

Bills to hike perks for PM, speaker, MPs placed

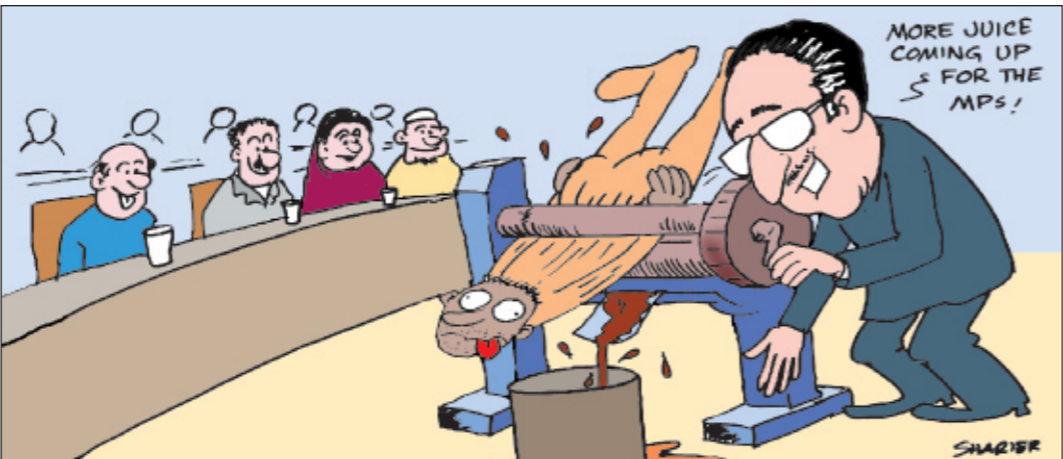
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four bills were placed in the parliament yesterday proposing over 40 to 600 per cent rise in perks to the prime minister, speaker, deputy speaker, ministers, state ministers deputy ministers and members of parliament.

If the bills are passed, the recipients would get enhanced benefits with retrospective effect from July 1, 2002.

Amid strong opposition by the main opposition Awami League (AL) deputies, ministers Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Moudud Ahmed tabled the bills. These are The Prime Minister's Remuneration and Perks (Amendment) Bill, 2002, the Speaker's Remuneration and Perks (Amendment) Bill, 2002, the Deputy Speaker's Remuneration and Perks (Amendment) Bill, 2002, and the Members of Parliament's Remuneration and Perks (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

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BCL calls half-day hartal on Thursday to protest killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) has called a countrywide half-day hartal on Thursday protesting the killing of BCL leader Saiful Rasul Palash.

Palash was the BCL general secretary of Dhaka city north unit.

The BCL has also called a student strike at all educational institutions across the country tomorrow.

They have decided to bring out processions and stage demonstrations at all the thana, district and educational institutions today.

The BCL chalked out a seven-day programme demanding immediate arrest and trial of Palash's killers. A further four-day programme will be declared by June 19, sources said.

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BCL city secretary gunned down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified gunmen killed a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader in an apparent revenge attempt that also left a physically challenged young man dead in Kalyanpur yesterday afternoon.

Saiful Rasul Palash nicknamed SR Palash, 32, City (north) BCL general secretary and former vice-president of BCL Dhaka College unit, was declared dead on arrival at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at about 4:15pm.

A disabled Basir Ahmed, 22, peon of the bus-service provider Sony Enterprise, died instantly in the fire.

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Relatives break down over the body of Bangladesh Chhatra League leader Saiful Rasul Palash who was gunned down yesterday at Kalyanpur.

PHOTO: STAR

HC order to produce CJ's suggestion contrary to constitution: AG

UNB, Dhaka

Attorney General (AG) AF Hasan Ariff yesterday told the Supreme Court that the High Court order asking the government to produce the chief justice's recommendation was contrary to the Constitution.

The High Court has erred in directing the government to produce the recommendation of the chief justice regarding confirmation of the appointment of the chief justice.

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REVIVAL OF UPAZILA SYSTEM Cabinet again fails to make decision

REZAUL KARIM

The weekly meeting of the cabinet yesterday witnessed a lengthy and heated debate on the issue but again failed to make a decision, meeting sources said.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia chaired the meeting.

Revival of upazila system is a major election pledge of the BNP but several influential ministers apprehensive of conflict between MPs and upazila chairmen oppose it.

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BNP to merge warring district committees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling coalition leader, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), will reduce the number of district committees to streamline the organisation and erase intra-party conflict.

Currently the party has 75 district units and efforts are on to bring down the figure to around 70 by merging more than one units in Chittagong, Barisal, Comilla and Mymensingh districts into one.

Of the districts, Barisal has three units -- Barisal city, Barisal north and south district committees -- and

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Robbers loot Nawabpur markets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers raiding three markets at Nawabpur looted Tk 5.25 lakh in cash and machinery from eight shops yesterday morning.

"Seven robbers in lungi and shirts came in a white pick-up at around 3:30am and called us if they had come to unload machinery," Ruhul Amin, a guard at the main gate of Nawabpur market, told police.

"As we went closer, four of them brought out pistols, tied us up and herded us into an alley," Nahid, another guard, said.

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AL stages 4-minute walkout

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League yesterday walked out of the Jatiya Sangsad, protesting killing of BCL leader Saiful Rasul Palash and a physically challenged person Basir Ahmed.

The parliament also witnessed a heated debate on this issue.

Earlier, Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury issued a statement and assured that all steps have been taken to arrest the killers. He however claimed that "two y o u n g

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