by holding party councils to get registered as parliamentary parties by June with the commission.

He said all the secular and pro-liberation war political parties should have to be united and create a "political roadmap" to ensure a free and fair election.

For the last one month, Nadira Sultana Nadi, who works at an overseas education consultancy firm, did not place any chicken or egg on her family's dining table.

"We are eating fish and beef quite frequently now instead of chicken or egg. None of family members want to eat chicken now," she said.

Kamrul, a Hilsha retailer at Karwan Bazar, said the demand for fish has increased since early this month and the trend still continues. "The sales volume is higher over last month," he said.

On an average, the price of a single Hilsha rose by about Tk 25, Kamrul said.

Emdad Hossain, a seller of imported Ruhi fish that is consumed widely, said the price of Ruhi has also gone up.

"The wholesalers have raised the prices. That's why we are charging higher prices," he added.

Abu Siddique, a butcher at Karwan Bazar, said on an average, he now sells around Tk 10,000 worth of mutton per day -- compared with Tk 7,000 a day earlier.

"My sales have gone up due to the higher demands resulted from the outbreak of bird flu. But the wholesalers are the ones cashing in on the rising demands by charging higher prices," he added.

Mustafiz challenged the government order on November 6 in 2004 following which the HC bench of Justice MA Matin and Justice AFM Abdur Rahman issued a ruling on the government to explain why its action should not be declared illegal.

Mustafiz challenged the government order on November 6 in 2004 following which the HC bench of Justice MA Matin and Justice AFM Abdur Rahman issued a ruling on the government to explain why its action should not be declared illegal.

Mustafiz challenged the government order on November 6 in 2004 following which the HC bench of Justice MA Matin and Justice AFM Abdur Rahman issued a ruling on the government to explain why its action should not be declared illegal.

Mustafiz challenged the government order on November 6 in 2004 following which the HC bench of Justice MA Matin and Justice AFM Abdur Rahman issued a ruling on the government to explain why its action should not be declared illegal.

Mustafiz challenged the government order on November 6 in 2004 following which the HC bench of Justice MA Matin and Justice AFM Abdur Rahman issued a ruling on the government to explain why its action should not be declared illegal.

Private airlines

FROM PAGE 1
the procedures to collect two Boeing-747 aircraft to operate flights on international routes," said Wahidur Rahman Rana, chief financial officer of Anmole Altab Airlines.

Retired employees of Biman also formed a body last year to float a new private airline.

Non-resident Bangladeshis' contribution to the industry is significant as they, mostly from the UK and the US, have launched two of the four private airlines.

These airlines are operating flights with 10 different aircraft. GMG has seven aircraft in its fleet with two Dash-8, three Boeing MD-80, one Boeing 737 and one Boeing 747.

United Airways has one Dash-8-100, Best Air one Boeing 737, and Aviana Airways has one Dash-8-100.

The private airlines are also planning to add more aircraft to their fleet so that flights can be expanded to international destinations.

United Airways has already purchased another Dash-8-100 and signed a letter of intent with a Singapore-based company to lease an Airbus A300-310. The airline is also negotiating to lease a Boeing 747-300.

Best Air is going to add another Boeing 737 to its fleet by March this year.

The new private airlines are operating domestic flights on Dhaka to Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet and Jessore routes so far.

Besides, GMG is operating international flights on Dhaka to Kolkata, Delhi, Kathmandu, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Dubai routes.

The other private airlines are also planning to launch international flights.

"It'll be very difficult to survive by operating only on domestic routes; it's very much essential to go for international routes," said Tasbir of United Airways, founded by non-resident Bangladeshis mostly from the UK.

He also said they are now waiting for the government nod to operate international flights on Dhaka-Dubai-London, Dhaka-Kuala Lumpur, Dhaka-Dubai, Chittagong-Dubai, Dhaka-Kolkata, and Dhaka-Kathmandu routes.

Like United, Best Air is also planning to launch international flights. "We'll start our international flights on Dhaka-Bangkok route in March this year and on Dhaka to Kuala Lumpur, Kolkata, Chennai and Dubai routes within next six months," said Mohsin Rana, acting manager (marketing and sales).

The private operators said seat utilisation of their aircraft ranges from 30 percent to 60 percent.

The ever-growing demand for air transport on international routes prompted them to go for international flights, they added.

