# NEWS

### Families in depths

FROM PAGE 1 got sick," said Naser's wife

Farzana Akhter Poppy. Yesterday afternoon she was soothing her daughter Nafiun Nawar, aged two and a half, who was waiting for her father's return with chocolates to their Zakir Hossain from Chittagong. Road residence.

"Naser called me over the mobile phone Friday morning when his ship was passing by the Sri Lanka coast," said Poppy.

Shahanara Begum, 62year-old mother of Naser, could not sleep since she received the terrible news. She has not seen her son since September 29 when he left

Chittagong for Vietnam. Naser's family members urged the government to rescue all the hostages safe and sound.

The chief officer, who completed his study in Singapore Marine Polytechnic Institute, has been in shipping job since

Bilkis Rahman, mother of Engine Cadet Md Shahriar Rabbi, rushed to the ship owner firm SR Shipping Ltd's office yesterday around 1:30pm to know the whereabouts of her son.

Bursting into tears, she urged the officials to take steps for rescuing Rabbi. This is Rabbi's first job

after completing study at Chittagong Marine Academy, Bilkis told reporters.

"My husband has cancer while our another son is physically challenged," she said adding Rabbi is the breadwin-

Shaila Farid, wife of ship's master Farid Ahmed, resides at Mohammadpur in Dhaka with her two children. She has been bedridden since she got the news.

While talking to The Daily Star, Shaila said her husband last phoned her on Sunday around 11:30am.

"He (Farid) told me he was expecting to leave the ship at Suez Canal on December 15 and head for home," said Shaila. Her husband tried to come home last month to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha with family, but failed to secure a release order.

HOSTAGES ON THE SHIP Of the 26 hostages, Chief Engineer Matiul Mawla, 61,

### JS body

FROM PAGE 16

administration and discipline with the provisions for harsh punishment including death penalty for jawans commit-

ting various offences. The standing committee on the law ministry in its

recommended that the parliament pass a bill amending the Electoral Rolls Act to register Bangladeshi citizens living abroad as voters.

The standing committee on health ministry in a report recommendation approval of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council Bill-2010 in the parliament

Also, the parliamentary standing committee on land ministry in a report recommended for the sanction of Sand Quarry and Soil Management bill.

kept losing wickets at regular

intervals and were bundled

out for 181 in 48.1 overs.

Prosper Utseya only fought to

reduce the margin of defeat by

yesterday which only helped

man-of-the-match Razzak,

who now have claimed 13

wickets in the three matches,

bowling with more venom to

destroy the Zimbabwean top-

order. Pacer Shafiul Islam then

mopped up the tail taking four

wickets for 43 runs, the best

performance by any

Bangladesh pace bowler in the

was any cause for concern for

the Tigers then the two new-

ball bowlers' performance

definitely brought relief to the

team management, especially

the impressive showing of

pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin

Mortaza, who was ordinary in

the first two games, came as a

huge relief. The "Narail

Express" indeed had only one

success by removing Tatenda

Taibu, but conceded only 20

Earlier dashing left-

handed opener Tamim Iqbal

could consider himself

unlucky as he was declared leg

before wicket, for the second

time in the series, by local

umpire Sharfuddoula Ibne

runs in his ten overs.

And if the top-order batting

The sun never came out

Acting skipper and No

making a 101-ball 67.

Razzak rattles

#### his wife Rukhsana Gulzer, 52, Second Engineer Mohammad Main Uddin, 26, Electrical Engineer Sahabu Alam, 43, Md Fakhrul Islam, 63, Fireman Md Elias, 32, Deck Fitter Md Idris, 38, and Engine Fitter Md Mohiuddin, 32, hail

Master Farid Ahmed, 56, and Engine Cadet Md Shahriar Rabbi, 22, are from Dhaka.

Bosun Mohammad Ruhul Amin, 51, and Stewart Md Rabiul Islam, 25, come from Pabna, while AB Seaman Abdul Fattah, 51, and Md Kibria Ahmed, 25, are from Sylhet.

Chief Officer Abu Naser, 31, is from Comilla, Second Officer GM Noor-E-Alam, 28, from Rajbari, Third Engineer Subrata Kumar Mondol, 44, from Satkhira, Third Officer Md Kamrul Hossain, 45, from Mymensingh and Deck Cadet Md Shariful Islam, 27, from Rangpur.

