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**IG-prisons transferred**  
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General Prisons Brig Gen Zakir Hassan was transferred yesterday, home ministry sources said. "I've heard about the transfer, but haven't received any letter in this regard," Zakir said when contacted. State Minister for Home Tanjim Ahmed Sohel last night told The Daily Star, "He [Brig Zakir] was in the post on deputation. He has been called back to the army on expiry of his tenure." Zakir Hassan was appointed the IG-prisons on October 20, 2005.

**New govt will ensure fair probe into Kibria killing**  
 Hopes Asma Kibria  
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asma Kibria, wife of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, yesterday hoped that the Awami League-led government would carry out a fair investigation into the killing of her husband. Asma expressed her hope after placing wreaths at the grave of the former finance minister at Banani Graveyard. SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

**NATIONAL MOSQUE Khatib stays put**  
 Govt warns troublemakers  
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided not to tolerate further untoward incidents at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque centring newly appointed Khatib Maulana Muhammad Salahuddin. A high-level meeting of the home ministry after thorough discussion on the matter decided on Monday to go tough on troublemakers. SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

PROMOTION, POSTING, CONTRACT  
**Administration cringes at lobbying**

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The government officials, including those who were 'deprived of due promotion and postings' during the BNP-led coalition government are now lobbying frantically at the secretariat for getting better postings and promotion in the administration. Some retired bureaucrats, who maintained close contacts with Awami League (AL) president Sheikh Hasina and other AL leaders in the last seven years, are also in the frantic race of getting contractual appointments, sources at the secretariat said. A group comprised of both serving and retired officers, is involved in the overall reshuffling process and is influencing the administrative shake-up, according to the sources.

The lobbyists are seen maintaining liaison with some influential secretaries at their offices, including at establishment and food and disaster management ministries, to achieve their targets. The lobbying at the secretariat is increasing gradually as the AL government has started rearranging the administration by giving promotions, postings and making many officers on special duty (OSD) in the last two weeks. The administrative shake-ups are being implemented without following due process rather reshuffling is taking place based on the political consideration and on the plea that a number of officials were deprived of due promotion and postings during the BNP regime, many officers at the secretariat alleged. Establishment Secretary ASM Ali Kabir said "It is not possible for us to be cent

percent fair in giving promotion and postings as many officials were forced into retirement and a large number of them were made OSD by the previous (BNP) government." He said the new government wanted to put an end to the deprivation in giving promotion to officials. "We must give priority to the deprived officers first," said Kabir, claiming that he didn't see any apprehension in the administration due to the reshuffle. But the AL government is following the previous tradition making so far 23 officials OSD. More than a dozen officers have been made secretaries, the highest rank in bureaucracy, on the plea of their deprivation during the four-party coalition regime. In the latest move, the government SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**US not your enemy**  
 Obama tells Muslim world

AFP, Washington

US President Barack Obama Monday told the Muslim world that "Americans are not your enemy" and renewed his pledge to travel to make an address in the capital of a major Muslim nation. Obama noted that he had lived in Indonesia for several years while growing up, and said his travels through Muslim nations had convinced him that regardless of faith, people had certain common hopes and dreams. "My job to the Muslim world is to communicate that the Americans are not your enemy -- we sometimes make mistakes -- we have not been perfect," Obama said in an interview with the Al-Arabiya satellite television network. "But if you look at the track record ... America was not born as a colonial power, and that the same respect and partnership that America had with the Muslim world as recently as 20 or 30 years ago, there's no reason why we can't restore that." During the 2008 election campaign, Obama vowed to improve US ties with the Muslim world and said he would travel to a major Islamic forum abroad to send that message.



