

## Kingpins remain

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interrogate them today and tomorrow," said an investigator asking not to be identified.

The investigators are focusing on the alleged link between the attackers and international terrorist outfits and the source of their money.

Farrukh Ahmed, head of the national investigation, said officers are still gathering evidences and information from the suspects, who have arrived in Dhaka. "Hopefully we will find out the culprits very soon," he was quoted by the AFP news agency as saying.

"We're confident that after interrogating all the suspects from all these districts we can find the root of all this. It's now a matter of time," Farrukh added.

Detective Branch (DB) of police raided different areas in the capital with Rabiul Islam, one of the seven people arrested from Zia International Airport (ZIA). Rabiul is an Imam of a local mosque at Ishal Colony and a third-year student of Islamic studies at Jagannath University College.

A DB source said they are visiting different areas to verify information Rabiul had earlier revealed. On completion of the raid, law enforcers would be able to know whether he gave false information, the source added.

JMB activists Nasir and Munna, who have already admitted to being involved in the bombings, were brought to Dhaka last night. The cops sent them to the capital from Sakthira at about 2:30pm under police escort.

Madrasa student Abul Kalam Azad, who was arrested by Khulna Metropolitan Police on Thursday with video of Osama bin Laden's speeches and military-style training techniques, was transferred to the capital yesterday.

Khulna unit General Secretary of Ahle Hadith Andolan, Bangladesh (Ahab) Golam Moktadir Babu was also sent with Azad, an Ahab activist.

Shamsul Alam, regional leader of the JMB held by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Kushtia, has also arrived in Dhaka.

Police have meantime arrested at least 25 more suspects and JMB leaders and activists from different parts of the country.

Seven of them were arrested in Gaibandha, six in Chapainawabganj, four including Imams of two mosques in Barisal, three in Joypurhat, two in Panchagarh and one each in Narayanganj, Tangail and Jessore.

Our Gaibandha correspondent reports: Police suspect one of the seven arrested during overnight raids is a close associate of JMB chief Bangla Bhai, while six others are JMB activists.

The arrestees are Jahid Raihan Shimul, 27, Sanwarul Islam, 26, Khalilullah Jewel, 30, Abdul Jalil, 45, a close sidekick of Bangla Bhai, Atiqur Rahman Bikul, 26, Azizul Islam, 36, and Piyyere Alam, 46.

Police yesterday raided the Gaibandha house of JMB central leader Mehdi Matin, who was in the district on August 17 until 12:30pm, but failed to nab him.

The police however seized religious books on jihad and letters from his fellow leaders of Sylhet, Comilla, Munshiganj, Lalmonirhat and elsewhere. They also seized a manuscript written by Matin similar to the leaflets found on the day of the explosions.

The father-in-law's house of Jalil, a teacher of Munshirhat High School, is located at Kurnipara village in Gabtali, Bogra, adjacent to the house of Bangla Bhai. He was the matchmaker of Bangla Bhai and his wife Fatema Khatun, daughter of Ibrahim Khanli.

## London's police

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and for the officers involved to "face justice".

Blair told the BBC: "We have apologised [for the fatal shooting] and we take responsibility for it".

But he added: "It is one death out of 57, and the huge context here is the largest criminal inquiry in English history, with 52 innocent victims dead ... with four dead bombers and one tragic death.

"We can't let that one tragic death outweigh everything else."

## Border shootout

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shoulder while working in a farm-land some 800 yards off the zero line, BDR sources said, adding he was rushed to the local upazila health complex.

The shooting stopped at 5:10pm with local BDR officials hoping that their BSF counterparts might agree to hold a flag meeting sometime late last night or early today, BDR Director Genera Major General Jahangir Alam Chowdhury told The Daily Star in Dhaka last night.

He said he heard of one case of injury in the Bangladesh side and two to three cases in the Indian one.

"At a place called Gilabari, a BOP [border outpost] had been facing erosion by the Mahananda river. When we attempted to drop stones in our side of the river to protect the BOP, the BSF barred the BDR from doing so. But, they started dumping sandbags in their side of the river [at Bhohlahat] and opened fire at our border guards," described the BDR chief.