Fourth Engineer Md Tariqul Islam, 31, is from Sirajganj, AB Seaman Mohammad Emdad Hossain, 50, from Chandpur, AB Seaman Mohammad Nazim Uddin, 35 from Noakhali, Chief Cook Md Moshiur Rahman, 32, from Naogaon, General Stewart Jashim Uddin, 30, from Feni, Junior Electric Engineer Mohammad Abul Hossain, 27, from Tangail and Engineer Md Abul Basher, 27, is from Kishoreganj.

### Power

fertilizer factories to divert gas to power plants. Natural gas is the main raw material for both fertilizer and power production in the country.

Yesterday's meeting, attended by Finance Minister AMA Muhith and other key policymakers, discussed the overall issues of different sec-

The finance ministry also recommended cutting bank credits in unproductive sectors like the share market and consumer loans. This is aimed at containing inflation which now stands, on an average, at 8.1 percent. The government targets keeping it within 6.5 percent this year.

The prime minister shared the unhappiness expressed by the finance ministry over poor implementation of the Annual Development Programme. In the first quarter of this fiscal year, the government agencies spent only 8.7 percent of the total allocation, which is considered very discouraging.

The ministry is also unhappy with the delay in implementation of power

In a report placed at the meeting, the finance ministry

if implementation of the ADP and power projects remains slow, and the ports remain inefficient, among other factors, the country may not be able to achieve its targeted GDP rate of 6.7 percent at the end of this fiscal year.

The report however mentioned that the rates of inflation in India and Pakistan are much higher than that in Bangladesh, and it is lower in Sri Lanka.

The high price-level in neighbouring India might have an impact on inflation in Bangladesh, it said.

Shahid Saikat in the very first

over. Then Junaed Siddiqui

and Rokibul Hasan, the sec-

ond match heroes, got out

cheaply while Imrul Kayes's

exit for 33 was ill-timed, deep-

again to rescue the team from

the early damages as the left-

hander found the gaps to pick

up singles to build up his

innings besides striking five

boundaries during the 91-ball

Mushfigur returned among

the runs at the right time and

gave good support to his

skipper during his 73-ball 63

that contained five fours and a

Bangladesh failed to take the

batting Powerplay at the right

time though the unbeaten

knock of 23 from Naeem Islam

and Mashrafe's four-ball 11

helped them in making 44

match a minute's silence was

observed in memory of the

deceased SAF gold medal-

winning sprinter Mahbub

Alam, who lost his life in a

tragic road accident on

Both teams now travel to

Chittagong today to play the

remaining two matches of the

series at the Zohur Ahmed

Chowdhury Stadium.

Meanwhile before the

runs from five overs.

Saturday.

Like the previous games,

On the other hand

But Shakib stood tall once

ening the crisis.

### Nato declares no winter let-up against Afghan Taliban

AFP, Kabul

Nato forces will fight through the bitter Afghan winter to step up the pressure on the Taliban, concentrating on their strongholds in the south and east, a spokesman for the alliance said vesterday.

"The Taliban will be under pressure over the next three months' winter time, Brigadier General Josef Blotz told a news conference in Kabul.

"We're making progress and now it is about holding on this progress," he said. "This progress is not irreversible yet.'

Nato-led forces are battling Taliban militants in their strongholds in the southern provinces of Kandahar and Helmand.

#### **FBCCI**

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The opposition lawmakers had been elected to sit in the Jatiya Sangsad. Since they continue to boycott it, it is utterly unethical for them to take money from the state exchequer, Azad said.

He said the politicians are doing politics for their own sake, not for the people. "If they do politics for

people, they cannot call a hartal for small issues." Azad asked the politicians

to show how many jobs they generated for the unemployed in the country. He said 20 lakh workers

enter the job market every year, and the private sector absorbs half of them. The trade body president said hartals scare off foreign

investors and harm the image of the country. He said it is their "demo-

cratic right" to do business and none should violate it. "We are paying the government Tk 70,000 crore this

year. It is 25 percent above

the target." He urged the politicians to be patient for at least five years, and said if the government does wrong, people will express their dissatisfaction by electing the opposi-

Azad said if any vehicle is torched during hartal, the affected must be given compensation.

tion in the polls.

