

# My personal letter

**FROM PAGE 1**  
sense of endeavour and creativity can achieve the impossible if political goodwill, competent leadership and good governance can be established. If I have to form a political party in response to the people's desire, it will be dedicated to this very objective.

I have received pure love and respect from people of all ages ranging from the poorest to the most powerful, I do not know when again a Bangladeshi individual will have this good fortune. By the grace of Allah, I am a very fortunate man. There is nothing left for me to desire. I know that joining politics is to become controversial. I am ready to take the risk if you think me joining politics will help in ushering of a new political climate.

It is high time to form the proper political structure conducive to the huge task of building a Bangladesh we all dream of, by freeing ourselves from all past frustrations. I need the active participation and assistance of you and all others like you if I have to go forward with this mission. I need your advice on how I should go forward. I also want to know how you want to participate and assist in this task. The efforts of you and me to realise everybody's desire for a new politics in order to build a new Bangladesh will get strength if these can be learnt from you in the form of a letter.

You can give your advice in your own style on any topic regarding the formation of a new political party. I can point out some topics as examples: a) how the party can stay involved with the people of all villages and neighbourhoods and work to realise their expectations; b) how the party can be helpful to the common people in their daily struggle and in solving their problems; c) how the organisations of the party can be built on the basis of spontaneous devotion of men and women of all ages and professions; d) what can be done to encourage the eager, enthusiastic, honest and competent people of all levels to align with the party and to become active in it; e) how the honest and competent among them, having public support, can be nominated for different local and national elections; f) how we can ensure transparency and honesty of all the people involved with the party, and of the party itself; g) how democracy can be established within the party; h) how can the flow of opinions directly from the grassroots level be ensured; and i) how the officials and employees serving in state institutions can be prevented from turning into activists of political parties -- your thoughts and advice on many such questions are vital.

At the same time, it is important to know what role you (and your friends) can play in the party, how you can actively contribute or support, is also very important to know.

For example, you can play the role: a) of a member of a village or neighbourhood-level organisation; b) of a pioneer of the party's welfare initiatives; c) of a local organiser; d) of an organiser of a community organisation; e) of an activist taking party calls widely among the people; f) of an adviserresearchertheoretician for the party; g) you can contribute to the party by using your special skills or expert knowledge in its service; h) by taking a leadership role in popularising the party as an enthusiastic supporter; i) by demonstrating your organising power; and so on.

I want to know your opinion and get your advice whether you are a political leader, activist, leader or worker of an association or organisation, industrialist, businessman, professor, teacher, shopkeeper, farmer, labourer, artist-writer-thinker, professional, journalist, service holder, housewife, teenager, youth or an expatriate Bangladeshi.

Please write a short or detail personal reply to my letter. Your friends, all members of your family, neighbours, classmates and colleagues can also put in their thoughts in the same letter. You can reply through email and distribute copies of it among all your acquaintances. You can also send a short reply through SMS and encourage all your acquaintances to do the same. You can send copies of my letter to your relatives and friends abroad and encourage them to reply. It will not be possible to come out clean from old politics if a strong momentum for a new politics is not created. We will not be able to reach our goal with feeble support.

I hope my letter and your reply to it will only be the beginning of our sincere communication. The communication established will be able to go forward actively towards a common goal from now on.

You can use my following address to send your reply or may arrange to send it to me in any other way.

Contact Address:  
Dr Muhammad Yunus  
HAL Mars  
6/D, 66 Outer Circular Road  
Moghbaraz, Dhaka 1217  
Fax: 9334656  
Email: prof.yunus@gmail.com, dryunus2006@yahoo.com  
You can call the following numbers for inquiries about the letter: 01713082277, 01717760870  
Waiting for your reply.

With thanks and greetings,  
Muhammad Yunus  
February 11, 2007  
(Translated from Bangla by The Daily Star)

# AKM Mosharraf

**FROM PAGE 16**  
and other facilities in jail.  
Mosharraf was sent to jail on Friday, as hearing on his bail petition was not held. He was taken in following a GD filed under the Emergency Powers Rules 2007.