"We're going to follow through on our commitment for me to address the Muslim world from a Muslim capital," Obama said in the interview with the Dubai-based channel. "We are going to follow through on many of my commitments to do a more effective job of reaching out, listening as well as speaking to the Muslim world," he said. Obama did not give a time, or a venue for his visit to a major Muslim capital. He was also asked about the highly personal tone of recent al-Qaeda messages released since he was elected president in November. SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



An attendant serves a customer from a grocery shop - complete with a refrigerator and shelves -- set up illegally on a passage inside the Mohakhali Bus Terminal. PHOTO: STAR

**Govt to engage 1,500 BADC dealers to distribute fertiliser**

PORIMOL PALMA

The government has decided in principle to incorporate around 1,500 seed dealers of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) temporarily into the fertiliser distribution system for ensuring uninterrupted supply of the agri-input during the current boro season. "We are examining the procedures because agriculture production should not be hampered by any means, even if a fertiliser dealer fails to cooperate," Agriculture Secretary Sheikh Enayet Ullah told The Daily Star yesterday. The move comes in line with the government's commitment to bring down the prices of food commodities shortly by slashing production cost and to achieve autarky in food. At present, over 5,000 authorised fertiliser dealers sell fertilisers across the country through their agents or directly to the farmers. The government has set the paddy production target at 1.8 crore metric tons on 46 lakh hectares of land during the current Boro season that began in late December. To that end, the newly-elected Awami League government on January 14 reduced the prices of non-urea fertilisers by almost 50 percent giving a subsidy of about Tk 2,700 crore. The previous caretaker government set a rule that the farmers needed to collect cards from the local Union Parishad chairman and members to buy fertiliser. The rule was made to make SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

**Govt decides to drop 'Janatar Mancha' case**  
 COURT CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to withdraw the Janatar Mancha sedition case filed against Awami League (AL) lawmaker and former state minister for planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and seven others filed in April 2002. The home ministry yesterday sent a letter asking the Metropolitan Public Prosecutor to begin the procedures for withdrawal of the case. SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prayer Timing		
January 28		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-35	6-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-46	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

**Global meltdown downs revenue**  
 14pc less income at import level in December

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Revenue income at import level dropped by about 14 percent in last December due to the impact of the global economic recession creating an apprehension whether the country's revenue target will be achieved or not in the current fiscal year. Due to the meltdown, the overall revenue collection stood at 13.24 percent against the target of 19 percent in the first six months of the current fiscal. The National Board of Revenue (NBR) in a report sent to the finance minister said achieving the revenue target is the biggest challenge in the backdrop of the negative impact of the ongoing world economic crisis. It also said considering the continuous rise of commodity prices in the world economy, the rate of import duty was SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

**New wing to deal with special crimes**  
 Ecnec okays Tk 60cr scheme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to set up a National Crime Control and Operation Monitoring Centre to deal with some special types of crime. The decision was taken yesterday at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The meeting approved a total of Tk 546 crore for seven projects, including the monitoring centre at a cost of Tk 60 crore. SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

**Thailand detains 78 more Rohingyas**  
 PM proposes regional forum for illegal migrants

AFP, Bangkok

Thai authorities have detained 78 more boat people from Myanmar, police said yesterday, as premier Abhisit Vejjajiva proposed a regional forum on the issue after reports that the army mistreated migrants. Thailand's military has been accused of towing hundreds of the Rohingya migrants out to sea in poorly equipped boats with scant food and water, raising concerns as dozens more of the Muslim ethnic minority wash up on Thai shores. Colonel Veerasilp Supanpen, commander of the Paknam police station where the Rohingyas are detained, said they were intercepted off Surin island in the Andaman Sea at midnight as they tried to enter Thailand. "All are men -- 12 of them are aged between 14 and 19, while the rest are over 20 years old," Veerasilp told AFP, adding that they had received a basic medical check-up and appeared to be well. "They are detained at a police station and will be charged with illegal entry in Ranong provincial court (on) Wednesday." Abhisit earlier insisted that authorities were dealing with the boat people in a humane way, and said he wanted to work with nearby countries to tackle the human trafficking networks that smuggle the migrants between nations. His comments came after the United Nations' refugee agency UNHCR requested access to another group of 126 Rohingya reportedly detained in Thailand earlier this month. Thai authorities have denied they are in the kingdom. "There are talks within the foreign ministry that if UNHCR were to be invited in on this issue it would be under the SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

