

Iraqi parliament debates UN resolution



AFP, Baghdad

Iraqi parliament last night began a debate on the UN Security Council disarmament Resolution 1441 which Baghdad looks set to accept despite the tough new arms inspection terms it imposes.

The debate got underway at 7.00pm (1600 GMT), some two hours after the assembly's 250 members had their iftar, the meal that breaks the dawn-to-dusk fast during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The session, which is expected to leave the ultimate decision in the hands of Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein, will be open to the press.

Iraqi satellite television said the assembly would issue a statement on its position on Security Council Resolution 1441 for submission to the decision-making Revolution Command Council (RCC).

Iraq has not yet officially responded to the US-drafted resolution that imposes sweeping new arms inspection terms but hinted that it might accept the document by the November 15 deadline in order to avert a US strike.

"As on previous similar occasions, the National Assembly is expected to express support for Iraq's leadership and mandate it to take the decision it deems to be in the interest of the Iraqi people," a source close to parliament told AFP.

That in effect means that parliament will leave it to the RCC, which is chaired by Saddam, to take the decision.

But the assembly is expected to have harsh words about the new resolution, amplifying the official line that it is "bad and unfair," as an "authorized source" described it to the official INA news agency Saturday.

The same source, however, said that the Iraqi leadership was "quietly studying" Resolution 1441, confirming that Baghdad was keeping open the option of acquiescing to it.

Baghdad's state-run press Monday sufficed with reporting that parliament would convene in emergency session at Saddam's behest to debate the new resolution.

Press commentators did not give new clues to Iraq's likely response to the resolution, but stressed Baghdad had all along cooperated with the Security Council and met its obligations under relevant council resolutions.

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Govt urged to exempt Hasina from arms surrender

UNB, Dhaka

The government was yesterday petitioned for exempting the licensed arms of Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina from surrender on the grounds of her personal security.

Hasina's PS Nazrul Islam sent an application to the Home Ministry stating that the opposition leader has got three licensed arms - a point 12-bore shotgun, a point 32-bore revolver and a point 22-bore rifle for the security of her life.

"If the arms are deposited according to the official notification, personal security of Sheikh Hasina would be threatened," said the office of the Leader of the Opposition in the application.

To underpin the apprehensions it cited recent incidents of armed attacks on her in Naogaon on March 4 and Kolaroa on August 30 this year. "In the Naogaon incident, the attacker was jailed for 12 years along with fines," it said.

Besides, the application said, "many of the killers who were con

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BSCIC estate in Sherpur Completed 2 yrs ago, no plot allocated yet

RAFIQ HASAN

No plot has been allocated to entrepreneurs in the Sherpur industrial estate since its establishment by the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) in June 2000. The estate boasts 108 plots.

Also, 70 per cent of industrial plots in such other estates are unutilised, said a recent audit report by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

The report also said that there was no headway in utilisation in the last three years until 2000.

BSCIC Chairman Abdul Mannan told The Daily Star that huge industrial plots in BSCIC estates remained unused for years together because they were set up without considering economic prospects.

A number of estates were set up only to implement a government's decision to establish at least one industrial estate in each district, the chairman said.

The BSCIC is thinking of an alternative use of the plots that have no possibility of allocation.

Most industrial plots in 12 estates have been unused for years on end.

The estates are Kishoreganj, Nawabganj, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Thakurgaon, Naogaon, Joypurhat, Sherpur, Patuakhali, Bhola and Jhenidah.

The plot development work in the Patuakhali industrial estate was completed in June 1990, but 77.22 per cent of the industrial plots remained unused for 11 years.

The unused plots of the Habiganj industrial estate were measured at

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Nature's fury on this day in '70 revisited

AKTER FARUK SHAHIN, Barisal

November 12 is back again with the dreadful memory of the worst ever cyclone and tidal surge in the country's coastal region.

On this day in 1970, nature's fury claimed around one million lives and left more than two million wounded and about 10 million homeless.

The catastrophe also cast a deep impact on the political landscape of the region.

Utter failure and gross negligence of the then Pakistani regime to deal with the post-cyclone situation stunned the world and reinforced the resolve of the people in the then eastern wing of Pakistan to secede from Pakistan and become independent. And, in the following year Bangladesh was born.

Recalling the fateful day, Abul Kalam of Bhola who lost his parents in that calamity, told The Daily Star that 10 to 12 feet high tidal wave swept away everything. He saved his life by climbing a coconut tree.

"I thought it was Qiamat (doomsday)," he said.

Miscreants in Chuadanga attack journalist

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

MM Alauddin, the Chuadanga correspondent of the daily Independent, was attacked and seriously injured by miscreants near his residence at Shantipara here on Sunday night.