Our Netrakona correspondent adds: Durgapur magistrate court in Netrakona yesterday sent LDP presidential member and former lawmaker MA Karim Abbasi to Netrakona jail after rejecting his bail prayer.

Police produced Abbasi before the court with a home ministry proposal for a 30-day detention.

Abbasi was the president of Netrakona district BNP for 15 years and elected MP in Netrakona-1 (Kalmakanda and Durgapur upazila) constituency in 1991 and 2001 from BNP ticket. He was also the whip of Jatuya Sangsad from 1991 to 1996.

He left BNP and joined the LDP on October 26 in 2006 accusing the BNP leaders, especially former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar of massive corruption.

Our Noakhali correspondent reports: The joint forces arrested Bashurhat municipality commissioner, also Poura AL vice-president ABM Siddiq with a pipe-gun and two bombs early yesterday.

# Maniruddin resigns

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have to provide a month's notice before he resigns.

He requested the president to take necessary actions as per rules and regulations, he told The Daily Star, adding that he is now waiting for the president's decision.

Maniruddin admitted that as ACC commissioners they had failed to meet the people's expectations to effectively combat corruption.

Earlier on Tuesday, President Iajuddin Ahmed asked Justice Sultan Hossain Khan, Maniruzzaman Miah and Maniruddin to resign.

Justice Sultan and Miah resigned from their posts of ACC chairman and commissioner, but Maniruddin did not follow suit.

A few former officials of the defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac), who were not given appointment in the ACC, put a lock on Maniruddin's office door and accused him of grievous irregularities and corruption.

Maniruddin, however, said the accusations are false and that he never received or siphoned off money from the funds allocated for anti-corruption investigations.

He said Tk 5 lakh was withdrawn for this purpose in full accordance with the law, and that six officers were given

# BSF kills farmer

**BSS, Rangpur**

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) killed a Bangladeshi farmer yesterday initiating gunfire between the BSF and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) on Amjal border under Hatibandha upazila in Lalmonirhat.

Sources said the dead Abdul Karim, 25, son of Mujibur Rahman of frontier village Amjal, was irrigating Boro field inside Bangladesh territory near Doikhaowa BDR outpost in the morning.

BSF troops of Lal Bazar camp under Koochbehar 6 BSF Battalion illegally intruded into Bangladesh territory and shot dead Karim without any provocation, sources added.

# CA assures

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forward through achieving economic progress," he said.

Fakhruddin said this when visiting members of the UK House of Lords Baroness Paula Uddin and Lord Nazir Ahmed called on him in his office.

The chief adviser reiterated that his government's main objectives are to hold a credible election and keep the wheels of economy moving.

Referring to corruption, he said the caretaker government has already taken steps against the corrupt people and to create an environment for holding the elections free from any influence of black money.

He said the arrested persons, including the politicians, would be treated as per the law of the land. "The government is very conscious in this regard, he added.

When asked about the timeframe for holding the elections, Fakhruddin said it would depend on the reforms required in the election process.

Lauding the role of the present caretaker government, Baroness Paula Uddin said the Bangladeshi community in the UK has extended its whole-hearted support to the steps taken by the caretaker government.

"Both the Bangladeshi community and the UK government feel that you are in the right track," she told the chief adviser.

The Bangladeshi-born baroness also said that in this situation the British investors as well as the expatriate Bangladeshis have expressed willingness to invest in the country in a true sense under the "able leadership" of Fakhruddin.

Expressing gratitude to the expatriate Bangladeshis in the UK, Fakhruddin said the support of the Bangladeshi community will inspire the caretaker government in completing its tasks.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury and UK High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Chowdhury were present on the occasion.

# Dr Kamal

**FROM PAGE 16**  
magistrate yesterday for its trial.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Jalal Ahmed transferred the case to the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shamsul Alam.

The other defendants in the case are former Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) secretary Enayetur Rahim, former SCBA vice-president Subrata Chowdhury, barrister Tania Amir and advocates Sheikh Awsfar Rahman, Subrata Saha, Khairul Alam Pipul, Mohammad Khasruzzaman, Suhrawardi, Syed Mamun Mahbub and Habibur Rahman, an outsider.

