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## Grenade attack on Khulna mayor

Tayebur escapes unhurt as Pakistan-made grenade did not blast



Shaikh Tayebur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

It was a close shave for Khulna City Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman yesterday, as a hand grenade thrown at his car in an assassination bid did not explode in the southwest industrial city dubbed as the valley of death.

The 70-year-old mayor fell sick from hypertension triggered by the abortive attack his family linked to a letter death threat last year.

Tayebur was heading back home after attending a function organised

by Khulna unit of Islami Samaj Kalyan Parishad, an Islamic social welfare group, at the United Club Auditorium at noon.

Police seized the Pakistani-made grenade from the road near Khulna City Corporation (KCC) and sent it to army explosives experts for chemical test, but could not specify the motive for the attack on the ruling BNP's frontline local leader.

"Any explosion could have caused heavy casualties," said Officer-in-Charge Mosharef

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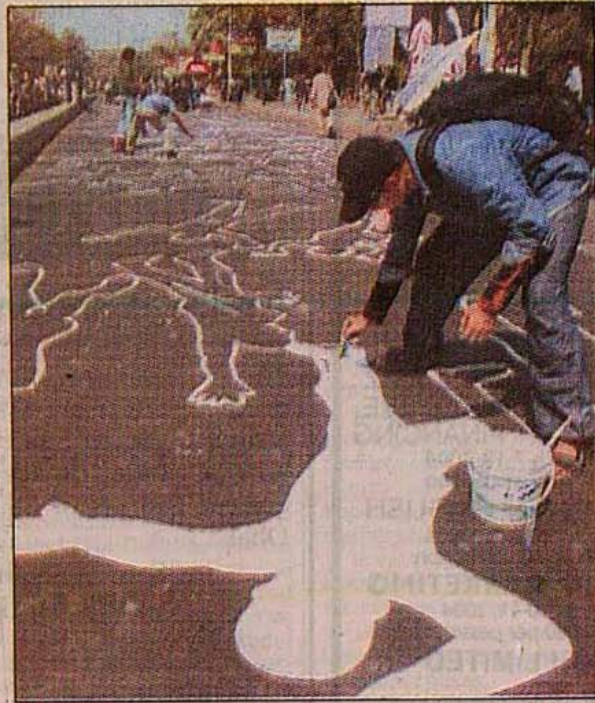


PHOTO: STAR

Students of the Institute of Fine Arts paint figures of protest on a campus road yesterday as part of their demonstration against the attack on prominent writer Humayun Azad.

## Protest rages, writers hold programme today

Demonstrators ask govt, home minister to resign on Prof Azad attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Waves of protest continued to swell and boomed across the country yesterday against the Friday's gory attack on writer Humayun Azad,

voicing demand for the government and the home minister to step down accepting the responsibility.

At the strike-bound Dhaka University (DU), thousands of students, teachers and civil society

members, wearing black badges, their faces and eyes covered with black cloth, took out protest processions and vented their grief, outrage and anger at a number of rallies.

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## Hasina accuses Jamaat of attacking Azad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the cadres of ruling-coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islami for the attack on prominent writer Humayun Azad, saying the freethinker drew the wrath of fundamentalist anti-liberation elements

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## Prof Azad still unconscious

No headway in probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prominent writer Prof Humayun Azad was yet to break his anaesthesia-induced unconsciousness two days into a life-threatening machete

attack on him, but officials claimed he drifted back consciousness for a short time yesterday.

With no headway in the probe into the attack, the home ministry

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### Commentary

## When elected leaders act like despots

Step by step govt is becoming more repressive

MAHFUZ ANAM

Under what law and under what right was Sheikh Hasina stopped inside Dhaka Cantonment and prevented from driving on in her car? She is not only the leader of the opposition, in which capacity she

enjoys the rank and status of a cabinet minister, she is also an elected MP, a former prime minister, a public leader of the highest echelon and above all, a citizen of a democratic country. On being prevented she walked several kilometres and went to see a critically wounded

Prof. Humayun Azad at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) where the main gate was shut on her face. She was prevented from performing what is a common humanitarian gesture and something that is an integral part of our culture -- to be

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## Case filed against Hasina, others for 'army rules breach'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A case was filed against Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and two opposition whips Faruq Khan and Mirza Azam with Cantonment Police Station accusing them of violating army rules and assaulting army personnel.

Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, who represents the defence ministry in parliament,

informed the Jatiya Sangsad of the case last night, a day after Hasina was barred from entering the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) to see Prof Humayun Azad.

The minister told the House that Hasina entered Dhaka Cantonment by force in a motorcade of six vehicles on Saturday night, an act he termed 'an unforgivable offence'.

He accused the opposition

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## U-19 WC CRICKET Pakistan in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistan won the 'battle of Asia' when they handed arch-rivals India a five-wicket defeat in the first semi-final of the ICC U-19 World Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

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