

## Mohammadpur murder

### 2 Freedom Party workers arrested

By Staff Correspondent  
Two Freedom Party workers were arrested from Mohammadpur Saltmullah Road on charge of their involvement in the murder of a video club employee, Hasan on Saturday night, police said.

Arrested Ahmed Al-Farooq alias Jewel and Tutul Khan were produced before the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on Sunday and taken on two days' remand by Dhanmondi police for interrogation.

Hasan, an employee of Souls Video at Razia Sultana Road, was shot dead by some armed youngmen.

Police said the murder was a sequel to a long feud between two rival groups on youth of the area.

But Mohammadpur police failed to arrest anybody in connection with the murder of a bank officer at Elephant Road on Saturday till filing of this report, on Sunday night.

National Bank officer Al-Mamun Baharul Islam son of retired deputy secretary Shamsul Islam was killed when some unidentified persons hurled a powerful cocktail on him on Saturday night. One crickshawpuller, Jahangir Hossain, was also injured in the explosion.

Police is looking for some local 'mastaans' in this connection as there was no name mentioned in the FIR. Police failed to find out any clue to the murder till Sunday.

## Two hijackers arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Police on Saturday caught red-handed two among four snatchers from Amin Bazar under Savar while they were fleeing stealing a private car from Mohammadpur Satmasjid Super Market.

The persons are Kamal (25) and Delowar Hossain (22). A case has been filed with Mohammadpur police station.

## Haripur oil

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was engaged in the extraction of oil in the Haripur field. He said that only Petrobranga was engaged in the extraction.

In reply to another supplementary question from Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury (NDP), Khondoker Mosharruf said that the agreement had been signed when the BNP was not in power.

He said that time was required to probe whether the agreement was detrimental to national interest.

The Minister said that a total of 3,49,934 barrels of oil had been extracted from the Haripur Oilfield till December last.

## Another case

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of Corruption Act of 1947.

This is the seventh case against Ershad who was overthrown from power in December by a mass upsurge. Besides the one for keeping unlicensed arms, the remaining six are anti-corruption cases.

Meanwhile, newspapers have reported that a fixed deposit receipt of Tk 48.5 lakh was seized by police on duty at the Gulshan sub-jail on April 18 when Ershad's lawyer Barrister Kazi Shahadat Hussain went there to obtain Ershad's signature.

An English daily Sunday reported that Ershad signed 17 cheques during his confinement at Gulshan sub-jail till shifting to the Dhaka Central Jail Thursday night.

Ershad said in an application to the Home Secretary Sunday that the FDR money belonged to Jatiya Party of which he is the Chairman. His signature as chairman is required for transaction of the party funds, Ershad added in his application and sought permission to sign the FDR.

## Systems loss

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scarcity of power consumer meters, illegal use of power, pilferage of meters and manipulation of meters by legal consumers, tempering with meter reading, faulty meters and illegal power connections.

The State Minister also disclosed that the Rural Electrification Board (REB) suffers nearly 16 per cent system loss. He said the system loss of REB is limited to distribution phase only.

## Maudud

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Maudud who returned from his home constituency in Noakhali attended Parliament Sunday after his recent release on bail from detention in Dhaka Central Jail.

In his maiden appearance in the House, Maudud led a walkout of the Jatiya Party MPs after he failed to raise a discussion on the arrest of Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and transfer of Ershad to Dhaka Central Jail from Gulshan Sub-Jail.

Referring to the controversy over repeal of the Special Powers Act by former President Ershad just before he quit the office, Maudud said "as far as we are concerned, the Special Powers Act stands repealed".

Asked about the gazette notification of repeal order of the Special Powers Act, he said "the gazette notification has nothing to do with it... it's just a formality. Any order comes into effect as soon as the President signs it."

To a question on the arrest of Mizanur Chowdhury without any warrant, the JP leader said the present ruling party should discard the "excesses" of the past regime.

## Banking sector

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tionalised under an order of 1972. The banking sector was made open to the private sector in 1981. The reforms of the Banking Companies Ordinance of 1962 have become necessary in the changed circumstances.