Of them, Habibur Rahman is still at large and the authorities concerned had earlier published an advertisement in the dailies asking him to surrender within seven days from the day of publication of the advertisement.

On December 22 last year, Detective Branch (DB) of Police Inspector Naimur Rahman, also the investigation officer (IO), pressed charges against 13 including Dr Kamal, Amir and Rakan, showing 28 people as prosecution witnesses.

Barrister Omar Sadat, son-in-law of BNP leader and former minister Shahjahan Siraj, filed the case with the CMM's Court on December 4 against four lawyers and 50 to 60 unidentified people, including lawyers, for vandalising the offices of the chief justice and the attorney general and disturbing court proceedings on November 30.

Those named in the complaint were Rakanuddin Mahmud, Enayetur Rahim, Subrata Chowdhury and Sheikh Awsfar Rahman.

The IO, however, pressed charges against Dr Kamal and eight others, as evidence leading to their involvement in the incident was allegedly found during the investigation of the case.

Omar Sadat in his complaint said Rakan asked the accused lawyers and outsiders to vandalise the chief justice's office, courtrooms, other public property, and threaten the attorney general.

The vandalism on the SC premises took place after the chief justice stayed the proceedings of three writ petitions minutes before a HC bench was about to issue a rule on a writ challenging the legality of the president taking the post of chief adviser to the caretaker government.

Leaders of the 14-party alliance and other political parties filed the writ petitions that also challenged the chief adviser's activities and announcement of the schedule for the general elections.

# VoIP licensing

**FROM PAGE 1**  
facility now as most VoIP operators have suspended their operations. The BTTC system cannot provide the same facility."

In other words, the BTTC cannot provide enough mobile interconnections. "But we are considering an increase of interconnections to end this problem," he said.

Headed by Saiful Islam, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) professor of electrical and electronics department, the committee has held several meetings and its members are taking opinions of various IT experts.

It is expected to file its recommendations to the government after February 15 and that recommendation would be materialised by the BTTC and the Bangladesh Telecom Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

Sources said the committee emphasises on setting up a common platform to ensure transparency in the VoIP operation.

The move to set up this platform was initiated in mid-2006, but it underwent three rounds of tender bids without any achievement. The present situation demands that both the VoIP licences be awarded soon and the common platform be ready to operate to ensure maximum revenue for the country.

However, the creation of this platform may take another six months.

Meanwhile, a few IT experts, internet service providers (ISPs), and Public Switch Telephone Network (PSTN) operators association appealed to the committee to limit the licences to Bangladeshi companies only.

They said the mobile companies owned by foreign investors repatriate hundreds of millions of dollars as profit, and VoIP licences will only increase that profit.

"They would continue to enjoy growth even if VoIP licences are not awarded to them as 90 percent of international calls are terminated through mobile phones anyway," said an IT expert.

"Our young generation has somehow learnt how to operate in this area--it is time we gave them an opportunity for our own sake," he added.

Other members of the committee are Buet electrical and electronics

# Phulbari movement

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Five Left Party in another press release said during the BNP-Jamaat regime, people sacrificed their lives in August last year to have the contracts between the government and Asia Energy cancelled.

Central leaders of the party including Tipu Biswas, Abdul Matin Talukder, Moshrefa Mishu and Jonaed Saki in the statement demanded immediate release of Nuruzzaman and the cancellation of all contract with Asia Energy that go against public interest.

Gonomukti Andolan and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal also condemned the arrest of Nuruzzaman in separate statements.

# Local govt polls

**FROM PAGE 1**  
corporations early in May this year as the tenure of Dhaka City Corporation will expire on May 14 while tenure of Rajshahi and Khulna city corporations on June 16 this year, sources at the EC Secretariat said.

The last election to Dhaka City Corporation was held on April 24, 2002 while the elections to Rajshahi and Khulna were held on April 25. The first meeting of Dhaka City Corporation was held on May 15 and Rajshahi on June 17 and Khulna on June 27 in 2002. As per the laws, the five-year tenure of a city corporation is counted from the day it holds the first meeting.

