

Irate Amini decides to resign from JS, but halts at PM's request

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) lawmaker Fazlul Haq Amini yesterday stepped down from the Jatiya Sangsad over a strained relations with the government, but then decided to put it on hold until today following a prime ministerial request.

The leader of the IOJ, which formed an electoral coalition with the BNP at the forefront, took the decision to protest what he called

the government's reluctance to evaluate his party and excessive facilities to Jamaat-e-Islami.

The resignation decision, thought to be a turn in the coalition politics, stemmed from a heated debate between Amini and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who was presiding over a meeting of four-party alliance leaders at her office, said highly placed sources.

Amini, elected from Brahmanbaria-2 on the BNP

plank, was the lone lawmaker from the IOJ, a partner of the ruling alliance. The IOJ has recently split into two factions -- one led by Azizul Haq and the other by Amini.

At the meeting Khaleda called to exchange views with the alliance leaders on the current situation of Bangladesh, Amini took the floor first at 1:30pm and said the government did not evaluate the role, sacrifice and contribution of IOJ during the anti-Awami

League movement and last general elections.

Later, Amini told reporters reflecting on the meeting that the prime minister did not give due importance to the IOJ even after more than two years into the government.

"We fought on the streets together, but you and your government are giving facilities only to the government."

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More surprise at ammo spot

11,050 bullets, 12kg explosives found in Bogra pond

ANWAR ALI, Bogra

Police and the paramilitary BDR seized 11,050 more bullets and 12 kg of explosives from different ditches in Kahalu and apparently established the gunrunners' route yesterday.

With the busts, the munition count rose to 93,192 bullets and 180 kg of explosives and police believe they were on the way to guerrillas in Nepal from a Tripura-based separatist outfit.

Most of yesterday's haul was found in the pond of Shahjahan, an Awami League (AL) adherent, at Jogarpara. The relatives of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) activist Abdul Zabbar dumped the cache there at dawn.

Zabbar's wife Rawshan Ara was arrested on Tuesday after police found a large chunk of the cache in the septic tank of her house.

Some 750 bullets were retrieved from a roadside ditch at Baromail on Tuesday midnight.

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PHOTO: STAR

Divers pop up with bag full of bullets in a pond at Jogarpara village in Bogra yesterday. Police and paramilitary BDR recovered 93,192 bullets and 180kg explosives from the village over the last few days.

14 Hizbut Tawhid men arrested in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Fourteen activists of an Islamic organisation named Hizbut Tawhid were arrested at Harinakundu in Jhenidah on Wednesday, police said.

The arrestees are Manik, 18, Mahub Ali, 50, Mizanur Rahman, 32, Alimul, 23, Faruq, 25, Mahub alias Sona, 24, Rabiul Islam, 25, Azim Sheikh, 29, Liton, 22, Ibadat Hossain, 22, Rafiqul Islam, 20, Sohag, 12, Maznu, 25 and Ataul, 20. Most of them are from Kusthia.

Police arrested the Islamic radicals while they were distributing leaflets of their organisation at the Harinakundu upazila headquarters in the evening.

A case was lodged with the Harinakundu Police Station. The arrestees were produced before a magistrate's court at Jhenidah yesterday. The court rejected their bail and sent them to jail custody.

Ershad, Toab Khan sued; arrest warrant against Janakantha editor in another case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A case was filed yesterday against former president H M Ershad and Advisory Editor of the Daily Janakantha Toab Khan.

The Bureau of Anti-corruption (BAC) filed the case with the Motijheel Police Station in connection with the allocation of a plot to Toab Khan in 1988.

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Corrigendum

In our yesterday's story headlined "US has no plan for military base in Bangladesh", it was inadvertently mentioned that Washington is committed to signing a repatriation treaty with Bangladesh. In fact, it would be extradition treaty. We regret the error.

Brother-in-law to walk gallows for killing Don

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A tribunal yesterday sentenced to death the brother-in-law of Don for killing the five-year-old child.

The convict, Mohammad Ripon, 20, has also been fined Tk50,000. He can appeal to the High Court

against the verdict within seven days.

The Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 in Dhaka delivered the 22-page judgment at 12:40pm in a crowded courtroom amidst beeping up security. The trial ended in 42 working days.

Ripon, who was in the dock, looked composed as Judge Shahed Noor Uddin handed down the death penalty.

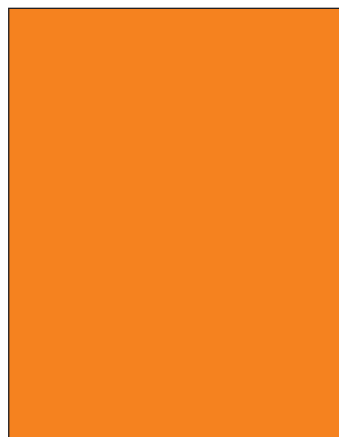
The tribunal said Ripon killed in cold blood his brother-in-law Rubel alias Don aged five years and four

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PHOTO: STAR

Police take Mohammad Ripon to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday after a tribunal sentenced him to death for killing a five-year-old child.



Don

Five additional judges of HC get job confirmation

AGENCIES, Dhaka

Five additional judges of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court were confirmed yesterday as permanent judges.

President Iajuddin Ahmed confirmed them under Article 95 (1) of the constitution.

The newly appointed judges are Sheikh Rezwana Ali, Mohammad Anwarul Huq, Nazrul Islam

Chowdhury, Syed Mohammad Dastagir Hossain and Mirza Hossain Haider, according to an official handout.

Sheikh Rezwana Ali and Anwarul Huq come from the judicial service while others from the legal profession.

The judges are likely to be sworn in today.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary

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Don's parents satisfied with verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Satisfied with the judgement, Don's parents hope that it will act as a deterrent to killing of children, while Ripon, the convict, finds 'no ground to hang him'.

"I am satisfied with the punishment awarded to Ripon," Don's mother Ruby Begum said, but she believes Ripon's mother Gulnazar Khatun should not have been spared.

"That woman induced her son (Ripon) to grab our property and Ripon, finding Don a big obstacle

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PHOTO: STAR

The iron bumper of the car, left, in which Dr Shahjahan Ali got tangled before being dragged to death by a hit-and-run driver has mysteriously vanished. Such protruding bumpers, right, may cause fatal accidents anytime.

Agitating Biman employees stops flights for 4 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agitating Biman employees barred flights from taking off at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) for more than four hours following arrest of four fellow officials.

Four Biman officials were arrested in connection with foreign currency recovery from a toilet at ZIA recently. Police picked them up yesterday on the basis of a case.

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Police still to net killer driver

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even after 35 hours, police failed to find the whereabouts of the car driver who knocked down a doctor from his motorcycle and dragged him to death.

The duty officer of the Mohammadpur Police Station said that one of the officers had gone to Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) in the morning but is yet to come up with any result.

The duty officer did not confirm

whether they have the address of the car driver. Sources said police were not serious about arresting the driver who brutally killed the doctor.

The body of Dr. Mohammad Shahjahan Ali, 40, a medical officer at the Pongu Hospital, was sent to his native village at Natore for burial.

Physicians and employees of Pongu Hospital will take out a procession from Pongu Hospital to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) today.

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Iron bumpers to be taken off cars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda has directed the traffic department of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police to remove extra iron bumpers from all vehicles in the capital, to start with.

A drive to this end will be conducted first in Dhaka and then in other areas, the minister added.

"We cannot allow such an accident because of bumper, which claimed the life of a doctor in the city

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