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## Tight security at national mosque to avert trouble

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) will put in place adequate security measures in and around Baitul Mukarram National Mosque to avert any untoward incidents during

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## Separate wage structure sought for university teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Prof Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday approved the '34th Annual Report-2007' of University Grants Commission (UGC) with 26 recommendations, including formation of separate wage structure for the university teachers and setting up a university teachers' training academy.

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## Hasina seeks more Saudi assistance

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the Saudi government to increase their development assistance to Bangladesh and recruit larger volume of human resources from the country.

She suggested that Saudi Arabia could recruit both unskilled and skilled manpower from Bangladesh, particularly engineers, doctors and nurses.

The prime minister made the request when Saudi Ambassador in Dhaka Abdullah Nasir-Al Bossairy called on her at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in the morning.

The Saudi ambassador formally handed over to Sheikh Hasina a letter of felicitation from Saudi

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Shakib best all-rounder Series decider today

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakib Al Hasan has been named the top player of ICC All-rounder's ODI Championship Rankings this week following his sparkling performance with both bat and ball.

The 21-year old from Magura, who now heads the rankings with 380 points, was number three last week but ran ahead of New Zealand's Jacob Oram (368 points) and England's Andrew Flintoff (366 points).

Shakib's recent exploits in the longer version game has also taken him into the top 10 Test all-rounders' list.

He will also proudly walk into the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur for the third and final one-day

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

# 45 ordinances may be made law

Says law minister following review by expert panel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said about 45 out of the 117 ordinances promulgated by the immediate-past caretaker government would be tabled as bills in parliament to make them laws.

A panel of experts formed by the government to review the ordinances has recommended initially ratifying 45 ordinances as laws, the minister told reporters at his office.

"All the ordinances will be tabled in the first session of the ninth parliament scheduled for January 25. Of which, about 45 ordinances will be placed as bills for ratification," he added.

He said most of the 45 ordinances are related to elections and finance. "The ordinances related to election and finance must be made laws, otherwise those will create a serious problem," he observed.

Earlier, a seven-member panel of

senior lawyers extensively evaluated and examined all the ordinances. The panel was tasked with the responsibility to suggest which ordinances to be made laws and which to be cancelled.

Meanwhile, former chairman of now-defunct Truth and Accountability Commission (TAC) Justice Habibur Rahman with two members met the minister at his office. Justice Habibur urged the minister to take initiatives to resolve issues of the people who disclosed their illegal assets and sought clemency.

"It will have serious consequences unless the activities of TAC are not upheld," the former TAC chairman told reporters after the meeting.

He informed the law minister that 452 people had sought clemency and pledged to surrender Tk 36 crore as illegal money. Of the amount, Tk 34 crore has been realised by TAC.

Asked about the matter, the law minister maintained reservation as the TAC ordinance is now being tried by the Supreme Court. "It will be sub-judice to comment on an under-trial issue," he said.

He could not say whether the 452 people would get clemency. On his meeting with Election Commissioner Mohammed Sohul Hussain on Thursday, the minister said: "He (Sohul) came to us to discuss legal issues. He told us about promulgation of new laws and amendment of the existing ones."

About changes in the Attorney General's (AG) Office, he said the top law officer has been changed with the change of the government. But he added they would not change everyone in the office.

"We will evaluate honesty and efficiency of the staffers of the office. We will see whether they can properly handle the cases for the government," he told the reporters.

## RAILWAY BREAK-IN 8 small-time 'thieves' held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcement agencies yesterday arrested eight people in connection with the sensational break-in at Bangladesh Railway (BR) headquarters in the capital on Saturday night.

Of them, seven are railway security guards who were suspended following the break-in.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) arrested them from their houses in the city in the early hours yesterday while Detective Branch (DB) arrested the other at Gulshan.

DB officials said they also recovered Tk 5,000, a mobile phone and a microbus used for the theft from the possession of the arrestee -- Enamul Huq Khokon, 30.

He hails from Amanganda in Choudhagram upazila of Comilla.

The arrested railway security men are sub-inspector

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PHOTO: STAR

A suspect in Railway Bhaban break-in is seen in front of the CID office on Minto Road in the capital yesterday after his arrest.

## ANDAMAN SEA 57 survivors identified as Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh government has identified at least 57 survivors rescued from Andaman coast, India, as its citizens -- according to a BBC Bangla Service report.

They were abandoned on a boat in the sea with little food and water two months ago. Thai troops had seized their boat engines while cruising 'illegally' through Thailand territory.

India has started revealing the list of people headed towards Malaysia from Myanmar and Bangladesh for employment.

The Indian and Indonesian coast guards have rescued around 300 persons from the coast in the last two months.

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## Enthusiasm runs low in Savar

RASHIDUL HASAN, back from Dhamrai

It was 9:30am. Although one and a half hours had elapsed since the voting began, only one ballot was cast at a polling booth at Phulbaria Govt Primary School in Savar upazila.