Meanwhile, tenure of Sylhet City Corporation will expire on May 5 in 2008, Barisal City Corporation on May 9 the same year, and Chittagong City Corporation on June 25, 2010.

Officials at the EC Secretariat said they had planned to start preparation for holding the elections to the three city corporations after completion of the ninth parliamentary election scheduled on January 22.

But following the declaration of state of emergency on January 11, all elections including the January 22 parliamentary election were suspended. Later last month, the High

department Chairman Satya Prasad Majumder, BTTC member Ashraf Alim, Chief Executive Officer Lt Col Ziaur Rashid Saffar, a member of the Signal Corps of the Armed Forces Division, post and telecommunications ministry Director ATM Monirul Alam, and BTRC Director Rezaul Quader.

The BTRC in late 2003 announced legalisation of the VoIP, a cheap telephony based on internet technology that was booming illegally with the help from influential quarters. But the BTRC mysteriously refrained from awarding licences seemingly under pressure from the influential VoIP operators who were bagging more than a thousand crore taka a year. The government and the BTTC have been the biggest casualties of this business.

# CALL SYSTEM RECOVERS FROM SHOCK

The recent crackdown on illegal VoIP operators spearheaded by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) for the first time destroyed the backbone of this illegal business. Initially, this affected the international call system everyone was accustomed to.

On the other hand, overseas calls through the BTTC system have shot up from a daily 3.5 million minutes to 8 million. This covers half of the daily total demand.

Bangladeshis living in North America and Europe--the biggest users of VoIP calling cards--had initially remained almost disconnected from Bangladesh. Now immigrants, who were used to making calls to Bangladesh with calling cards at a rock-bottom price of US 4 cents per minute, are paying almost double to get a connection home.

At the international call exchange market, the per minute Bangladesh call rate has shot up to 5-6 cents from the previous rate of 2-5-3 cents. Market operators said although majority of the illegal VoIP operation has been shut down, some operators are still in the field.

# Loan defaulters

**FROM PAGE 16**  
conference of Sonali Bank at a local hotel.

The adviser said banks despite risks should remain in the competition by taking proper decision for investment. "The tendency of loan defaulters' getting interest exemption is not desirable," he said.

He said the bankers must raise the standard of banking service further with sincerity and honesty.

"Persons involved in bank management should be more active to develop more human resources by making the best use of information technology to remain in the competition," he suggested.

Cabinet Secretary and Chairman of the Sonali Bank Board of Directors Ali Imam Majumder chaired the function. Acting Finance Secretary Dr Mohammad Tareque and Managing Director of Sonali Bank SM Aminur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

# Tk 1,080cr projects

**FROM PAGE 16**  
the Chittagong port and the Bangladesh government had to bear the expenses for carrying the fuel from there to depots at Baghbari.

Tapan said this unusual route would save at least one percent on transportation costs while the purchase through BPCL would mean a \$1 less price per metric ton than that from Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

The committee also approved the proposal for appointing five contractors under the Road Network Improvement and Maintenance Project-1. The contractors--Abdul Monem Ltd (which received two contracts), Islam Tracing Consortium Ltd, ACL, and RCL Progressive--would charge Tk 383 crore in total for their job.

Besides, it approved the plan for hiring Italy-based contractor Vetech-Sadelmi Consortium to renovate Unit-3 of the Karnaphuli hydropower plant at a cost of Tk 128.5 crore.

For the same project, it approved the proposal for employing Italy-based consultants ELC Electroconsult, and S.P.a Italy and a local firm DCC Ltd at a cost of Tk 10, 31 crore. The Italian government has already agreed to provide 1.1 million Euro in soft loans for the project.

The other proposals okayed at the meeting include a Tk 65.3-crore primary healthcare service project of the Chittagong City Corporation, import of 30,000 metric tons raw fertiliser at Tk 25.67 crore and extension of service for German consultants Detecon International GmbH to restructure the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTC) for Tk 4.64 crore.

# Flat tyre

**FROM PAGE 1**  
one to Kolkata airport.

According to sources, the passengers and crews fortunately escaped from an impending disaster as the pilot instantly stopped the take-off shortly after detecting the punctures.

