

**RMG workers out on street for salary raise**



FROM LEFT... Long queues of vehicles stranded near Khilkhet in the capital after garment workers barricaded the Airport Road yesterday; Agitated workers throw brickbats at policemen deployed on the road; Angered by police excesses, a garment worker shows a shoe to a police officer at the Biswa Road intersection; Traffic disruption forces a family to head for the airport on foot to catch a flight.

**Saifur critical of donors over no help in tackling oil price fallout**

UNB, Dhaka  
Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday criticised the role of the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for not assisting the poor countries to overcome the impact of soaring oil prices.

"I would say it's unfortunate that the big institutions like them (World Bank and IMF) could not feel the burden (of poor countries)," he told reporters at Zia International Airport on return from the USA, ending a 10-day visit.

Saifur said he approached the two institutions to "devise some oil facilities for countries like ours" as

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**ACC, NBR lock horns over jurisdiction**

JASIM UDDIN KHAN  
The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) finds itself in the centre of a controversy again as it has engaged in a tug of war with the National Board of Revenue (NBR) over detection of tax evasion incidents.

The ACC wrote a letter on Sunday to the NBR and Dhaka Customs House informing the agencies that a large amount of goods had been imported to the inland container depot (ICD) through under-invoicing and false declarations.

The commission also requested Dhaka Customs to launch a massive search to detect such tax evasions and to open suspicious containers for inspection in the presence of ACC officials.

The NBR reacted to the ACC move saying the move is in complete violation of the Customs Act and detection of tax evasions in such ways is beyond the ACC's jurisdiction.

NBR chairman Abdul Karim said he has yet to receive the letter. "I have yet to get the letter. If the ACC issued such a letter it is beyond their jurisdiction," the chairman said.

Sources said the NBR will inform Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman about the matter and seek his intervention in the tussle between the two government agencies.

Dhaka Customs yesterday formed a five-member committee headed by Lutfar Rahman, additional commissioner of the customs house, to investigate the matter.

ACC Commissioner Munir Uddin Ahmed said if the NBR has any legal restriction on opening suspicious consignments in the presence of ACC officials, it should write to the ACC expressing its opinion.

The ACC has every right to ask any person or agency to provide necessary information to detect corruption, Munir Uddin said.

The ACC commissioner also said, "Importing through under-invoicing and false declarations is

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**No end to Buet closure in sight**

KAMRUL HASAN KHAN  
Two weeks into the unscheduled closure of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), the impasse continues while uncertainty looms over holding examinations and beginning new terms, to add to the existing session jam of the country's premier technology university.

The Buet authorities declared the university closed sine die on July 31 following a violent student movement for deferment of examinations.

Several student organisations and a platform of guardians have urged the authorities to reopen the university and declare fresh schedule for examinations as early as possible in consideration of the future of thousands of students.

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**NAGORIK COMMITTEE CONSULTATION SESSION**  
**Politicised institutions, wrong policy blamed for degrading education**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Politicisation of governing bodies of educational institutions and involving students in party politics, lack of accountability and political commitment are some of the causes behind degradation of education quality in the country, eminent educational personalities told a consultative meeting yesterday.

Criticising the provision of heading the governing bodies of educational institutions by the parliament members in their constituencies, they said the trend has led to the politicisation of those bodies and deterioration of management quality of educational institutions.

The Nagorik Committee 2006 organised the fifth expert group consultation meeting on 'Vision 2021 for Bangladesh: Goal 5: To have a skilled and a creative workforce' at Cirdap auditorium in Dhaka. Prof Anisuzzaman and Muhammad Zafar Iqbal jointly chaired the meeting.

It is very unfortunate that the political parties are now using students and their organisations to serve their political purposes, Prof Zafar Iqbal said, adding that it has led to a culture of collecting tolls from development works of educational institutions.

Prof Anisuzzaman said too

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BDR troops, deployed on Zakiganj border in Sylhet as reinforcements following Wednesday's firefight with the Indian border guards, pack up and head for their barracks yesterday.

**62 killed as car bombs, rockets rock Baghdad**

AGENMCIES, Baghdad  
Car bombs and a rocket barrage struck a predominantly Shia neighbourhood in Baghdad on Sunday, killing at least 62 people, a municipal official said.

The rockets apparently were fired from a mostly Sunni district targeted by US troops in a crackdown against the sectarian violence roiling the capital.

About 140 were injured in the attack on the Zafraniyah neighbourhood in southern Baghdad, which began about 7:15 p.m. with two car bombs and a barrage of an estimated nine rockets, Defence Ministry spokesman Col. Saddoun Abu al-Ula said.

He said the barrage heavily damaged three buildings, including a multi-story apartment house that collapsed. Al-Ula said the rockets appeared to have been fired from the neighbourhood of Dora, which has been the focus of thousands of US troops sent to try to restore peace in Baghdad.

The head of a municipal council, Mohammed al-Rubaie, told Iraqi government television Monday that the death toll had risen to 62. He gave no precise number of injured but officials late Sunday put the figure at more than 140.

As rescuers dragged more bloodied corpses from rubble left in the Al-Qubayasi market by Sunday night's blasts, more car bombs killed three people in downtown Baghdad and a missile crashed into the fortified "Green Zone".

Several large explosions were heard in central Baghdad at sunrise Monday, but it was unclear where they came from.

The complex style of the assault was similar to a July 27 attack of mortars, rockets and car bombs on another mostly Shia district, Karradah, which killed 31 people. Police said the rockets and mortars that struck Karradah also were fired from Dora.

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**Tigers target clean sweep**

SPORTS REPORTER  
Bangladesh go into the third and final one-day international against Kenya today with an attempt to complete another whitewash of the East African nation.

The match will start at 1pm (BST) with Bangladesh Television (BTV) and Channel i beaming live coverage of the match from the Nairobi Gymkhana ground.

The Tigers confirmed their first-ever away series victory on Sunday after a nerve-wrecking two-wicket victory in the second match. The victory gave them a 2-0 lead following their comfortable six-wicket

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**Israel starts pullout as fighting stops**

AP, Beirut  
Heavy fighting in southern Lebanon stopped abruptly yesterday after a UN-brokered truce came into effect, but reports that Israeli troops killed a Hezbollah guerrilla underlined the fragility of the truce.

Army Radio and the Haaretz newspaper's Web site said the Hezbollah fighter was shot dead after he opened fire on Israeli troops in southwest Lebanon. It was the first reported clash since the ceasefire began.

A military spokesman said the man was among an armed group, which approached the army position, but declined to say whether

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| Prayer Timing |       |        |
|---------------|-------|--------|
| August 15     |       |        |
|               | Azan  | Jamaat |
| Fajr          | 4-25  | 5-00   |
| Zohr          | 12-45 | 1-15   |
| Asr           | 4-45  | 5-00   |
| Maghrib       | 6-38  | 6-41   |
| Esha          | 8-00  | 8-30   |

Source: Islamic Foundation

Grameen Phone