Around 40 lakh passengers fly from Zia International Airport (ZIA) to different foreign destinations every year, while about 1.8-2.4 lakh more aspiring passengers cannot go to the Middle East due mainly to seat crisis, observed Wahidur Rahman of Anmole.

Referring to a study, he said the possibility of getting a ticket to a European or American destination just before a week is only one to two percent.

The possibility stands at 20 percent if the passenger tries one month before the journey, he added. "So, there is a huge scope for Bangladeshi private carriers to operate here and it will be no problem if another two to three private airlines join the industry."

Biman Bangladesh Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer MA Momen welcomed the new private airlines to the country's aviation industry. He said this will create competition among the local private airlines and make them provide standard services.

"With expansion of business and tourism, people's movement is increasing day by day and they are now looking for faster transport like airplanes. That's why the demand for air transport is also increasing," said Habibur Rahman, managing director of Aviana Airways.

"If foreign carriers can do business in Bangladesh, why can't we?" he asked.

Yunus
FROM PAGE 16
provide micro-finance institutions with a complete range of financing facilities in the form of credits, guarantees and equity capital, along with a platform for advisory services, information exchanges and technical assistance.

"This is the first time that a large global banking group has partnered with the Grameen group for an initiative of this scope," says the release.

Grameen Trust, a sister organisation of Grameen Bank, has already stepped in to initiate or support micro-finance initiatives in 38 countries.

"While thousands of MFIs exist worldwide, many are restricted in their development by inadequate resources and equity capital, or because they lack the experience and training. The joint initiative by Credit Agricole and Grameen Trust intends to offer a response to these needs," it says.

Dialogues

FROM PAGE 16
Rahman and held at his Gulshan residence in the capital.

The AL leader said that neither they nor the people want BNP to be left out from the dialogue with the EC, but the nation cannot wait for an indefinite period of time.

Both parties also urged the government to hold dialogue with the political parties immediately for what they said was to clear the confusion among people over holding the next polls.

"There is still confusion in people's minds over the next election. The government will have to remove it through initiating dialogue right away," Tofail said.

The AL leader urged all to be united to stop militancy in the country.

Briefing the newsmen, JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu said, "We want to put an end to the disbelief over holding the elections through the dialogue."

He said all the secular and pro-liberation war political parties should have to be united and create a "political roadmap" to ensure a free and fair election.

In its earlier proposals in April last year, the EC said political parties would have to submit reports on their expenditure reports to the EC, and it took no action against them.

The EC yesterday started sending its modified proposals concerning polls expenditures to political parties with the invitations to them for second round of electoral reform talks from February 24, sources in the EC Secretariat said.

The proposals say the funds of a political party contesting parliamentary election shall be deposited and maintained in any scheduled bank.

Any such party will have to submit its report on election expenditures to the EC within 90 days after the election. The report must show the opening and closing balance of the bank account and the amount of money the party received as donations within the time frame.

"If a political party fails to submit its election expenditure report within the time frame, the Election Commission can extend it by 30 days for submission of report. If the party again fails to do so, the commission can extend it by another 15 days with a fine of Tk 10,000," says the EC proposal. "Registration of the political party will be cancelled if it finally fails to submit the report."

In addition to this, if a political party spends more than the amount permitted, it will be fined Tk 10 lakh.

Responding to a query whether his party is involved with the move to form a government of national consensus before the polls, Inu said that such a government could be formed after the election based on the 14-party's 23-point common programme.

Asked whether he is involved with the process of forming alliance with parties out of 14-party combine, he replied that his party did not sit with others except for Jatiya Party (Ershad), Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh and Liberal Democratic Party, which were under the umbrella of AL-led grand electoral alliance.

At yesterday's meeting, both parties decided to take a common stand at the dialogues with the government and the EC based on the 14-party alliance's 31-point charter of electoral reform proposals.

AL leaders Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Motia Chowdhury, Kazi Zofurullah, Syed Ashraf Islam and Abdul Mannan Khan and JSD leaders Mainuddin Khan Badal, Syed Zafar Sazzad, Shirin Akhtar and Sharif Nurul Ambia were present at the meeting among others.

EC to allow parties

FROM PAGE 1
So, none of the political parties which contested that election submitted their expenditure reports to the EC, and it took no action against them.