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Seeking remand, Public Prosecutor Kamal Uddin said Babar had given some important but incomplete information during a five-day remand last month. He is needed to be quizzed again.

Earlier, Babar's lawyers prayed for bail but to no avail.

On October 3 this year, the BNP leader was shown arrested in the largest ever arms haul case. On November 1, he was placed on five-day remand in the case.

### Rat meat

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RU proctors' body, led by proctor Chowdhury Muhammad Zakaria, rushed to the hall and assured the protesting students of immediate action in this regard.

Admitting the matter, chief cook Sultan said the rat meat got mixed with chicken curry

unintentionally. Proctor Zakaria told that the two were handed over to a police team of Motihar Police

Station. Leaders and activists of Progressive Students Alliance, a left-leaning students' organisation, and Chhatra Front yesterday brought out processions on the campus protesting the

incident. They also demanded reduced charge for meals and urged the authorities concerned to serve quality food at the dining halls.

### Early winter

FROM PAGE 1

to January in the country, he said. Light fog might cover

the river basins in mornings. The sky was cloudy and a cool breeze was blowing.

The lowest temperature in Dhaka was 20.8 degrees Celsius and the highest 25.4

degrees C, the Met office said. The lowest temperature was 15.4 degrees C in Dinajpur

and the highest was in Cox's Bazar, 33 degrees C yesterday.

Bangladesh recorded its lowest temperature at 2.8 degrees Celsius at Sreemangal of Sylhet in 1968.

# Hijacked ship

monitoring the ship via satel-

The vessel is carrying 25 crewmembers and the wife of its chief engineer.

Brave Royal Ship Management, the operating company of the vessel, said it received a message from the ship's security cell at about 3.30pm on Sunday. The message read the ship had come under pirate attack. The pirates now hold 23

vessels including the Bangladeshi ship and 547 hostages, says the website of European Union Naval Force. However, The Daily Star could not independently confirm the information.

"We got the same message

for the second time at about 4.30pm and stayed in contact with the crew members until 5.30pm. We lost contact after that," said Meherul Karim, General Manager of Brave Royal Shipping Management.

Meherul said the pirates might demand ransom after taking the ship to the Somali coast. The vessel carrying 43,150

tonnes of nickel was on its way through the Suez Canal. It anchored at the Singapore port for refuelling before heading for Greece, shipping ministry officials said. Captain Habibur Rahman,

principal officer of Mercantile Marine Department, said they were able to locate the ship via satellite every 15 minutes.

The Bangladesh government has contacted several international agencies that combat sea piracy.

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan said, "We want to rescue the crew and the ship through negotiation with the pirates. But it might take a few days since the ship is likely to reach the African coast after four days."

He said the pirates did not demand anything until now. "We are concerned about

the security of the sailors," said Shajahan. Somali pirates hijacked 31 ships this year but did not kill anyone. I hope the sailors could

be rescued within four days," the minister said. Government officials are in constant touch with the family members of the abductees, he

said.

The prime minister has asked the foreign ministry to contact with the authorities of the countries concerned to rescue the ship.

Somali pirates are making to Greece from Indonesia tens of millions of dollars in ransom capturing ships in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden, although the Sunday's hijack happened nearly 3,000 kilometres (1,864 miles) east of Somalia.

### Govt sits

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Moreover, it ordered the government to explain why the guidelines should not be published in the gazette notification. SC lawyer Raghib Rauf

Chowdhury had filed the writ

petition as a public interest litigation praying for framing of specific guidelines about the process of appointment of judges in the highest court. Barrister Hassan MS Azim,

one of the counsels for the petitioner, said they will soon pray to the HC for final hearing of the writ petition. Contacted, law ministry

sources said the government

is now following the conven-

tion and SC guidelines in respect of appointment of judges of this court. The government selects persons after consulting the chief justice, and the president then appointments them as

judges, the sources mentioned. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) has been demanding specific rules in this regard since the appointment of 17 additional

HC judges on April 11. SCBA President Khandaker Mahbub Hossain told this correspondent that the government must frame rules providing for appointment of judges in consultation with the chief justice.

