

BNP lawmakers demand more pay hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling BNP lawmakers at a parliamentary body meeting have expressed dissatisfaction over the proposed hike of remuneration of the legislators, terming it insufficient, and demanded raising it further, sources said.

HR watchdog serves legal notice on PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Committee for Human Rights in Bangladesh, a US-based international human rights organisation, has served a legal notice on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia demanding an independent and impartial enquiry into all

UN reforms watered down as summit starts

REZAUL KARIM

After intensive, down-to-the-wire negotiations, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) concluded its 59th annual session by approving the text of the draft outcome document that will be considered by some 170 leaders attending the 2005 World Summit, which opened yesterday at the UN Headquarters in New York.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has called the text of the draft "a once-in-a-generation opportunity" to forge a global consensus on development, security, human rights and United Nations renewal.

The draft declaration would have Heads of State and Government reaffirm "the importance of an effective multilateral system, in accordance with international law," to address multifaceted threats and challenges facing the world today.

The document would also have

them reaffirm their commitment to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all.

"It is hoped that the decisions that will be taken at the Summit will prove to be a decisive turning point for the United Nations," said outgoing Assembly President Jean Ping of Gabon, as he wrapped up the 191-member body's work, according to the UN news Centre.

The UN secretary-general told the Assembly that the 59th session was a particularly busy one, as its end coincided with the 60th anniversary of the UN and beginning of the Summit, officially known as the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly.

The 59th Assembly thus had to do its normal business, he said, as well as prepare for this historical meeting which "will affect the identity and shape of our common

future." "More than half a century after the founding of the United Nations in 1945, it indeed was crucial for the international community to examine, in-depth, the state of our world," he said. "This is why the GA spent many meetings discussing the great problems of our times and in seeking appropriate solutions matching the expectations of our peoples."

To that end, he said, delegates worked tirelessly trying to reach consensus between divergent views on how to achieve greater development, peace and security, and the protection of human rights.

Annan hailed the adoption of a scaled-down UN reform package by the UN General Assembly, but deplored the fact that it did not contain a chapter on disarmament and non-proliferation.

"The good news is that we have

48-hr freight transport strike begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Truck-Covered Van-Tank lorry-Long vehicle-Transport Agency Owners and Workers Unity Council yesterday threatened to continue the movement to realise its 18-point demands including the reduction of fuel price.

The owners and workers observed the first day of the 48-hour countrywide strike spontaneously, a press release said.

"The government will be forced to accept our demands," convenor of the unity council Rustam Ali Khan said while presiding over a rally at the Tejgaon Truck Terminal.

President of Bangladesh Truck Owners' Association Md Tofazzal Hossain, Executive President Sayedul Haque, former executive president of Bangladesh Truck Drivers' Union Noor Mohammad, President of Transport Agency Owners' Association Mokbul Ahmed also addressed the rally.

Meanwhile our Chittagong



Tank lorries stay put at Panchabati in Fatulla yesterday, the first day of the 48-hour strike called by Bangladesh Truck-Covered Van-Tank Lorry-Long Vehicle-Transport Agency Owners' and Workers' Unity to press home their demands.

Pickpocket rewarded for tip
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira
Police on Monday rewarded Rawshan Ali, a pickpocket, for the information that helped them arrest the first August 17 bomb blasts suspect in Satkhira.

Bombs, gunmen kill 87 in Baghdad

New constitution finalised despite Sunni opposition

AFP, Baghdad

At least 87 people were killed in Baghdad Wednesday as seven suicide bombings left a trail of carnage after Iraqi leaders finally completed a draft constitution in a new milestone in the political transition.

US and Iraqi officials said 193 people were wounded in the bombings, which came a day after Iraqi President Jalal Talabani held White House talks with George W. Bush.

The deadliest attack, which accounted for 80 of the fatalities, struck in the Shiite pilgrimage district of Kadhimiyah, as day labourers gathered in the early morning waiting to be hired.