The EC yesterday started sending its modified proposals concerning polls expenditures to political parties with the invitations to them for second round of electoral reform talks from February 24, sources in the EC Secretariat said.

The proposals say the funds of a political party contesting parliamentary election shall be deposited and maintained in any scheduled bank.

Any such party will have to submit its report on election expenditures to the EC within 90 days after the election. The report must show the opening and closing balance of the bank account and the amount of money the party received as donations within the time frame.

"If a political party fails to submit its election expenditure report within the time frame, the Election Commission can extend it by 30 days for submission of report. If the party again fails to do so, the commission can extend it by another 15 days with a fine of Tk 10,000," says the EC proposal. "Registration of the political party will be cancelled if it finally fails to submit the report."

In addition to this, if a political party spends more than the amount permitted, it will be fined Tk 10 lakh.

Responding to a query whether his party is involved with the move to form a government of national consensus before the polls, Inu said that such a government could be formed after the election based on the 14-party's 23-point common programme.

Asked whether he is involved with the process of forming alliance with parties out of 14-party combine, he replied that his party did not sit with others except for Jatiya Party (Ershad), Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh and Liberal Democratic Party, which were under the umbrella of AL-led grand electoral alliance.

Microsoft isn't raising Yahoo bid

AP, Seattle
Microsoft is not privately haggling with Yahoo over the software maker's rejected \$31-per-share buyout offer for the slumping Internet pioneer, Bill Gates said in an interview.

"We sent them a letter and said we think that's a fair offer. There's nothing that's gone on other than us stating that we think it's a fair offer," the Microsoft chairman said Monday. "They should take a hard look at it."

Microsoft Corp. made an unsolicited offer to buy Yahoo Inc. just over two weeks ago. At the time, the deal was valued at \$44.6 billion, but since then, Microsoft's share price has tumbled 12.8 percent, pushing the value of the cash-and-stock offer closer to \$41 billion.

Yahoo spurned the offer and said it "substantially undervalues" the company's assets. The Web portal business was said to be in talks late last week with News Corp. about a complex deal to push its market value toward \$50 billion. Yahoo also was reportedly discussing an advertising partnership with Google Inc.

Microsoft's bid was valued at \$44.6 billion, but since then, Microsoft's share price has tumbled 12.8 percent, pushing the value of the cash-and-stock offer closer to \$41 billion.

Yahoo spurned the offer and said it "substantially undervalues" the company's assets. The Web portal business was said to be in talks late last week with News Corp. about a complex deal to push its market value toward \$50 billion. Yahoo also was reportedly discussing an advertising partnership with Google Inc.

Microsoft's bid was valued at \$44.6 billion, but since then, Microsoft's share price has tumbled 12.8 percent, pushing the value of the cash-and-stock offer closer to \$41 billion.

Yahoo spurned the offer and said it "substantially undervalues" the company's assets. The Web portal business was said to be in talks late last week with News Corp. about a complex deal to push its market value toward \$50 billion. Yahoo also was reportedly discussing an advertising partnership with Google Inc.

Hasina case verdict

FROM PAGE 1
High Court verdict, the government filed a provisional leave petition with the Supreme Court seeking a stay order. After a hearing on February 12, the apex court did not stay the High Court judgment and asked the government to file a petition seeking permission to appeal against the High Court judgment by February 19 (yesterday).

During the hearing on the matter yesterday morning, one of Hasina's counsels barrister Shafigue Ahmed prayed to adjourn the hearing till February 24 as the senior counsel for Hasina is abroad.

Meanwhile, the state counsel Attorney General Fida M Kamal told court that he would be pre-occupied on February 24 with some personal issues. Following their submission, the court scheduled February 25 for hearing on government's leave application.

Businessman Azam J Chowdhury filed the case last year against now detained former prime minister and her cousin Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim.

Investigation officer of the case later accused Hasina's sister Sheikh Rehana in the charge sheet of the case.

Hasina agrees

FROM PAGE 1
things are alright, we will finalise everything tomorrow (today) after discussions with higher authorities."

He said he heard about her wishes regarding treatment from the television news. It would be better if she chooses BSMMU, he added.

Queried, Maj Haider said they would probably take her to a hospital today or tomorrow.

Meanwhile, rumours were rife that she could be taken to hospital anytime last night.