The chief justice will discuss with senior judges of the Appellate and High Court divisions, SCBA president, attorney general and vicechairman of Bangladesh Bar Council before giving his

opinion to the president about the selected candidates, he

On March 2 last year, the Appellate Division in its judgement in a case (Idrisur Rahman vs Bangladesh Case) said, "In the matter of selection of judges, the opinion of the chief justice should be dominant in the area of legal acumen and suitability for the appointment, and in the area of antecedents the opinion of the executive should be dominant.

"Together, the two should function to find out the most suitable candidates available for appointment through a transparent process of consul-

It further said, "There are some universal principles and one of such principles is that in the appointment of judges, judiciary must have the last say and that say can be articulated most efficiently only by the chief justice who is most competent and well equipped and well posted with facts to give his considered opinion.

"While giving such opinion, it is implied that he will discuss with his senior colleagues and other important members of the Bar but the concept of collegium is neither in our Constitution nor it has developed as a convention."

The apex court judgement went on, " If there is really any wisdom in the concept of collegium, that can be provided for only by Constitutional reform and not otherwise. Foreign system can advise but cannot command."

secretary general Mirza

Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, said

sources from the party chair-

yesterday, Anwar claimed that

BNP decided not to field any

concern over the appoint-

ment of top officials of the

local administration as

returning officers and appel-

late authorities to conduct the

executive officers as returning

free from the ruling party

cials of the local administra-

tion were appointed to con-

should appoint its own offi-

the election to Dhaka City

had planned to announce

schedule for DCC election this

Anwar said the EC earlier

authorities," Anwar said.

Corporation.

duct the polls," Anwar said.

The EC appointed upazila

candidate in the polls.

municipality polls.

candidacies.

Talking to the reporters

BNP leaders also expressed

person's office.

# BNP for army

deployment at short notice.

The country's electoral laws empower the army, air force and navy to arrest anybody without warrant within 400 yards radius of the polling stations on the election day.

Armed forces members on election duties are also authorised to take actions to ensure enforcement of the electoral laws and code of

conduct. At the meeting, the fivemember BNP delegation also said fielding candidates for the mayoral posts by ruling Awami League or the grand alliance would be "against

electoral laws". The BNP leaders argued election to the local government bodies is non-partisan. There is no scope for a political party or an alliance to field candidates, they added.

On Friday, AL General Secretary and LGRD Minister Sved Ashraful Islam said the party-led grand alliance would pick a candidate for each mayoral post and support them in the elections. Ashraf made the

announcement after a meeting of AL central working committee. "We sought to know the

commission's stance over the ruling party announcement," said Anwar, who led the party delegation. Anwar also heads a three-

year, but it now says there are some problems to hold the member committee to coordinate the party activities DCC poll. centring the polls. The two "The commission is delayother members are BNP ing to hold the DCC polls to standing committee member ensure ruling party leader's Nazrul Islam Khan and joint win," Anwar alleged.

of Mumbai suspects a 'facade': India AFP, New Delhi

Pakistan trial

India's home secretary says Pakistan's efforts to prosecute those behind the 2008 Mumbai attacks are a "facade" with Islamabad concerned that senior government officials might be implicated. In an interview published in

the Wall Street Journal on

Monday, GK Pillai said India had

provided Pakistan with extensive information on the identities of key conspirators behind the attacks that killed 166 peo-Some of the most compelling evidence was garnered from interrogating David Headley, a Pakistani-American

the hotels and other targets ahead of the assault blamed on Pakistan-based militants. Pillai said Headley had identified the voice of key conspirators from Indian intelligence intercepts and the information had been passed on to

who pleaded guilty to surveying

the Pakistani authorities. "I don't think they're going to do anything about it," Pillai told the Journal, adding that Pakistan's moves to advance the case are a "facade" and ignored the people in the "control room" who orchestrated the attacks.

"sing" and implicate Pakistani government officials in the attacks. "They just can't do it," he

Pillai argued that Pakistan

was wary of cracking down on

top militants, for fear they will

The Mumbai attacks, which began on November 26, 2008, caused carnage as 10 heavilyarmed Islamist gunmen stormed India's financial capital, sparking a bloody, 60-hour siege shown live on television around the world.