Most of the panicky residents in the border area left their villages by the afternoon, while a huge crowd of onlookers gathered at a safe distance to watch the situation.

BDR sources and witnesses said the BSF members of Mousia camp opened started shooting at the BDR while dumping sandbags in the Mahananda river at the no-man's land without 'any permission and

Our staff correspondent from Rajshahi adds: The Rab-5 yesterday arrested six suspect militants in Chapainawabganj in connection with the blasts.

The arrestees are Babar Ali, Sharif, Khairul Islam, Nadim, Moiz Uddin and Bazlur Rahman of Anguria and Arambagh in the town.

The Rab also arrested three persons — Ishaq Ali, Ziaul Haque and Mahbub — in Joypurhat.

Meanwhile, Rajshahi Metropolitan Police yesterday shown arrested the seven listed top militants held from Bagmara on Thursday in all the four cases filed with different police stations of the city over the serial blasts.

The arrestees include madras teachers and Imams and mujahids connected with Bangla Bhai and JMB. They are on a home ministry list of over 20 militants in Rajshahi.

Our Khulna staff correspondent reports: A court granted a 12-day remand for Golam Moktadir Babu, Abul Kalam Azad and Mujibar arrested in separate explosives cases filed on Thursday. However, the former two are now in Dhaka to face interrogation.

Police seized a large number of handbills, brochures and other documents from the house of Babu, an instructor of Khulna divisional office of Bangladesh Cooperative Societies.

Our Sakthira correspondent adds: Police raided the houses of two close associates of JMB chief Abdur Rahman in the district on Thursday night, but could not arrest them.

Alauddin of Kushkhali and Abdul Khaleq of Baghaghata in sadar upazila maintain regular connection with Rahman over phone, local sources said.

"We have seized some Islamic books and documents from their houses," said Assistant Superintendent of Police of Sakthira Delwar Hossain, who led the raid.

## Build up social resistance against terrorism

### Bhuiyan urges people

**Bss, Dhaka**

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday called upon people irrespective of faith and party affiliation to forge a social resistance against terrorism.

"We should not be afraid of activities of a few number of terrorists, rather we should root them out of society with a united resistance of people," he said.

The LGRD minister was inaugurating the newly-constructed Capital Market, a shopping mall at Dhanmondi in the city, in the afternoon.

Chaired by proprietor of the market M Shajahan, the function was also addressed by advocate Mahbub Uddin Ahmed, MP, Ali Newaz Mahmud Khoiyam, MP, Khairul Kabir Khokan, MP, and leader of Shop Owners Association ATM Rahim.

Bhuiyan said a particular section has been carrying out the explosions in a planned way to create an unstable situation to disrupt economic progress of the country. He said everybody should extend their support to the government to take action against the criminals.

He said the foremost objective of the present government is to alleviate poverty and build a happy and prosperous country.

The government after taking the office has created a huge employment opportunity both in public and private sectors, he said adding that there is no alternative to creating jobs to alleviate poverty.

The minister urged the traders not to increase the prices of essentials before the month of Ramzan.

## Hasina

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ministries. "She (Khaleda) will have to bear the responsibility."

She said: Just see the relaxed faces of the ministers. Foreign minister and foreign secretary had said there is no reason that the prime minister will shorten her China trip cancelling the dinners and lunches. Announcement of her early return was announced only after I raised the issue in my press conference.

"The faces of the ministers and prime minister's reluctance to cut short the visit clearly indicated that they all knew it, they prepared the blueprint of the attacks and they used the intelligence and law enforcement agencies," she said.

Hasina said the serial bomb attacks were not possible without the participation of the government and its machinery.

One reason, Hasina said, was to hold her responsible for the bomb blasts. "Even a banner was ready and the BNP leaders brought out a procession holding me responsible for the serial blasts."

Indicating Hawa Bhaban, the opposition leader said: "We have information that the bhaban is preparing a blueprint to unleash such attacks on mosques and schools."

Another reason for the country-wide bomb blasts, the former prime minister said, was to bring back the anti-Jamaat forces under their grip who went out their control over the years.

"This government only knows money and power ... They don't bother people's lives," Sheikh Hasina said, adding that the BNP-Jamaat alliance is out to prevent the Awami League from coming to power as they amassed huge wealth.