Introducing the bill, the Finance Minister said the banking sector was mismanaged or crippled by the past regime.

Earlier, Awami League member Advocate Asaduzzaman opposed the bill. It will protect the interest of the defaulters when bank loans amounting to about Taka 12,000 crore, mostly in the industrial sector, remained unrealised, he said.

## Border incident

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As the Health Minister was not present in the House, the Speaker said that the concerned Minister would make a statement later on the issue.

But the Opposition members demanded that the issue be considered immediately in view of the gravity of the situation.

At this stage, the Deputy Leader of the House Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury took the floor and informed the House that the Health Minister had already undertaken a three-day tour of the affected areas. Medical squads have been sent with life-saving drugs.

A detailed report on the situation will be made available to the members soon, he added.

Before the House took up its legislative business, the Opposition members demanded that it take up for consideration the notices calling for discussion on the law and order situation as it was a matter of urgent public importance.

There was a noisy and boisterous scene in the House at this stage.

Several Opposition members sought to draw the attention of the Speaker on the issue.

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina took the floor and said that the deteriorating law and order situation was a matter of serious concern to all sections of the people.

There is an utter lack of safety of life and property of the innocent citizens, she observed.

Sheikh Hasina referred to the recent incidents in Dhaka city.

Mentioning the incident at the Polytechnic Institute, she said that the elected General Secretary of the students union of that institute was murdered in broad daylight by his rivals.

She put the blame on the musclemen of the Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) for the incident and noted that the government had taken no action to arrest the culprits.

The Leader of the Opposition also blamed the Bangladesh Nationalist Party for the deteriorating law and order situation and resented the inaction of the government in dealing with those responsible for the crimes.

The Treasury Bench members strongly protested Sheikh Hasina's statements while the Awami League members lent her their strong support.

The Speaker ruled that there was no scope for discussion on the subject because the move for the same had not come in conformity with the Rules of Procedures.



MAGDEBURG, Germany: Riot policemen arrest young rightist demonstrators late Saturday during a rally to mark the 102nd anniversary of Adolf Hitler's birth. Police forces were reinforced in this eastern German town preventing violent clashes in the course of the demonstration. — AFP photo

## Ershad says he knows his limitations

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stressed on that point (para 12 of the report captioned "Case not an act of political vengeance").

It is now clear that the Defence Counsel is trying to

The Defence Counsel on his part tried to prove to the Tribunal that the recovered arms were gifts and that the responsibility of depositing the gift items in the Toshakhana lay with President's staff and not with the President himself.

At the April 11 hearing, the Defence stressed that Ershad's representative Mustafizur Rahman had deposited the arms within the amnesty period declared by the government.

The Metropolitan Magistrate A K M Ismail had agreed during the April 11 hearing that the arms were deposited within the amnesty period but it was inadvertently reported in our daily that he (Metropolitan Magistrate)

Prove that the arms recovered from the showroom of the Sena Bhaban were gift items from foreign heads of state and diplomats while the other items deposited by Mustafizur Rahman could be accepted under the provision of the general amnesty.

Yesterday the Defence Counsel pointed out that one pistol which was supposed to be a gift from Yemen was listed in the Toshakhana register. But the caretaker of the Toshakhana said that the listed item was not the pistol which was recovered from the showroom.

However the Judge of the Tribunal asked the Caretaker to produce the pistol kept in the Toshakhana before the court today (Monday).

Deposed President Ershad who was produced before the Tribunal was sitting in the dock in a depressed mood.

During the proceedings he was looking grim and gloomy. He only smiled when Judge Mohammad Habibullah in the course of the prosecution deliberations said "Love has no value".

At the beginning of the yesterday's proceedings Ballistics Expert Saleh Mohammad was recalled by the Tribunal gave a vivid description of the bullets and the arms recovered from Sena Bhaban. He may be cross-examined again by the Defence Lawyer today.

After the statements of

Saleh Mohammad the Prosecution produced Lt.Col. Atiqur Rahman to give his statement before the Tribunal.

The Defence Lawyer at this stage made a plea to the Judge that the prosecution should produce the witnesses listed in the charge sheet before other witnesses under Section 540.