However, a total of 150 votes were cast at other booths of the centre within the same period.

Several polling agents were seen loitering outside while the election officials concerned were passing time idly at the polling centre.

The same picture was seen in many other polling centres in Savar upazila.

Election to the most crucial local government body upazila parishad, also viewed as 'mini-parliament' by many experts, was held yesterday with low turnout.

When a polling agent was asked why he was strolling outside the polling booth at the Phulbaria Govt Primary School centre, he said, "No voter came to the booth since the voting started at 8:00am. That's why I came out of the booth."

After making the remark, he immediately returned to the booth at about 10:00am.

"It is very surprising that only 150 votes were cast in one and a half hours since voting began at this centre. Around 800 votes were cast within the same time at the polling centre in the ninth

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

A polling agent at the Char Boro Dhopli Govt Primary School polling centre in Companiganj, Noakhali is seen trying to manipulate a voter into casting his vote for a particular candidate. Story on page 1.

## China milk scam duo given death

AP, Shijiazhuang

A Chinese court condemned two men to death and handed a life term to a former dairy boss yesterday for their roles in the country's contaminated milk scandal, which ignited public anger and accusations of cover-ups.

The Intermediate People's Court in Shijiazhuang gave the life sentence to Tian Wenhua, 66, the former general manager and chairwoman of Sanlu Group Co., the dairy at the center of the crisis. She was the highest-ranking official charged in the food safety scandal.

At her trial in December, Tian pleaded guilty to charges of producing and selling fake or substandard products after infant formula tainted with the chemical melamine was blamed in the deaths of at least six babies and the illnesses of nearly 300,000 others.

The court sentenced Zhang Yujun, 40, to death for running a workshop that was allegedly China's largest source of melamine, said spokesman Wang Wei. Geng Jinping was also given the death penalty for producing and selling toxic food. A third man, Gao Junjie, was given a suspended death sentence, which is usually commuted to a life sentence.

Some of the relatives of the victims, who gathered outside the court in cold weather in northern China, said Tian got off lightly.

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## People to be invited to be party in war criminal case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has allowed a petitioner to run advertisement in newspapers, inviting people or institutions to become parties in a case against Jamaat-e-Islami's ex-amir Golam Azam, current Amir Motiur Rahman Nizami and 34 others to declare them war criminals.

Dhaka Judge's court lawyers Mohammad Liton Miah, Mohammad Safayat Hossain Sajib and Rajeeb Ahmed filed the civil case on November 13 last year.

The 36 persons include Golam Azam, Jamaat Amir Motiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid, former

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## Dhaka tipped to qualify this time

Muhith, US envoy see bright prospect for MCA fund

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh may qualify by this year for the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) fund if it makes a little improvement in the fields of functional democracy, governance and economic policies and cutting corruption.

"Bangladesh will achieve quick improvement in the fields of curbing corruption, good governance and democracy and we will get the [MCA] fund," Finance Minister AMA Muhith told reporters at his office after a meeting with US Ambassador to Bangladesh James F Moriarty.

In reply to a question, he said Bangladesh may qualify for the fund this year.

Talking to reporters, Moriarty also said, "The minister's hope and my hope is that Bangladesh will qualify for the fund."

Moriarty met the finance minister yesterday for the first time after the Awami League-led

grand alliance formed the government. They discussed the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) at the meeting.

The administration of immediate past US president George W Bush announced the MCA in 2002 and it was inaugurated in 2005. Developing countries are selected as recipients of the fund on a set of 16 indicators, which are aimed at measuring good governance, investing in people and promoting entrepreneurship.

Bangladesh had made several attempts to get included in the MCA fund.

To qualify for receiving money from the fund, a country has to achieve at least 50 percent success in each of the criteria. "While Bangladesh has achieved 50 percent success in some vital fields, it is yet to reach the target in a few areas like governance, curbing corruption and democracy," said Muhith, adding that the country would reach the target soon.

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## ACC okays graft cases against 47 BTCL staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday approved filing of eight corruption cases against 47 officials of Bangladesh Telecommunication Company Limited, formerly BTCL, on charges of illegally drawing Tk 14.13 crore and misappropriating Tk 17.26 crore.

The officials accused drew Tk 14.13 crore more than the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
January 23		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-43	5-47
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Ranglai Mro still handcuffed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Handcuffed to his hospital bed, indigenous leader Ranglai Mro, who was brutally tortured, has been waiting 15 days for his bail order documents to reach the jail authorities from the High Court (HC).

The HC granted him bail on January 7 but the leader is still receiving treatment at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) under close watch of six to seven policemen.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Supporters allegedly belonging to a pro-Awami League candidate vandalise a United Nations vehicle at Belkuchi in Sirajganj after polls were suspended there. Story on page 1.

## Diseases Involving Colon, Rectum & Anus

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