Nine of the gunmen were killed and the sole survivor, Mohammed Ajmal Kasab, was condemned to death by a Mumbai court in May. He is challenging the sentence. Fake medicine

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tablets, which bear the labels of Square, Beximco, Nipa and Enova companies. There were two types of cans--one of 30 tablets used to be sold at Tk 200 while the other containing 15 tablets at

20,000 cans of fake vitamin

Tk 100 in wholesale markets. Rakibul and Akram produced the fake vitamin tablets at some other place in the capital and then took those to the house for packing to supply at Mitford for selling, Kismat Hayet said.

Rab sources said they are trying to trace the fake vitamin tablets factory and nab Akram and the other gang members.

### Jail Killing

FROM PAGE 1

In his submission, Anisul explained why he resigned from the office of chief state counsel for the case in 2004.

In response, the court said it would deal with the case legally, not emotionally.

The attorney general said they too want disposal of the case within the purview of the A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed

by Chief Justice ABM Khairul

Haque then fixed January 9 for the next hearing and said the court will not give them any more time. Earlier on November 9, the state counsels told the court that the BNP-led four-party alliance government in 2004

influenced the proceedings at the trial court and thus the verdict was not impartial. Following their claim, the court asked them to produce before vesterday the docu-

officers, and deputy commisments in support of their claim. sioners as appellate authori-Coming out of the court, ties to settle dispute over Anisul told reporters that the documents are with the trial The election will not be court, and they will be able to produce those to the SC before influence as important offithe deadline.

> On August 28, 2008, the HC acquitted six former army personnel of the charge.

On October 20, 2004, a He said it would be difficult Dhaka court sentenced three for the officials to avert the persons to death, awarded life ruling party influence at the imprisonment to 12 others and acquitted five in the case. Of "The election commission the six army personnel acquitted by the HC, two had been cials at least as appellate facing death penalty and four others life imprisonment The BNP delegation also following the court verdict. criticised the EC for deferring

> president of 1971 Bangladesh government in exile, Tajuddin Ahmed, prime minister of the same government, M Mansoor Ali, finance minister, and AHM Qamruzzaman, minister for home affairs, relief and rehabilitation--were killed barely three months after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

# Bill seeks to clip

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discharge duties, absence for three consecutive meetings and mental and physical inability to perform duties, etc by simply issuing a gazette notification.

The existing law titled

"Upazila Parishad Act-1998'" empowers only parishad members to move for removal of an elected upazila official on the abovementioned grounds. In case of dismissal, the

parishad must convene a special meeting and pass a no-confidence motion with four-fifths majority. Once the resolution is passed, the government will investigate the allegation

that prompted the parishad towards the removal. If the investigation finds the allegation true, the government may approve the resolution for removal of a chairman, vice-chairman or

any member of the parishad, says the existing law. The proposed legislation also widened the definition of "misconduct". In the existing law misconduct is defined as misuse of power, corruption, nepotism and wilful misrule. With that, the proposed legislation includes taking personal advantage by unfair means, partiality, extortion, theft,

killing, etc. Elected representatives, however, will retain their authority to pass noconfidence motion against a parishad member.

robbery, grabbing of prop-

erty, breach of trust, rape,

But the proposed legislation rewrites the procedure empowering the divisional commissioner to investigate the allegation against a member after receiving a noconfidence motion signed by the majority. If the divisional commis-

sioner finds the allegation true, he will convene a meeting of the parishad where its members will have to pass the resolution to remove a member with at least fourfifths majority. After the passage, the resolution will be sent to the government and it will decide whether to approve the resolution or not, says the bill.

The bill also proposed upgrading the designation of upazila executive officers from secretary to principal executive officer with more

According to the existing law, an upazila executive officer will be secretary to the parishad and provide secretarial assistance. But the new bill says as a principal executive officer, the upazila executive officer will implement

### 50 killed

FROM PAGE 16 "These bullets killed everyone

who was hit," said Khan. Both of the bombers were disguised in tribal police uniforms, said Khan. One of them was caught at the gate of the compound, but he was able to detonate his explo-

sives, he said. One of the wounded in the attack was 45-year-old Qalandar Khan, who came to the compound to visit an imprisoned cousin and was hit by the second explosion.

"There was a deafening sound and it caused a cloud of dust and smoke and a subsequent hue and cry," said Khan, lying in a hospital bed in his blood-soaked clothes. There were dozens on the ground like me, bleeding and crying. I saw body parts scattered in the compound."

The dead and wounded

included tribal elders, police

political officials and other civilians. Two of the dead were local TV journalists who were at the compound reporting on stories, said Shakirullah Jan, president of the Mohmand press club. The Pakistani army has carried out operations in Mohmand to battle Taliban

area, but it has been unable to defeat the militants. The military has encouraged local tribesmen to form militias to oppose the militants. These groups have had varying degrees of success and have often been targeted in deadly attacks.

and al-Qaida fighters in the

A suicide bomber attacked a mosque in northwestern Pakistan in early November that was frequented by elders The four national leaders-opposed to the Pakistani Syed Nazrul Islam, acting Taliban, killing 67 people. The attack occurred in the town of Darra Adam Khel, a militant stronghold on the edge of the tribal region.

"We are not scared of such attacks and will keep on taking these enemies of humanity to task until they disappear from society," said Hussain, the information minister.

the parishad's decision, maintain financial discipline etc in addition to secretarial assistance.

The bill also proposed to return the Election Commission the authority to fix the time frame for holding upazila elections. The existing law empowers the government to do so.

legislation also says war criminals convicted by national or international tribunal will be disqualified to contest the polls.

At yesterday's sitting, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed placed two other bills for amendments to the administrative tribunals act and Bangladesh legal practitioners and bar council order.

cash from the house of Goutam Das, a village physi-A gang of 15 robbers

Goutam at about 7:00pm and took the members of the house hostage at gunpoint, said locals. Hearing screams of

stormed into the house of

spot and besieged the In the face of resistance, the gang opened fire while fleeing the scene, killing

Anup Das died on the way to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital (SMOMCH).

Sudhir Das, Shipon Rani Das and Nitesh Das were admitted to SMOMCH while Jhunu Bala Das and Shilpi Rani Das received treatment at the upazila health com-

Villagers, however, caught a female member of the gang, Aklima, while the

A case was filed with Derai police station.

**FROM PAGE 16** president to "go to hell", remarks that Faroun said he

admonished. Faroun said that subsequently, he saw Iraqi officials present at the execution openly taking photographs with their mobile phone cameras, despite the

prohibited. The lawyer added that as Saddam was conducting his final prayer before being hanged, one witness shouted, "Moqtada, Moqtada, Moqtada", in reference to the radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr who rose to promi-

from power. The mobile phone footage, which spread across the Internet and was being sold on Baghdad streets in the days following the execution, showed an angry but composed Saddam standing on a steel platform in a dark hall, his hands bound and a

Several members of the party carrying out the hanging can be heard chanting, "Moqtada, Moqtada Moqtada!" before Saddam is seen falling to his death as the metal trapdoor opens

resulted in a hastily run and confusing event."

The cable noted that the Iraqi witness list for the execution changed "several times prior to the execution and at one point included

"Saddam's supporters would use the execution as trial."

"Faroun responded emphatically that the only witnesses who will be permitted are those required by law: a public prosecutor, a judge, a religious leader and the prison director.

"This, he concluded, will prevent unacceptable behaviour and unnecessary controversy," the cable said.

Besides, the proposed

### Robbers

FROM PAGE 1

gold ornaments, Tk 2 lakh in

Gautam's family members, neighbours rushed to the

Dipon Bala on the spot and injuring six others.

Among the injured,

others managed to escape.

US cable

fact that the devices were

nence after Saddam's fall

rough hemp rope around his

below his feet. Commenting on the incident, the cable's author, whose identity is unclear, wrote, "The GOI's (government of Iraq) lack of a clear and coordinated plan to control the witnesses and conduct the execution

20-30 personnel." Khalilzad told Faroun,

the cable said, that

an excuse to condemn what had been a fair and just Asked by Khalilzad what Iraq would change for subsequent executions, it said,