## College student

**FROM PAGE 16**  
at about 2:45pm, a CNG-run three wheeler driver and a pedestrian found him lying on the street below Rampura Overbridge and immediately took him to his house.

He sustained cuts on his right hand, left leg, and head. His mobile phone set and some money were either stolen or lost. Due to injuries, Manik could not say anything about the incident.

The family members rushed him to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital at 4:00pm.

They however have yet to file a case in this connection, as they are not sure whether the attack was carried out by unidentified assailants or it was a sequel to previous enmity.

When contacted, an on-duty officer of Khilgaon Police Station said they did not receive any complaint yet.

## Kala Jahangir's

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self defence, the press release said.

Panu tried to flee during the firing and was bullet-hit in his accomplices' firing. The gang members then retreated and Rab recovered a revolver, a shutter gun and three bullets left by them, it added.

The body was sent to Gazipur Sadar Hospital.

## Dr Kamal

**FROM PAGE 1**  
"It is a matter of effective investigation whether the instigators and masterminds of the bomb and grenade attacks are in the government," he observed.

Dr Kamal said a number of deadly attacks including the August 21 carnage took place in the country, but no effective measure has been taken to avert such incidents.

"An effective national enquiry commission should be constituted with experts from the government agencies and all sections including the opposition, retired judges, retired police officials, advisers to caretaker government and civil society members to probe the incidents," he added.

"If the attackers are not identified and tried at this moment, more deadly attacks will take place in future," he warned.

Eminent lawyer Dr M Zahir said the government and its intelligence branches cannot cope with the attackers. Mudslinging among the political parties and their blame game are paving the way for their escape.

"We came to know Jama'atul Mujahideen has claimed responsibility for the serial bomb blasts, but politically their base is not too strong. We have to find out the political godfathers and masterminds of the bomb and grenade attacks," he added.

Barrister Rabiya Bhuiyan said those who carried out the nationwide blasts are very organised.

"Incidents of bomb and grenade attacks have been taking place in the country for several years. Not to identify, arrest and punish the perpetrators is the sustained failure and weakness of the government," she maintained.

"The failure of the government to identify the attackers, their instigators and masterminds seems to me very mysterious. If they are not identified and tried immediately, they will hit in a larger scale next time," she warned.

## Fearing a Leftist challenge

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had hoped to meet him again.

However, more than two decades would elapse before a meeting between the two of us occurred once again. A request came from this individual through intermediaries asking if he could meet me. He had his own reasons for wanting to see me. After prolonged negotiations through intermediaries who I trusted I flew from the United States and made contact with this individual in a European capital. He also flew in from another continent. Our meeting lasted five hours.

Among the many things that this individual discussed with me one important point concerned his description of how both Mustaque and General Ziaur Rahman had been in contact and in discussions with the Majors for more than six months prior to the actual coup. This individual had personally attended numerous meetings that Major Rashid had separately held with Zia and Mustaque. In a British television interview in August 1976 with The Sunday Times' journalist, Anthony Mascarenhas, Rashid described a meeting with General Zia on March 20, 1975, in which a coup was discussed in detail. This meeting took place five months before the coup. My source attended this meeting with General Zia but claimed it was not the first in which plans for a coup were discussed.

General Zia, who was then Deputy Chief of the Army, expressed reluctance to take the lead in the required military action but made clear about his interest in the matter. The junior officers had already worked out a plan, Rashid told Zia, and they wanted his support and leadership. Zia temporized. According to the account given by Rashid to Mascarenhas and confirmed by my source, Zia told him that as a senior officer he could not be directly involved but if the junior officers were prepared, they should go ahead.

According to my informant, the Majors hoped right up until the end that Zia would take the lead in the coup. Although they were in constant, yet discreet, contact with Mustaque, their view was that the best option would be one that did not make Mustaque head of a new government. The best option from the Majors perspective was to establish a Military Council as the commanding authority after the coup. In fact, it was largely Rashid who was in charge of defining the options for his group. It was their hope that Zia would lead such a council. While the junior officers might have preferred a senior officers' coup with Zia at the head, they secured the next best option. With General Zia's neutrality assured, the junior officers could move ahead without fear that Zia would throw his forces against them at the crucial moment.