Attorney General Aminul Haque said that there was no such provision that witnesses recorded in chargesheet should be produced prior to the other witnesses under Section 540.

At this stage Judge Mohammad Habibullah said that the witnesses listed in the chargesheet may be produced even after the witnesses under Section 540.

He said if the Prosecution failed to produce the witnesses the case would be weaker.

Attorney General Aminul Haque then made a petition to the Tribunal on the attempt of Kazi Shahadat Hossain to get a fixed deposit receipt (FDR) of Taka 48,56,726 of his client Ershad now under detention and undergoing trial.

He pleaded for referring the matter to the Bar Council for disciplinary action.

Aminul Haque also quoted the report published in the Daily Star yesterday about the attempt of Kazi Shahadat Hossain to obtain the signature of Ershad on the cheque.

Kazi Shahadat Hossain denied the accusation saying he only tried to help a Jatiya Party member in getting the signature of Ershad on an FDR.

Then Judge Mohammad Habibullah allowed accused Ershad to make his submission.

Standing in the dock accused Ershad said that as a detenu he was aware of his limitations. "I can sign the FDR if the government accords permission. Otherwise I can't," he said and added, "There was no hide and seek in it."

Ershad said that he is the president of the Jatiya Party which has not been banned and as a signatory of the Party account the cheque was sent to the jail authorities for obtaining his signature.

He said that he wrote a letter to the Home Secretary explaining matters relating to the Party funds, fixed deposited with the Bank.

He also termed the reports published in different dailies as 'exaggerated'.

Judge Mohammad Habibullah ruled that the allegations against the Defence Lawyer of Ershad did not come under the purview of the case under trial.

He suggested that the Attorney General decide the matter at the Bar Council.

Referring to a suggestion to debar Kazi Shahadat Hossain from meeting and consulting accused Ershad Judge Mohammad Habibullah said, "It is far the security personnel to decide".

Lt. Col. Atiqur Rahman produced by the Prosecution at around 11.20 a.m. corroborated the statements of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate who was the chief of the Inventory Committee.

He was cross-examined by the Defence Counsel Strajul Haque.

Defence Counsel (DC): What is your duty in the Bangabhaban?

Atiqur Rahman (AR) to help the Military Secretary maintain administrative discipline.

DL: Have you ever visited the Sena Bhaban?

AR: Yes I have gone there several times to do my duty.

DL: Do you know anything about the items recovered from the Sena Bhaban, whether those were gifts?

AR: I don't know whether those were gifts. There is no document about the items.

DL: Did you discuss whether those are gift items?

AR: The members of the Committee discussed that those might be gift items.

DL: Have you ever thought that those were gifts?

AR: I thought that those were gifts.

Judge: What is the relevance of this question with the case? (Pointing to Defence Lawyer).

DL: When the Judge thinks like this, it's a... but when an expert thinks it's an issue.

DL: Arms cannot be displayed. Can you show any order or circular in this regard?

AR: No I can't.

DL: Have you ever gone on a visit outside the country with the President?

AR: Once.

DL: Who are the persons who generally go abroad with the President?

AR: A.D.C. and security officials.

DL: Who receives the gift items which are given to the President abroad?

AR: The gift items are gen-

erally taken to Sena Bhaban from the airport and later the items are disposed of from there.

DL: Who makes the list of the gift items?

AR: I don't know.

DL: Is the disposing of the arms the duty of the Military Security?

AR: I can't say whether the MS is authorised to supervise and dispose of the gifts.

DL: Who sends the gift items to the Toshakhana?

AR: Some officers are responsible.

DL: Have you ever read the rules of the Toshakhana?

AR: Yes, I have knowledge about the rules of the Toshakhana.

DL: There is a provision that the gift items can be displayed at the residence of the President and the Prime Minister. Do you know that?

AR: No I don't know.

DL: Do you know what is the meaning of hadiya?

AR: Hadiya means gift.

DL: Do you know that the gift was displayed at the Sena Bhaban as per law?