Sources said Alauddin was ambushed only a few yards from his house at about 9:30pm as he was returning home after work. Two masked men attacked him with a sharp weapon, inflicting multiple severe wounds on his right hand and head before fleeing the scene.

Neighbours rushed him to the Chuadanga Sadar Hospital where doctors operated upon him. He is now out of danger, said doctors at the hospital.

Alauddin is a teacher at Nilmoniganj Primary Training Institute and the special correspondent of a local daily Khashkhabar.

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AL asks govt not to make army role 'controversial'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday asked the ruling alliance not to 'make the role of army controversial'.

It also reiterated its demand for resignation of the coalition government and a midterm election.

A two-and-a-half-hour meeting of the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) at the party's central office in the city expressed deep concern at the deaths of 24 in army custody and termed the incidents a gross violation of the constitution and human rights.

"It (custodial death) goes against the rule of law. Nobody is beyond the reach of law. And the government is accountable for all this," said an AL resolution.

Briefing newsmen on the outcome of the meeting, the AL president member Abdul Jalil said the

meeting resolved that the 'clinically dead' government should step down immediately, leading up to a midterm poll.

Replying to a query, Jalil said the AL did not take any programme for movement at the meeting.

Chaired by AL President Sheikh Hasina, the meeting demanded that the fifth session of the parliament beginning on November 14 should run at least 20 workdays to pave the way for discussion on all contentious issues.

People were surprised by the arrest of former ministers and lawmakers like Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Sheikh Selim and Talukdar Abdul Khaleque without warrant. The ruling party men are being released after arrest, whereas the AL research office at Dhanmondi has been sealed off, the meeting was told.

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Satkhira bomb blast cases go to CID

UNB, Satkhira

Investigation into the dreadful bomb blast incidents here has been transferred to the CID at Khulna nearly 45 days after the incidents.

The order of the home minister came here Saturday asking for handing over the bomb blast cases to the CID for expediting the probe.

SP Rafiqul Islam said ASP Mousa Box of Khulna CID was going to take over the investigation yesterday.

In the evening of September 28, two powerful bombs went off at the local Roxy cinema and another at a circus at stadium ground within a span of five minutes.

About 150 men, women and children received burn injuries in the incident. Three of the injured later died while condition of many others is stated to be critical.

Police so far arrested eight people including Satkhira pourashava commissioner Mominullah Mohon in this connection. The law enforcers, however, failed to obtain any clue from interrogating the arrested

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Curious people (left) crowd the Special Court for Prevention of Repression on Women and Children in Rajshahi, which sentenced Nayan Ali (middle) and Shafiqur Rahman Shafi (right) to life-term imprisonment yesterday for raping 14-year-old Ruma Khatun.

2 get life term in Ruma rape case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two youths were sentenced to life term yesterday for raping a 14-year-old girl.

The convicts are Md Nayan Ali, son of Ashraf Uddin and Shafiqur Rahman Shafi, son of Nurul Islam of Dharmahata village in Paba upazila. Both were Awami League activists.

Judge Abu Hanif of the Special Court for Prevention of Repression on Women and Children in Rajshahi delivered the judgement in a packed courtroom. They were convicted under Section 6 (3) of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act of 1995.

Hearing the verdict, Nayan, the principal accused, broke down in tears in the dock. Shafi is absconding.

About six months after the rape incident, Shafi married the rape victim following an arbitration to avoid punishment.

The rape incident created an outcry in the country. Trial of the case began on May 29 this year after the Speedy Trial Monitoring Cell in the district enlisted it for early disposal.

The court recorded depositions of 27 witnesses including the victim, her parents, Prof Emdadur Rahman of Forensic Department of Rajshahi Medical College and Magistrate Sayeda Jebunnesa.

On February 20, 1999, in the evening, Nayan lured Ruma Khatun of the same village to his house on the plea of viewing television. Wielding knife, he and Shafi raped her, took her nude photographs and

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The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) arrested four persons on charge of dealing in counterfeit certificates and non-judicial and revenue stamps worth about Tk 50 lakh in the city yesterday.

CID seizes huge number of fake certificates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday recovered a huge number of counterfeit certificates, and non-judicial and revenue stamps worth about Tk 50 lakh from different parts of the city.

The CID also recovered computers and other accessories used in production of the fake certificates.

Four persons were arrested for their alleged involvement in printing and distribution of counterfeit certificates and stamps.

"We have recovered certificates and mark sheets of different education institutions including Dhaka University, National University, Dhaka and Comilla education boards," one CID official told The Daily Star.

"It is the biggest CID haul of counterfeit certificates and stamps ever," he said.

Tipped off, a team of CID inspectors raided a house in the city's North Madartek area and recovered

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 12		5-14 pm
Nov 13	6-13 am	

Prayer Timings		
Nov 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-48	4-56
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-18	5-28
Esha	7-30	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation