

2 Algerian diplomats kidnapped in Iraq

14 Iraqis killed in violence

AFP, AP, Baghdad

Algeria's charge d'affaires in Iraq and a colleague were kidnapped in Baghdad as two suicide car bombings and a string of other attacks in and around Baghdad yesterday killed 14 people, Algerian and Iraqi officials said.

Charge d'affaires Ali Belaroussi and Ezzedin Ben Kadi were nabbed from their car.

"I was on the other side of the main road when I saw people in two cars pull the men out of their car and take them. No shots were fired," a third Algerian diplomat, Abdel

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Hotel Agrabad fined for unhygienic food

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court yesterday punished 14 hotels and restaurants including the three-star Hotel Agrabad for unhygienic food, dirty atmosphere and failure to produce proper trade licence.

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Prayer Timing		
July 22		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-15	4-50
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

4 robber cops held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four policemen including an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) were arrested yesterday in the city for snatching 13.5 kilogram silver ornaments and extorting Tk 28,000 from two employees of a jewellery house.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police with the help of Kotwali police nabbed ASI Khalilullah, Nayek (non-commissioned officer) Abdul Bari and constables Shamsuzzaman and Korban Ali in a case filed by Sohel Rana, who works at City Silver House at Tantibazar. Another accused constable, Rafiq, is on the run.

In the first information report (FIR), Rana said he and his colleague Habib were going to their shop by a rickshaw when five policemen stopped them at Tantibazar

crossing at 11:30am. The policemen dragged Habib down from the rickshaw and found the silver in his bag.

"They seized the ornaments. ASI Khalilullah then asked me to pay Tk 50,000 or he would implicate me in a false arms case," Rana told The Daily Star.

According to the FIR, Rana rushed to his shop, brought Tk 28,000 from Ripon, manager of the jewellery house, and handed it over to Khalilullah. But, when he asked the ASI to return the silver, he refused and said, "We have snatched the goods."

Rana then filed the case against the five policemen with Kotwali Police Station under the Speedy Trial (Law and Order Disruption) Act. After the arrest, the DB police recovered Tk 25,100 from a rice wholesaler.

The police produced the four arrestees before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka in the afternoon with a prayer for 5-day remand to learn about the loot. Magistrate Shafiq Anwar granted a 3-day remand.

Lately, snatching and extortion by law enforcers have become a frequent incident. On June 29, Sergeant Zulfikar Ali robbed a businessman of Tk 14.47 lakh at Bijoynagar. He has been remanded thrice and then sent to jail, but the booty is yet to be recovered.

Three policemen were arrested on April 10 at Shyampur for extorting from the owner of an auto-rickshaw garage and SI Hafizur Rahman of the Rapid Action Battalion was held on March 3 at Khilgaon for robbing a rice wholesaler.

Natwar Singh arrives Aug 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh will arrive in Dhaka on August 6 on a two-day official visit at the invitation of his Bangladesh counterpart M Morshed Khan, a highly placed source at the foreign ministry said.

This will be the first ministerial-level visit from India after the Congress-led alliance assumed power.

The source said that entire range of bilateral issues would come up for discussion during official talks between Morshed Khan and Natwar Singh.

Besides, vital issues relating to the Saarc summit in Dhaka, scheduled for November, and proposed UN Security Council reforms may also come up prominently during the official talks.

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PHOTO: STAR

A mother cradling her sleeping child sets out a journey towards uncertainty yesterday after the Public Works Department bulldozed their slum in Kachukhet in the capital on Wednesday.

BANGLADESHIS Deportation result of Saudi crackdown on illegals

RAFIQ HASAN

home, said sources.

Some 700 such Bangladeshis returned home on Wednesday. Earlier, many others had been sent back from the Saudi deportation camps.

There are deportation camps almost in every city in the kingdom, the sources said.

The hauling of undocumented workers is a normal phenomenon in the country, but the authorities have intensified the raids under a security

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JS body finds graft in Tengratila handover

Says jt venture with Niko sans PSC caused huge loss to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday observed that the country has faced a huge financial loss due to rampant corruption in handing over of the Tengratila gas field to Niko Resources Ltd through joint venture instead of production sharing contract (PSC).

The standing committee on Public Undertakings also asked Petrobangla, the state-run oil, gas and mineral corporation, to accelerate the process to realise compen-

sation from Niko for the Tengratila gas field blowout.

"There were irregularities and corruption at every stage including the agreement with Niko," committee member Faruk Khan told The Daily Star last night.

A four-member team of the

Public Undertakings Committee yesterday went to Petrobangla to have a briefing on the Tengratila gas field disaster. Chaired by committee Chairman Abdul Aleem, the meeting was also attended by Colonel

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6th Wage Board constituted

Bss, Dhaka

The government yesterday constituted the Sixth Wage Board for journalists, press workers and general employees of newspapers and news agencies.

The wage board has been formed under Clause 9 of the Newspaper Employees (conditions of service) Act 1974 (rule 30 of 1974) with retired Appellate Division Judge M Fazlul Haque as its chairman, while two children drowned in floodwaters in Gaibandha.

However, the situation in Sherpur and Kurigram remained static.

According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), the flood situation in Kurigram, Nilphamari, Gaibandha and Sylhet may deteriorate further while the situation in Sunamganj and Netrokona is likely to improve.

Other members of the board are SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

Flooding continues to deteriorate

BDNEWS, Dhaka

and Southeastern hill basins registered a further rise yesterday.

In Sirajganj, the flood situation deteriorated, as the river Jamuna recorded a further rise by 5cm at Sirajganj point.

Sources at the District Flood Control Office said a total of 44 unions, including 10 unions in Sadar upazila, 11 in Kazipur, six in Belkuchi, five in Tarash, four in Shahjadpur, four in Ulupara, three in Chouhali and one in Royganj, have been flooded.

According to an unofficial estimate, more than two lakh people of 60 unions have been marooned in the district. The official figure of the affected people is 1.22 lakh.

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