



Sentenced to death, Yunus, left, and Rubel, middle, and imprisoned to life, Ibrahim, right, being taken out of court after the verdict in the baby Ratna murder case yesterday.

Khaleda meets Amini Tuesday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has agreed to meet leaders of the Fazlul Haq Amini-led Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), a partner of the ruling alliance, at her office on Tuesday to listen to their grievances.

The appointment was fixed following the IOJ's seven-day 'ultimatum' given on July 3 to meet its demands or face the resignation of its lawmaker Amini from the Jatiya Sangsad (JS).

"The IOJ leaders sought an appointment with the prime minister and accordingly time has been given at 1:30pm on Tuesday," said Prime Minister's Political Secretary Mosaddak Ali.

Amini declared his decision to step down from the JS during a meeting of the top leaders of the four-party alliance with the prime minister on July 2 for not giving

him or anyone from his party any ministerial job.

Later, the IOJ put off the resignation for a week after a meeting of its highest policymaking body, Majlish-e-Sura.

Sources said the Majlish-e-Sura discussed demands to be raised before the prime minister and prepared a draft.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, IOJ leader Ahalullah Wasel said the party does not want representation in the cabinet, but is serious about resolving some of its 'genuine' demands.

He said the IOJ leaders, during their meeting with PM on Tuesday, will place over a dozen demands and press for their early implementation.

The demands include cancellation of the law related to 'fatwa', trial of the killing that took place at

BNP, allies hold rally, procession today to protest against AL acts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling BNP-led four-party alliance will hold rallies and bring out processions across the country today to drum up support against the 'anarchy, violence and other destructive activities by the opposition'.

The BNP and its allies -- Jammāt-e-Islami, Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) and Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) -- will organise joint rallies and processions in all district headquarters.

In Dhaka, the alliance will hold a rally at Muktangan at 4:00pm and secretaries general of the four parties will address the rally.

The programme was finalised at the July 2 meeting of top leaders of the alliance with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair.

BNP sources said today's rally has been shifted to Muktangan f

Blast in Iraq kills 7 US-trained cops

AFP, Baghdad

Seven Iraqi police recruits were killed and as many as 45 others wounded in an explosion after training yesterday in the town of Ramadi, Iraqi police and a US military spokesman said.

Ramadi police chief Jadam al-Awani said the recruits were finishing their third day of training when the blast struck. He put the number of dead at seven, adding that as many as 45 people were wounded by the blast.

"The Americans had left half an hour before the explosion," he added.

The US military spokesman said initial reports indicated that "up to seven Iraqi police recruits were killed and possibly up to 40 Iraqis wounded."

"We don't specifically know (what caused the blast) but it was some type of explosion," he said, asking not to be identified. The officer said there were no reports of

any US casualties.

One of the wounded recruits, Imad Adel, 18, said there had been as many as 80 recruits at the training centre at the time of the blast.

He said he believed the explosion to have been caused by a bomb placed in a white bag that he had seen leaning against a lamp post outside the base.

"Our supervisor investigated the bag. A few minutes later a car sped away and then there was an explosion," he said.

According to a doctor at the scene, Maan Yunis, the majority of those injured were suffering shrapnel wounds to the legs.

An AFP correspondent saw several discarded shoes lying on the ground, covered in blood.

One resident, Kamal Abdul Razzak, a civil servant, said police recruits had received threats not to cooperate with the US authorities i

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Ban on sending female workers abroad to go

RAFIQ HASAN

The ban on sending female workers abroad is set to go with the government sorting out the details before giving permission to recruiting agencies.

Government permitting, around two lakh female workers can get employment in Saudi Arabia alone within a very short time, said sources, adding that remittance earning could go up by Tk 1,500 crore a year in that case.

The ban in 1998 followed reports of misconduct and breach of job contract by foreign employers and recruiting agents.

The government has prepared a policy guideline detailing various pre-conditions and criteria for getting permission to send female workers abroad, mainly to oil rich

Middle Eastern countries, as domestic help or baby-sitters.

The guideline would be published very soon, and applications would be formally sought then from qualified recruiting agencies for the permission, sources said.

As per the guideline, a recruiting agent has to have a training centre in Dhaka and maintain an office for 24 hours in the host country so that it can promptly take legal actions in case of any untoward incidents.

Age of female workers must have to be above 35 years and one with spouse will get priority. The job contract has to be for more than two years covered with insurance. The employer shall also bear the first time home travelling cost of w o r k

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Major shake-ups on the cards in missions abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to bring about major changes in Bangladesh missions in a number of countries to strengthen economic and diplomatic ties with them.

Sources said poor performance of a number of mission chiefs and other diplomats has prompted the move to go for changes. These diplomats were appointed either during the Awami League rule or shortly after the BNP came to power.