My remarkably well-placed source made a rather interesting comment when he noted that he had been present during two different meetings with Zia and a separate one on a different day with Mustaque in which Major Rashid independently raised a question concerning what the attitude of the United States would be to the

planned coup. "Both Zia and Mustaque independently told us that they had checked with the Americans," said this former military officer. "Their answers were almost the same. They each said it [the overthrow of Mujib] was 'not a problem' for the Americans. I then realized that both had their separate channels to the Americans. After that the subject didn't come up again."

The Majors hoped until the last that Zia would take command of a new Military Council that would be set-up in the immediate aftermath of the coup. Even on August 15th they believed this was still a possibility. But, according to this source, Zia stepped back into the shadows once it emerged that a massacre had occurred at Mujib's house and the houses of other relatives in which women and children were mercilessly killed alongside their menfolk.

According to this source, Rashid himself was shocked at the killings and believed in the years that followed that there had been a "hidden plan" submerged within the coup that he neither knew about nor controlled. Nevertheless, neither Rashid nor Farooq, the two junior military principals of August 15th, publicly disowned the killing of the families. Walking on thin ice they were not about to disown the actions of the small contingent of soldiers which were solidly behind them and now deeply implicated in an action that Rashid and Farooq had led them into.

Indeed, this source claims some killings were indeed planned for August 15th. At least four Awami League leaders were to be removed from their residences and taken to a designated location where they would be executed. This plan included the killing of Sheikh Mujib. However, this source claims there was no premeditated plan among the officers organizing the coup to fire weapons on the families. As in many such situations, the unpredictable ruled and brutality took command.

After the coup there was very little analysis of the contradictory phenomena which existed. Ignored was the stark juxtaposition that, in the two years prior to the coup, it was the country's organized left wing parties such as the JSD, the National Awami Party (Bhashani), and the underground organizations like the Sharbochra Party, which had developed and mobilized public sentiment against Mujib's regime; yet, when the critical moment of collapse came for Mujib, it was not from a leftist mass uprising "The Revolution" as had been feared, but from a narrowly-based conspiracy of right.

The challenge being developed and prepared by radical nationalist forces was pre-empted by the August events. The coup itself was an inside job by right wing elements within Mujib's own party, his own cabinet, his own secretariat, his own national intelligence service, and the national army, who viewed Mujib's leadership as no longer capable of holding out against a left wing challenge to their interests.

Clearly, these conservative elements within the establishment organised themselves to act

according to their own distinctive "doctrine of pre-emption" before other forces had an opportunity to act or Mujib found a path out of the deepening crisis his government faced. Some of the elements that backed the coup within the security services retained a distinct nostalgia for the days of Pakistan and would themselves constitute a force in the years ahead seeking to turn back the clock through the establishment of a new dictatorship.

Those planning the coup clearly believed that in approaching the US there were elements within the American government who might well be sympathetic to their plans. What they did not count on was an American Ambassador who decisively took a position that on his watch the US Embassy would have nothing to do with any politician or army officer planning to overthrow Mujib.

Clearly, Ambassador Boster took the view that such interventions could have dire consequences not only for the country concerned but also for the United States. This was the message of the Church and Pike Committee reports. Yet, Boster was serving directly under a Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, who operated under a philosophy of imperial intervention.

Only two years earlier Kissinger had left his and Nixon's deadly mark on Chile with the overthrow of Salvador Allende. There an American Ambassador, Edward Korry, had been left in the dark when an operational decision was taken to unambiguously support a military coup. Of course, the Chile and Bangladesh cases are distinct and very different. However, the real question remains whether there were any similarities.

Eugene Boster, the American Ambassador to Bangladesh, thought that by January 1975 he had unambiguously broken and shut down all links and forms of encouragement by any member of his embassy staff who may have been or could have been involved directly or indirectly in causing a coup to take place. Yet, eight months later after Mujib's death, Boster believed an American link very probably still existed. If it did, the question is by whose authority and by what instrument did it happen. After all these years this is the question that still must be answered.