The troubled aircraft, which was carrying 339 passengers to Saudi Arabia, was lying on the runway until 8:00pm.

The airport authorities were making frantic effort to clear the deck by 10:00pm.

# Falu

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Station, who is also the investigation officer of the case, told The Daily Star yesterday that he would submit a petition before the First Class Magistrate's Court, Dhaka for showing Falu arrested in the case today.

Meantime, the first information report (FIR) of the case was sent to the General Recording Office for taking necessary steps.

According to the prosecution, the army-led joint forces on a special duty came to know on January 9 that Falu, owner and chairman of the Dhaka Shanghai Ceramics Factory at Gohailbari of Savar, built 40 by 50 feet houses for accommodation of the workers.

The forces dismantled six such houses constructed with corrugated iron (CI) sheets, which are actually government relief materials, on the factory premises.

Six hundred and fifty pieces of CI sheets worth around Tk 4 lakh bear inscriptions, "Relief materials of Relief and Rehabilitation Department: Not for sale".

The BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government bought the CI sheets manufactured by PHP Arabian Horse Ltd for rehabilitation of the poor and distressed through government assistance.

Falu, also owner of two private satellite television channels--ntv and Rtv--and a daily newspaper Amar Desh, is now in jail on a 30-day detention. He was charged with anti-state activities, obstructing public safety, and erecting illegal hoarding.

# 29 killed

**FROM PAGE 16**  
arrests made under the Special Powers Act of 1974 and detaining people without charges, which is a violation of human rights.

Among the 29 dead, five were members of BNP, two were of Awami League, four of Janajuddho faction of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) and one each from PBCP, Biplobi Communist Party, Gono Mukti Fouz and Sromojibi Mukti Andolon.

Besides, there were a farmer, an alleged drug peddler, a prisoner under trial, a freedom fighter, a detained bus driver and nine alleged criminals, says the report.

Of them, 10 were killed allegedly in Rab 'crossfire' and four in police 'crossfire'. Police tortured three to death while four were killed due to torture by the army. One arrested by Rab later died in a hospital. Besides, two others died in hospitals while in police custody.

One died while trying to escape from army van which was carrying him, one jumped off a six storied building and died while in custody of the joint forces, two were arrested by the joint forces and died in police custody and one died in hospital after being arrested by the army.

Odikar further expressed its grave concern over the slum-eviction drives without arranging any alternative housing, that left thousands of poor people without any shelters.

# Partisan law officers

**FROM PAGE 1**  
morally strong and professionally efficient in dealing with them."

The caretaker government intends to quickly proceed to the legal course against the arrested political leaders who are publicly known as corrupt, and finish the trial within five months.

"The ACC is now undergoing a reform. It can take some time to form its prosecution unit. At first we need to appoint the three commissioners and then move on to setting up new units. So, we will have to immediately remove the existing law officers to deal with the graft cases or we might have to appoint new law officers against each graft case," he added.

As the politically appointed law officers are biased and incompetent, sooner or later they should be replaced with neutral and efficient persons who can properly serve the caretaker government and the state, he said.

At the High Court level, the problem remains the same.

"When these cases will move to the High Court -- the AG office will

handle them. Most of the officers of the AG office have been directly or indirectly involved with BNP-Jamaat's politics, even held offices of their front organisations. Some of them are totally inexperienced in the law profession. These law officers will not be able to handle these cases," noted the source.

"The government is already paying these 113 AGO officers huge monthly salary and other benefits worth Tk 40 lakh," he said, adding, "The government deserves quality service for the money it is spending."

All the AG office appointments were unethically done through an unofficial quota designed by the past alliance government. This quota was shared by three ex-lawyer ministers Aminul Haq, Moudud Ahmed, Nazmul Huda and front leaders of pro-BNP lawyers advocate TH Khan and ex-parliamentarian Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, who hand-picked the officers of their own choice and the state had no role in the selection, he said.

# Yunus seeks support

**FROM PAGE 1**  
new politics in order to build a new Bangladesh will get strength if these can be learnt from you in the form of a letter," he continued.

Yunus noted that the people of the country could make anything that seems impossible possible with their innate endeavour and creativity given that a proper leadership, a goodwill and good governance are in place.