The prime minister herself is annoyed with the performance of some political appointees, the sources mentioned.

Diplomats who have completed

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Remove extra bumpers from vehicles by July 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has asked vehicle owners to remove all extra bumpers from motorised vehicles by July 10.

"Remove all additional bumpers from rear and front of vehicles plying the city by 6:00pm of July 10," DMP Commissioner Ashraf Huda said yesterday.

After the time limit, legal action will be taken against the vehicles and its drivers for non-compliance, he added.

The DMP commissioner noted fatal accidents are taking place as a good number of vehicles ply the city streets with extra bumpers.

Clause 42 of the Vehicles Act says attaching extra bumper is a punishable act, the commissioner said.

The order followed the killing of an Orthopaedic Hospital doctor by a car driver who did not stop driving though the physician's leg got hooked in the bumper on busy Mirpur Road on July 1.

Judges' appointment SC Bar body asks govt for talks to resolve crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday urged the government to initiate a dialogue within two weeks involving the chief justice, prime minister and president to resolve the crisis over the appointment of High Court judges.

A meeting of the Bar, held at its office yesterday with its President Rokonuddin Mahmud in the chair, made the call as it yesterday boycotted both High Court and Appellate divisions of the Supreme Court on the issue.

The meeting urged the government to resolve the crisis to restore the 'fast eroding confidence of the public in the judiciary'.

It called for immediate restoration of the long-standing conven

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The Supreme Court Bar Association hold a rally yesterday during its boycott of the High Court and Appellate divisions of the SC on the issue of appointment of judges.

Dhaka outskirts start to go under flood waters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Flood situation in the north-western districts worsened yesterday and swelling rivers are likely to inundate parts of three central districts -- Narayanganj, Manikganj and Munshiganj -- in the next two days.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said yesterday low-lying areas on the outskirts of the capital are being submerged due to slow but steady rise of the local rivers.

Reports said flood situation in Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Jamalpur, Sirajganj and Tangail continued to deteriorate. In many areas, gushing waters washed away houses, schools and shops. Erosion by swelling rivers aggravated the situation at places.

The FFWC said the Brahmaputra-Jamuna continued to rise at all points except at Bahadurabad, but the rise slowed down. The Ganges-Padma also continued to rise at all points. Most of the rivers in the Meghna and the South Eastern Hill basins

fell further yesterday.

Out of 85 monitoring points on the rivers, 38 recorded rise and 28 fall. The rivers were flowing above danger level at 12 points.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent reported that flood and river erosion have damaged houses in eight villages in Kazipur upazila, rendering about 15,000 people of 3,000 families homeless.

Most of the victims are passing their days under the open sky.

The villages are Shovogacha, Shovogacha Moddhapara, Doyel, Tarakandi, Borosima, Birshovogacha and Amon Meher.

The swelling Jamuna eroded at least 10 primary schools and a high school.

The river also eroded a big market -- Ratan Kandi haat-- in Sadar upazila.

Vast areas of Sirajganj Sadar, Belkuchi, Chowhali and Shahjapur uazila have also been inundated.

According to the upazila nirbahi

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Trader shot dead, house robbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals shot dead a garment by-product trader at Ibrahimpur in Kafrul Friday.

Four local youths called Liton, the victim, out of his Kochukhet residence at about 6:00pm. They took him to old Sonali Bank at Ibrahimpur on a rickshaw and sprayed at least seven bullets on him at about 9:15pm. He died on the spot.

Police recovered the body and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy the same night.

Liton's brother received his body from the DMCH after the autopsy yesterday.

Liton was accused in two cases including a murder case filed with the Kafrul Police Station, police said.

The victim's mother Sajeda Khatun filed a case with the Kafrul Police Station yesterday accusing nine including Billal, Dipu, Sumon, Ali Mian, Cheater Rony, Sattar, Tanvir and Liton.

Police arrested two suspected killers of Liton with one revolver, two pistols and 39 rounds of bullet from North Ibrahimpur yesterday

noon.

Police caught one Rajib and recovered the arms and ammunition from his knapsack.

Following information squeezed from him, police arrested the Liton accused in the case from the same

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2 held with M-16 rifle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) arrested two persons with an M-16 rifle and 73 rounds of ammunition from Baishari under Naikhongchhari Friday.

Acting on a tip off, the BDR first recovered 20 rounds of ammunition from Ching Ha Mong Marma's residence in the evening.

According to Marma's information, they later recovered an M-16 rifle and 53 more bullets from Mong Ching Marma's house.

The BDR arrested them on charge of possessing illegal arms.

A case has been filed, police said.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
July 06		6-50 pm
July 07	5-16 am	

Prayer Timings		
July 06		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-20
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		