"There were dozens and dozens of people around the car when it blew up," said Satrah Jihad, a 40-year-old shopkeeper.

"I'm packing and going straight home," said a visibly-shaken Ali

Kamel, who had only arrived in the capital from the central city of Kut three days earlier to look for work.

"I saw dozens of bodies on the ground and dozens of injured people screaming," he said.

Around 10 am (0600 GMT), another suicide bomber rammed an Iraqi military convoy killing three soldiers in the Al-Adel district of west Baghdad, an Iraqi security official said.

Ten minutes later, a third bomber killed four civilians and wounded 22 in the Shula neighbourhood of northwest Baghdad, he added.

Two US soldiers were slightly hurt at 9 am when a fourth suicide bomber rammed a vehicle packed with explosives into their military Humvee in east Baghdad, a US military spokeswoman said.

At 9:10 am, a fifth bomber attacked another US convoy in the

Essentials prices spike further

SURANJIT DEBNATH

Prices of essentials including baby foods, milk, rice, vegetables, fish, meat, eggs, and spices have marked further increase at kitchen markets of the capital over the last week.

Consumers and traders have cautioned that the prices of all kinds of goods may increase further in the coming weeks especially in the Ramadan if the government does not take effective measures.

In New Market, Palashi Bazar and Karwan Bazar, most of the items were selling at higher prices yesterday compared to the last week.

The prices of baby foods and milk rose from Tk 10 to Tk 15 for each 350 to 450 gram container.

The price of rice has increased by Tk 30 to Tk 40 per maund (37kg) in the city markets.

The coarse rice now sells at Tk 18 per kg.

The prices of beans, cucumber, patal, and aubergine have remained the same as last week, while ginger,

onion, garlic, turmeric, green chillies, dried chillies, cumin, carrot, bitter gourd, tomato, potato, and other vegetables are selling at higher prices.

The price of sugar is now Tk 40 to Tk 42 per kg, which was Tk 36 to Tk 38 per kg a couple of days ago. Lentil sells at Tk 50 to 52 per kg, Tk 4 to Tk 6 up from one week ago and cumin at Tk180 to Tk 200 per kg, which was Tk 160 to Tk 170 per kg in the last week.

Price of soyabean oil has also slightly increased.

The price of eggs, which was Tk 45 to Tk 48 per dozen a week ago, is now Tk 50 to Tk 52.

Price of hilsha fish is beyond the reach of low-income people. Small hilsha fish is being sold at Tk 200 to Tk 300 per kg and medium sized at Tk 350 to Tk 450.

Prices of ruhi, katla, pangas, kalabaus, catfish and shrimp are also on rise.

Per kg ruhi sells at between Tk 90 and Tk 140, katla between Tk 85 a

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BSCIC chairman roughed up by BNP men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

BNP hoodlums allegedly at the dictat of Whip Ashraf Hossain roughed up the chairman of BSCIC (Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation) and the managing director of Khulna Hardboard Mill in Khalishpur yesterday.

The incident ensued at 11:00am when Industries Minister Matiur

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3 outlaws killed in shootouts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Three activists of outlawed Sarbahara Party, including an expoliceman, were killed during separate shootouts between the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and the Sarbahara men in Barisal and Narayanganj yesterday.

The dead were identified as Golam Dastagir Farid, 32, a former police constable accused in arms

looting case of Uttara patrol police, his brother Abdullah Al-Mamun, 30, leader of the Zia Group of Sarbahara Party and their cousin Ruhul Amin, 28.

Lieutenant Shahed of Rab said Abdullah Al-Mamun was arrested from Sanarpar of Siddhirganj under Narayanganj district on Monday.

Following his confession, police raided his paternal uncle's house at

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Prayer Timing September 15
Table with 3 columns: Time, Azan, Jamaat

Bangladesh routed

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

Showing no intent of fight and resistance Bangladeshi batsmen continued to fall like nine pins to champion off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan who grabbed six wickets for 17 in the second innings on Wednesday as Sri Lanka promptly disposed off the hapless

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Sports News Grameen Phone

