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PHOTO: STAR

Police search a restaurant beside Atharobaki river in Khulna after two cops were killed and dumped into the river by outlaws.

Outlaws kill 2 Khulna cops, throw bodies into river

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Gunmen of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) yesterday killed two policemen of the Rupsha Police Station at the crowded Bamanadanga Bazaar, only yards from a police camp.

After gunning down their victims, Sub-Inspector Shamsul Huq and Havildar Abu Bakr, the killers carried their bodies and threw them into the Atharobaki river. They also took away the motor cycle of the SI, shouting slogans in favour of the PBCP, witnesses said.

Policemen from the Shiali Police Camp took 15 minutes to come to the spot, only to see the killers had already escaped, local people said. With yesterday's murders, six cops have been killed in the last four months in Khulna.

The armed cadres, apparently in their mid 20's and six to eight in number, sprayed bullets from sawn-off rifles on the two policemen at about 10:30am and threatened people present at the bazaar with further attacks if they moved and raised alarm, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of the Rupsha Police Station and witnesses said.

The OC said the SI and havildar left for Bamanadanga Bazaar

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Noose for Pasha for killing two brothers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A court in Dhaka yesterday sentenced Kamal Pasha, one of the 23 top criminals listed by police, to death for killing two brothers within 30 minutes in Mohammadpur on May 5, 2000.

Pasha called out brothers Mohammad Ali alias Ribel and Ashfaq Hossain alias Jewel of their residence and gunned them down in two separate places.

The court of Metropolitan Additional Sessions Judge Shamsul

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PHOTO: STAR

Parents, left, of Ribel and Jewel who were killed in Mohammadpur by Kamal Pasha, right, at the court yesterday.

IOJ gives govt 7 days to meet its demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) yesterday gave the government seven days to meet its demands clearing the way for its lawmaker Fazlul Haq Amin to backtrack on his resignation from the Jatiya Sangsad.

The IOJ came up with the decision at a *Majlish-e-Sura* meeting

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Clarification

The law ministry yesterday clarified a statement of Law Minister Moudud Ahmed carried in The Daily Star Wednesday headlined, "Five additional judges of HC get job confirmation".

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Dhaka for go-slow over sending troops

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh prefers to go-slow on the question of sending its troops to war-torn Iraq, with the government still scrutinising various aspects of the move.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell, who came to Dhaka on June 19, requested the government to

make appropriate judgement on deployment of Bangladesh troops in Iraq under UNSC resolution 1483.

"We've not arrived at any decision yet. It is (resolution) still under careful scrutiny," Foreign Secretary Shamsur Mobin Chowdhury told this week's news briefing at the foreign office yesterday.

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Cache involvement by chance?

ROVING CORRESPONDENT, Kahalu

Local investigators believe the residents of Jogarpara and nearby areas in Kahalu upazila of Bogra, who have been charged with illegal possession of ammunition and explosives, had 'unknowingly' found themselves involved in the crime.

In a string of busts since the night of June 27, police and BDR men seized 93,192 bullets and 180kg explosives, which a group of villagers stashed in ditches and ponds after pilfering them from an abandoned truck.

Police found the villagers too poor to manage their daily meals and their mud houses almost

empty. "The villagers have no chairs to give our forces to sit on," said a policeman, deployed in the Jogarpara village after the biggest ever haul in Bangladesh.

Kahalu police got nothing but a few tumbledown tin-sheds, when they came to the village to attach the property of local Awami League leader Sayed Akhlakur Rahman Pintu, accused of involvement in the incident.

Pintu was dependent on his wife, who rears a cow and works as a maid at others' houses, said Kahalu police.

The economic condition of the BNP worker Abdul Zabbar, also accused in the same case, is not well

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ntv goes on air

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fourth private television channel, ntv (National Television), started its journey yesterday.

President Iajuddin Ahmed pressed the button of its remote transmission panel set up at a local hotel to launch the channel's transmission last evening.

Information Minister Tariqul Islam was also present as the special guest of the programme.

The inauguration ceremony was aired live.

"Viewers will love our programmes as ntv will keep in mind their choices," Managing Director of ntv, M Enayetur

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150 conditions for more IDA credit

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government will have to fulfil nearly 150 conditions in the next two years to get increased loans from the World Bank's soft-loan wing, the International Development Association (IDA).

One of the conditions dictates that the government will need to fully implement the Supreme Court's directive on separation of the judiciary by July 2005.

Another stipulates announcement of a voluntary retirement scheme for civil servants by the same timeframe.

The WB Board approved \$ 300 million as development support credit to Bangladesh on June 19. In the credit programme document, the bank pointed out the steps to

be taken by the government by the next two years -- FY04 and FY05.

The government has already fulfilled 50 conditions, which the WB terms 'prior actions' to obtain the credit.

It would get another \$350 million for poverty alleviation programmes if the government fulfilled additional conditions by FY04 and FY05. This would also qualify the government for getting WB loans in other sectors.

Unlike in the past, the WB this time gave the loan in a single tranche, "since experience with multi-tranche adjustment operations in Bangladesh in the early-to-mid 1990s was not good... it is intended that the credit will be disbursed in a single tranche, upon

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