Lawrence Lifschultz was South Asia Correspondent of the Far Eastern Economic Review (Hong Kong). He has written extensively on European and Asian affairs for The Guardian (London), Le Monde Diplomatique, The Nation (New York), and the BBC among numerous other journals and publications. Lifschultz is editor and author of several books including Why Bosnia? (with Rabia Ali) and Hiroshima's Shadow: Writings on the Denial of History & The Smithsonian Controversy (with Kai Bird). Lifschultz was a Visiting Fellow at Yale University's Center for International and Area Studies from 1998 to 2004. He is currently at work on a book concerning the Kashmir conflict.

## AL front leader

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Shahidnagar in Lalbagh area in the early hours Friday. Sensing police presence, Sumon tried to escape by jumping down from the ground floor roof of the house. But he was hit by a police source, Nirob, that led to his fall on a live electric wire.

Sumon was rushed Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead at about 2:00 am. Autopsy showed Sumon was electrocuted, said his brother Sujon.

When contacted, Lalbagh police however said Sumon's father Abdul Malek lodged an unnatural death (UD) case. He mentioned that Sumon had gone to the roof of the house as electric supply was disrupted at about midnight. On resumption of power supply, he probably came in touch with an electric wire and died, police quoted Malek as stating in the UD case.

The officer-in-charge of Lalbagh Police Station admitted the police raid at Sumon's house but said the team returned failing to find him. "The raid was conducted on information that Sumon was present at the house. He was wanted in several criminal cases."

Meanwhile, city AL Joint Secretary Haji Md Selim in a press statement demanded punishment of police personnel 'responsible' for Sumon's death.

He accused police sub-inspector Atiar Mahfuz, police source Nirob and some others of the incident.

He also blamed the local lawmaker for Sumon's death.

## Bombs blasted

**FROM PAGE 1**  
14-party alliance is ready to face the militant forces politically.

AL Presidium Member Abdur Razzak said the radical forces, which do politics in the name of religion, must be resisted.

Presided over by Azizul Islam Khan, acting president of Gonolatri Party, the rally was addressed among others by AL Presidium Member Amir Hossain Amu, Workers Party General Secretary Bimal Biswas and other senior AL and 11-party leaders.

A procession was brought out after the rally. It paraded different city streets.

## Only 2pc launches

**FROM PAGE 16**  
opportunity to take the launch to a safer place on an emergency basis and thereby save the lives of hundreds of passengers," he said.

"Installing an aneroid barometer and hygrometer on every launch on the inland waterways should be mandatory during its registration and survey," Endad asserted.

Another BIWTA official requesting anonymity also expressed the same view, pointing out that there are no other ways to forecast tornadoes and no'westers.

"Talking to the launch owners, we know they are also interested in installing such cheap but essential weather forecasting machines on their launches," he said adding, "But the main problem is that these machines have to be imported whereas they could easily be produced locally."

"The widespread use of aneroid barometers and hygrometers on launches will be easier when our scientists come forward to manufacture them locally," he added.

The BIWTA official also stressed the need for government subsidies on manufacturing aneroid barometers and hygrometers locally.

Bangladesh Launch Owners' Association President Gasuddin Al Mamun also acknowledged the necessity of installing these machines for saving the launches from tornadoes and no'westers.

Considering the cheap price of these machines, he said some launch owners may afford them. He, however, denied receiving any direction from the shipping ministry for installing aneroid barometers and hygrometers on the launches.

Meanwhile, Shahabuddin Milon, owner of the MV Paterhat, said, "The installation of the barometer on a launch is not enough in the present context as there is an acute shortage of safer places to take shelter on the different river routes during tornadoes or no'westers."

He, however, said launch owners may be inspired to install weather forecasting machines on their launches if they government provided loans.

The launch owners are in danger because of increasing diesel prices and the suspension on reconditioned launch engine imports, Milon, also the vice chairman of the association, said.

Asking the launch owners to install these weather forecasting machines on their launches at a moment of such crisis will definitely anger them, he added. Only 2pc launches use weather forecast device Owners risk passengers' lives to save Tk 10,000

**Ashiqur Rahman**  
Most launches plying on inland waterways do not use weather forecasting machines to detect tornadoes and no'westers, a frequent cause of launch disasters every year, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) sources said.