AR: I have mentioned earlier that I don't know which one is a gift and which one is not a gift.

DL: Who were the military secretaries of the President?

AR: First, Brigadier Ilyas used to work as the Military Secretary later he was replaced by Major General Munir Hossain.

The second Prosecution witness produced yesterday was the store-keeper and caretaker of Bangabhaban Yar Ali.

He brought the registers of the Toshakhana and produced those before the Tribunal.

Judge Mohammad Habibullah released them after necessary examination.

He however asked to produce a pistol, which is kept at the Toshakhana as a gift from Izzat Ibrahim, Vice-Chairman of Yemen Revolutionary Council, to satisfy the defence lawyer that the item was not one of those recovered from the Sena Bhaban.

The caretaker of the Toshakhana categorically said that there is no list of the arms recovered from the Sena Bhaban in the registers of the Toshakhana.

He said that the display centre is located about 300 yards from the Toshakhana of the Bangabhaban and that no arms are put on display.

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## The Midnight File

### Wounded Nagasaki Mayor reelected

TOKYO, Apr 21: The Mayor of Nagasaki, wounded by a rightist gunman last year after controversial remarks about the emperor's war responsibility, narrowly won re-election Sunday for a fourth four-year term. In local balloting around the nation, voters also elected Japan's first woman Mayor, reports AP.

### Schwarzkopf back home

FLORIDA, Apr 21: Army General Norman Schwarzkopf, the popular commander of US forces in the Gulf, returned home today to a hero's welcome. "It's a great to be home," an emotional Gen Schwarzkopf, known as "Stormin' Norman," told a crowd of several hundred well-wishers, many of them waving small American flags, at this military facility near Tampa, reports AP.

### S. Korean police teargas labourers

SEOUL, Apr 21: South Korean riot police firing teargas fought running battles today with more than 1,000 labour activists and students protesting against the closure of a car plant, witnesses said. Clashes erupted near a railway station in the western port city of Incheon, reports Reuter.

### Sean O'Faolain dies in Dublin

DUBLIN, Apr 21: Sean O'Faolain, whose short stories won him a reputation as the "Irish Chekhov," died Saturday in Dublin following a brief illness, a spokeswoman for the Aclaire House Nursing Home said Sunday. He was 91. President Mary Robinson described O'Faolain as "a writer of extraordinary versatility," and said he would be fondly remembered for his contribution to Ireland's cultural and literary heritage, reports AP.

### Afghan Scud kills 300

ISLAMABAD, Apr 21: Up to 300 people were killed in an Afghan government Scud missile attack on the rebel-held northeastern town of Aasadabad, a rebel party said today. A spokesman for the Jamaat-i-Dawa Islami Koran-wa-Sunnah party said in neighbouring Pakistan he had information that three Soviet-made Scuds hit the Kunar province capital early on Saturday evening. The attack also wounded between 400 and 500 people, he said, reports Reuter.

## Economic policies

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Mujibur Rahman, Chairman, NBR Nurul Hossain Khan Governor, Bangladesh Bank S B Chowdhury and senior officials of the Ministry of Finance were present at the inaugural session.

The functionaries of the Chamber bodies and trade associations took part in the day-long deliberations.

Al-Haj Md Akram Hossain, President, FBCCI, also addressed the inaugural session.

Inaugurating the meeting, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said that the economy lost its productive potentials in the eighties.

It has turned into a trade-oriented economy, ridden with corruption and dominated by 'rent-seekers'. This cannot be allowed to continue any further, he added.

He said that a massive growth of unproductive expenditures in the past several years had led to a massive dependence of the economy of foreign aid.

The contributions of domestic resources to development expenditures or public investment programmes have come down to zero levels, he added.

The BNP Chairman said at the meeting that there would be a substantial shortfall in internal resource collection in the current fiscal year due to low investment and savings.

Al-Haj Mohammad Akram Hossain, President, FBCCI, called for firm action by the new government to rehabilitate the sick industrial units and reduce dependence on imports.

He suggested strict control over imports of non-essential items to help create a viable market for the local products.

Otherwise, the domestic industrial sector will not grow, he noted.

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