

Security beefed up on Independence Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Security has been beefed up in the city and elsewhere in the country on the occasion of the Independence Day.

Apart from special security alert, over 3500 personnel from the police and 800 from the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) have been deployed at the National Parade Ground in Old Airport area and at the National Mausoleum in Savar.

Besides, plainclothe personnel from different intelligence agencies will remain vigilant in and around the parade ground and the National Mausoleum.

DMP Deputy Commissioner of Mirpur zone Anwar Hossain, who has been assigned to supervise the security at the parade ground, said a total of 1250 VIPs have been invited to attend the programme at the parade ground which will remain open to people from all walks of life.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Naim Ahmed told The Daily Star yesterday that besides the deployment of additional force at the National Parade Ground and the National Mausoleum, all other forces have also been kept on special alert.

SM Abul Kalam Azad, legal and

media wing director of Rab, said their members have been asked to coordinate with other law enforcement agencies and remain vigilant.

DC Anwar Hossain said over 2000 police personnel including 220 women police will be guarding the parade ground under the supervision of five DCs and 10 ADCs.

"They will make a security wall around the wall of the Old Airport and at least one platoon of police will be staying at each gate of the parade ground," Anwar Hossain said, adding, "The forces will also guard the VIP galleries and public galleries."

He said police personnel will

also patrol the parade ground with archways while more than 1000 police and 500 Rab men will be guarding the National Mausoleum with archways and metal detectors.

Vehicular Restriction
Meanwhile, the DMP has imposed restriction on vehicular movement along the roads adjacent to parade ground for five hours from 7:30am to facilitate smooth movement of the invited guests to Independence Day parade.

Only the vehicles of invited guests with stickers are allowed to ply on these roads during this period.

Restriction has been imposed from Khejurbagan crossing to Mirpur-10 crossing via Bijoy Sarani crossing to Chief Adviser's Bhaban, and Rokeya Sarani crossing to Shishu Mela crossing.

Vehicle-owners have been advised to use alternative roads during the period.

Besides, the drivers of bus, minibus, truck and other vehicles have been advised to use alternative roads avoiding Savar Road from Gabtoli Amin Bazar bridge from 5:00am to 7:30am.

6 German MPs arrive today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A six-member parliamentary delegation of the Committee for Economic Cooperation and Development of the German Bundestag (German parliament) arrives in Dhaka today on a four-day visit to Bangladesh.

Headed by Thilo Hoppe, MP, the delegation will hold talks on the issues of Bangladesh-German development cooperation and the political situation in Bangladesh before the upcoming general elections, said a press release yesterday.

The delegation will meet the advisers for foreign affairs, finance and commerce, the ERD secretary and politicians of major political parties as well as donors of bilateral and multilateral development cooperation and the members of NGO's and human rights' organisations in Dhaka.

During a two-day trip to NGO-projects and major projects of Bangladesh-German official cooperation, the delegation will be informed about challenges and achievements of the bilateral development cooperation, which has successfully been implemented in a spirit of trust and mutual understanding by the two countries since 1972.

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