At best only two percent launches on inland waterways may be using aneroid barometers or hygrometers for detecting possible tornadoes and no'westers.

Although the shipping ministry asked launch owners to install these important weather instruments about one and a half years ago, the launch owners have only shown indifference to the matter, the BIWTA officials alleged.

"The launches on inland waterways often experience terrible accidents, falling into tornadoes or no'westers because of not using aneroid barometers or hygrometers, while the cost of installing these instruments is between Tk 3,000 to 10,000 only," Emdadul Haque, joint director (Marine) of BIWTA Conservancy and Pilotage Department, said.

Most of the coastal vessels in the country can easily save themselves from tornadoes and no'westers by using these weather instruments, he mentioned.

Using an aneroid barometer and hygrometer, a launch master can determine abnormality in the humidity and air pressure half an hour before a tornado or no'wester strikes, Emdad explained adding that once the whole system is pre-

mented to a launch master, he can easily understand the readings of the machines.

"Sensing the abnormality in the weather, the master then gets an opportunity to take the launch to a safer place on an emergency basis and thereby save the lives of hundreds of passengers," he said.

"Installing an aneroid barometer and hygrometer on every launch on the inland waterways should be mandatory during its registration and survey," Emdad asserted.

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## Rockets fired

**FROM PAGE 16**  
bombers on an inflatable raft blew themselves up alongside the USS Cole, a destroyer, in Yemen's southern port of Aden.

Aqaba is strategically important to Jordan as its only seaport.

Jordan itself boosted security at tourist resorts and in populated areas in the wake of the deadly bombings in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh last month.

One of the most stable countries in the Middle East, Jordan is one of only three Arab states to have diplomatic relations with Israel but, unlike the Red Sea resorts of Egypt, it is not a regular destination for Israelis.

The kingdom, the home country of Iraq's most wanted man Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, has broken up a number of al-Qaeda linked networks suspected of plotting attacks against US and other Western targets in Jordan.

Zarqawi, who has a 25 million dollar bounty on his head and is accused of masterminding some of the bloodiest attacks in Iraq was condemned to death in absentia in April for the 2002 murder of a US diplomat in Amman.

Aqaba, the most southerly town in Jordan, is today best known as a diving and beach resort although it has some industrial activities including exports of phosphate.

## Hopes die with death

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Alipura home in Dasmina upazila, some 60km off Patuakhali district town.

On that fatal day, immediately after the blasts, rescuers found him leaning against a closed shutter of a shop on Bangabandhu Avenue. Shrapnel smashed both his legs. Four grenade splinters pierced through his ribs, one through his right chin and some might have hit his brain, recalled Motaleb, who had rushed to the spot hearing the news.

He said, "As I hurried with him towards Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, I thought my son was unconscious. But at the hospital doctors declared him dead."

As a student, Mamun was quite promising. He passed the secondary school certificate examinations in first division from the local BB Roy High School in 2003. He wanted to be an army officer, recalled Morsheda, with tears rolling down her pale cheeks.

"We have no land except this house on only a 3-katha plot. So, we had to meet the expenses for his schooling with the help of our close relatives," Motaleb said, adding Mamun also helped bearing the expenses by working as a private tutor. They hoped one day Mamun would take responsibility of his four sisters, when eventually he starts

earning.

Motaleb, the only breadwinner of the family, now cannot labour as hard as he could one year ago. He can hardly earn Tk 2,400 a month. Of their four daughters -- Mahmuda, 16, Jhumur, 14, Runa, 12, and Tuli, 10 -- Jhumur and Runa had to end education abruptly, as Motaleb could no longer support the expenses.

"Out of the Tk 1 lakh compensation money we received from Awami League, we have already spent Tk 40,000 for Mamun's Chehlam and my eldest daughter's marriage. The government has not provided us with any aid," Motaleb said.

While Morsheda demanded, "I want to know who killed my son and why," Mahmuda echoed her mother, "Yes, we want to know who the killers are. Their trials may come later."

"Even if Awami League is responsible, as is claimed by the government, we want to know the names of the masterminds behind the cowardly mayhem," she added. But, Motaleb has strong doubts whether "This government will properly investigate the grisly crime," as "All they have been doing in the names of probe and trial are nothing but a farce."