Sources in the jail administration told The Daily Star that tight security measures would be in place on her way to hospital and also during her stay there.

A huge contingent of police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel would be deployed to ensure security of the AL chief who might be taken to hospital in the wee hours to avoid the press, added the sources.

Hasina has been suffering from high blood pressure and allergy, and has problems in her eyes, ears and kidneys.

Earlier on Thursday, the jail authorities agreed to send her to any hospital she picks, but she kept refusing to have medical check-ups, except for her eyes, fearing foul play.

Sheikh Fazle Noor Tapash, one of her counsels, told The Daily Star that her personal choice would be Square Hospital.

"She has already conveyed her decision to the jail authorities and now it's all up to them," he added.

Rab official

FROM PAGE 16
Badrul Alam, 32, assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of Rab-1, and pedestrian Nurul Islam, 62.

Of the injured, three are Rab personnel and the other is a pedestrian whose identity could not be known.

The injured were hospitalised. Of them, the condition of Rab Nayek Abul Bashir was stated to be critical.

Witnesses said a Jamalpur-bound passenger bus of Utsab Paribahan hit the pick-up van from behind near Ashulia Police Station at around 8:30pm. The Rab vehicle was carrying a patrol team.

The pick-up van overturned and got damaged killing Badrul and Nurul on the spot and injuring four.

Kamrul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Ashulia Police Station, said they seized the bus but its driver and helper fled the spot.

Witnesses said a Jamalpur-bound passenger bus of Utsab Paribahan hit the pick-up van from behind near Ashulia Police Station at around 8:30pm. The Rab vehicle was carrying a patrol team.

The pick-up van overturned and got damaged killing Badrul and Nurul on the spot and injuring four.

Kamrul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Ashulia Police Station, said they seized the bus but its driver and helper fled the spot.

Witnesses said a Jamalpur-bound passenger bus of Utsab Paribahan hit the pick-up van from behind near Ashulia Police Station at around 8:30pm. The Rab vehicle was carrying a patrol team.

The pick-up van overturned and got damaged killing Badrul and Nurul on the spot and injuring four.

Kamrul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Ashulia Police Station, said they seized the bus but its driver and helper fled the spot.

Witnesses said a Jamalpur-bound passenger bus of Utsab Paribahan hit the pick-up van from behind near Ashulia Police Station at around 8:30pm. The Rab vehicle was carrying a patrol team.

The pick-up van overturned and got damaged killing Badrul and Nurul on the spot and injuring four.

Kamrul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Ashulia Police Station, said they seized the bus but its driver and helper fled the spot.

Witnesses said a Jamalpur-bound passenger bus of Utsab Paribahan hit the pick-up van from behind near Ashulia Police Station at around 8:30pm. The Rab vehicle was carrying a patrol team.

The pick-up van overturned and got damaged killing Badrul and Nurul on the spot and injuring four.

Kamrul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Ashulia Police Station, said they seized the bus but its driver and helper fled the spot.

Witnesses said a Jamalpur-bound passenger bus of Utsab Paribahan hit the pick-up van from behind near Ashulia Police Station at around 8:30pm. The Rab vehicle was carrying a patrol team.

The pick-up van overturned and got damaged killing Badrul and Nurul on the spot and injuring four.

Kamrul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Ashulia Police Station, said they seized the bus but its driver and helper fled the spot.

Witnesses said a Jamalpur-bound passenger bus of Utsab Paribahan hit the pick-up van from behind near Ashulia Police Station at around 8:30pm. The Rab vehicle was carrying a patrol team.

The pick-up van overturned and got damaged killing Badrul and Nurul on the spot and injuring four.

Kamrul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Ashulia Police Station, said they seized the bus but its driver and helper fled the spot.

Witnesses said a Jamalpur-bound passenger bus of Utsab Paribahan hit the pick-up van from behind near Ashulia Police Station at around 8:30pm. The Rab vehicle was carrying a patrol team.

The pick-up van overturned and got damaged killing Badrul and Nurul on the spot and injuring four.

Poultry farm

FROM PAGE 16
director of the project, said.

The sources working with the project and Department of Livestock services said that usually after a culling, a local district committee comprising district commissioner, police super, district livestock officer, veterinary surgeon, district accounts officer and district agriculture officer sends them a letter.

"The letter mentions the number of chickens, eggs or game birds," Dr