**BRAC UNIVERSITY**  
**Urgent Notice**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Convocation (5<sup>th</sup> February 2009)**  
 The 4<sup>th</sup> Convocation of BRAC University will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at BCDM Rajendrapur, Gazipur.  
 Graduates participating in the Convocation are advised to collect gowns etc from Registrar's Office on 30<sup>th</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009 positively.  
 Graduates are also advised to be present at: Bangladesh Water Development Board Officers Club Ground, Road-11, Banani, Dhaka-1213, at 2:30 pm positively on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009 for rehearsal.  
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 আগামী ৩০-৩১ জানুয়ারি ও ০১ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০০৯ তারিখ পর্যন্ত টঙ্গীতে অনুষ্ঠিত বিশ্ব ইজতেমা নিরাপদ ও সুষ্ঠুভাবে সম্পাদনের স্বার্থে ইজতেমায় যোগদানকারী সম্মানিত মুসল্লিগণকে নিম্নলিখিত বিষয়সমূহ মেনে চলতে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছেঃ  
 ■ ইজতেমায় নিরাপত্তার দায়িত্বে নিয়োজিত আইন-শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষাকারী বাহিনীর সদস্যদের প্রয়োজনীয় সহযোগিতা করা এবং প্রয়োজনে সহযোগিতা নেয়া।  
 ■ টাকা ও মূল্যবান সামগ্রীসহ একাকী বিক্ষিপ্তভাবে ঘোরাফেরা না করা এবং সব সময়ই টাকা ও মূল্যবান সামগ্রী নিজ হেফাজতে রাখা।  
 ■ টাকা ও মূল্যবান সামগ্রী চুরি বা খোয়া গেলে তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে আইন-শৃঙ্খলা বাহিনীর সদস্যদের অবহিত করা।  
 ■ মুসল্লিগণের নিরাপদ ও নির্বিঘ্ন চলাচলের সুবিধার্থে ইজতেমা চলাকালে প্রধান সড়কসমূহ ও পার্শ্ববর্তী এলাকায় তাঁবু না খাটানো কিংবা অন্য কোনভাবে সড়ক ও পার্শ্ববর্তী এলাকা ব্যবহার না করা।  
 ■ অসুস্থ হলে ইজতেমার জন্য নির্ধারিত অস্থায়ী হাসপাতাল ও নিকটবর্তী হাসপাতাল, স্বাস্থ্যসেবা কমী বা প্রয়োজনে আইন-শৃঙ্খলা বাহিনীর সদস্যদের সহায়তা গ্রহণ করা।  
 ■ নির্ধারিত খিঁতায় অবস্থান করা এবং অপরিচিত ও সন্দেহভাজন ব্যক্তি বা বস্তুর উপস্থিতি দেখামাত্র তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে আইন-শৃঙ্খলা বাহিনীর সদস্যদেরকে জানানো।  
 ■ হকার ও ড্রামামান ফেরিওয়ালাদের কাছ থেকে খাদ্য বা পানীয় গ্রহণ না করা।  
 ■ গুজব শুনলে বা কোন প্রকার দুর্ঘটনা ঘটলে ধৈর্য ধরে সাহসিকতার সাথে পরিস্থিতি মোকাবেলা করা এবং আইন-শৃঙ্খলা বাহিনীর সদস্যদের সহযোগিতা করা।  
 ■ দুর্ঘটনা এড়াতে রান্না করার সময় সতর্ক থাকা। খিঁতা এলাকায় বা নিজেদের অবস্থানস্থলে ধুমপান না করা।  
 ■ টাকা-ময়মনসিংহ সড়ক চলাচল উন্মুক্ত রাখার উদ্দেশ্যে টাকা মহানগরীর প্রগতি সরণি থেকে টঙ্গী ব্রিজ পর্যন্ত, গাজীপুর জেলার টঙ্গী ব্রিজ থেকে চৌরাস্তা ও পার্শ্ববর্তী এলাকার প্রধান সড়কের ৫০ গজের মধ্যে মাইক না লাগানো।  
 ■ জীবনের ঝুঁকি নিয়ে অতিরিক্ত যাত্রী হয়ে ট্রেনে কিংবা অন্য কোন যানবাহনে চলাচল না করা।  
 ■ জরুরি প্রয়োজনে ইজতেমাস্থলের নিকটস্থ পুলিশ কন্ট্রোলরুমে যোগাযোগ করা।  
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