"It won't be possible to come out of old politics if a strong momentum for a new politics is not created. We will not be able to reach our goal with feeble support," he said.

He sought personal reply detailing how the party could work to realise the popular expectations, have on board the honest and competent ones, ensure democracy and transparency within the organisation, and so on.

He urged all to respond through letters, emails or SMS.

Talking to the reporters, he said he never thought he would join politics, he was rather looking forward to an election with participation of all the political parties.

It would be pointless to have on the team those who have long been perverting the political landscape, he said adding, "There must be a sharp distinction so that the new politics could really be new."

Asked if he is sure of his success, Dr Yunus said, "I cannot guarantee failure or success. It cannot be surely said in case of politics."

He said an opportunity is there and so he is trying. "Otherwise, I might not have a chance to console myself. Now I can say that at least I tried."

# Judiciary

**FROM PAGE 1**  
separating the magistracy from the executive control was earlier endorsed by the council of advisors of the caretaker government.

Now, the promulgation of the ordinance completed the entire process of separating the judiciary from the executive in compliance with the Supreme Court edicts given seven years ago.

Earlier, the present caretaker government had issued four rules relating to the Judicial Service Commission and its regulating mechanisms as per the Supreme Court directives in the landmark judgment in the Masdar Hossain case.

On February 1, the Supreme Court granted the government 11 days to promulgate the CrPC amendment ordinance while hearing two contempt-of-court cases against 13 government officials including four top secretaries for "distorting" the SC directives and "impeding" the process of implementation of separation of the judiciary.

Since the delivery of judgment for separating the judiciary from the executive by the Supreme Court in December 1999, none of the successive governments fulfilled the constitutional mandate. Rather, the past governments delayed the process by extending the time repeatedly on different excuses.

Among the 29 dead, five were members of BNP, two were of Awami League, four of Janajuddho faction of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) and one each from PBCP, Biplobi Communist Party, Gono Mukti Fouz and Sromojibi Mukti Andolon.

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# Outlaw killed

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Harun received bullet while he was trying to flee during the gunfight and died on the spot at around 8:30pm. However, his cohorts managed to escape.

Rab members recovered a shutter gun and two rounds of bullet from the spot.

According to Lt Co Maj Hafiz, commanding officer of Rab, Harun was an extortionist and accused in six cases including three for murders.

# Indian minister

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Cooperation following its expansion in the forum's Dhaka summit through the co-optation of Afghanistan as a full member and granting China and Japan observer status.

Delhi-based Times News Network yesterday said Pranab is likely to hold bilateral talks with the caretaker government for which details are being worked out.

Replying to a query, he said: "There is no hurry for the election. I may take part in it only if by that time I'm over and done with forming the party."

# 30 killed

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Local residents who rushed to the scene tried to help with rescue efforts before civil defence squads arrived with shovels to remove the debris and pull out the dead and those injured. US and Iraqi forces later surrounded the area.

Bashir Masour, a 46-year-old labourer, said the explosion blew out the windows of his house, about 500 yards away.

"I ran to help and I saw destruction everywhere, along with charred bodies and body parts. Blood was spilled across a big area," he said. "I carried six people who I thought were still alive but then realized they had died after being torn apart by shrapnel."

Adwar, about 18km southeast of Tikrit, is where former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was captured on Dec. 13, 2003.

Insurgents frequently target Iraqi security forces, accusing them of collaborating with the US.

A suicide bomber also blew himself up next to a police patrol in the religiously mixed neighbourhood of Ilam in southwestern Baghdad, killing one policeman, police said.

Elsewhere in Baghdad, a parked car bomb exploded near an intersection, killing two people and wounding three in Mansour, an upscale western neighbourhood that has been the scene of repeated bombings and kidnappings, police said.

Earlier eight recruits for Iraq's border security force were ambushed near the Syrian frontier in the north of the country on Sunday, a provincial official told AFP.

The men had signed up to join the force in the border town of Rabiaa and were later trapped by gunmen who raked their minibus with automatic weapons, killing all aboard, Jassim Mohammed told AFP by telephone from Rabiaa.

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