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Midnight crackdown on 'corrupt' politicians

SQ Chy, Nazmul Huda, Falu, Iqbal Hasan, Saifur's son, Nasim, Salman among the big fish netted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces finally made a move against the hitherto untouchable corrupt bigwigs of BNP and Awami League (AL), detaining seven former ministers and several other top politicians of

both the parties, the names of which have become synonymous to unbridled corruption over the years.

The high profile detainees include Nazmul Huda, Salaudhin Quader Chowdhury and Mohammad Nasim.

The arrests, which came three weeks into former central bank governor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed led caretaker government's declaration of war against corruptionists and criminal godfathers, were made in the first three hours of yesterday. Preparations are on to bring

graft charges against the detainees, according to sources.

The joint forces also have the names of 41 other top politicians and businessmen on their wanted list and will soon make an announcement for them to surrender, the sources said.

Apart from former communications minister Huda, and former prime minister Khaleda Zia's parliamentary affairs adviser SQ Chowdhury, other detainees from the BNP fold are former state minister for civil aviation Mir Nasir Uddin, former Dhaka-10

lawmaker and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's political secretary Mosaddak Ali Falu, former state minister for power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud, former state minister for labour and employment Amanullah Aman, former deputy minister for land Ruhul Quddus

Talukder Dulu, former lawmaker from Khagrachhari Abdul Wadood Bhuiyan, former lawmaker from Sylhet Naser Rahman who is also former finance minister Saifur Rahman's son, and former lawmaker from Comilla Manjurul Ahsan Munshi.

Arrestees from AL are former home minister Mohammad Nasim, Adviser to AL and Beximco Vice-chairman Salman F Rahman, former state minister for planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, former

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2
See back page for AL, BNP reactions

LITANY OF ALLEGATIONS

Holding sway down to the grubby politics at the grassroots from the top rung of power, Salaudhin Chowdhury has



SQ Chy

allegedly been involved in numerous crimes ranging from the bloody genocide of 1971 to gun-running to murder and extortion.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

Former communications minister Nazmul Huda was widely accused of making brisk money through corruption in



Huda

introducing CNG-run autorickshaws and allocating land for filling stations during the tenure of the immediate past BNP-led

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

Mossaddak Ali Falu's life story from rags to riches can be traced back to his modest background as a simple Jatiyatabadi



Falu

Juba Dal activist in the 1980s to his meteoric rise to one of the most influential media moguls and recognised political identities in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Iqbal Hasan Mahmood served as the state minister for power of the four-party alliance government for the majority time



Iqbal

until May 21, 2006 when he was removed to pacify widespread public anger due to severe power crisis, which was the result of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Former finance minister M Saifur Rahman's son Naser Rahman emerged as a very influential person during the immediate



Naser

past government and turned rich at a surprising speed through collecting commissions from businesses in exchange of winning tender bids

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Senior Awami League (AL) leader Mohammad Nasim was widely reported to have been involved in corruption



Nasim

when he was a cabinet member of the AL government during 1996-2001.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Amanullah Aman was one of the junior BNP leaders who made huge illegal money through using his close relation with BNP



Aman

Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman.

Once a leader of BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Awami League (AL) Advisory Council Member and industrialist Salman F Rahman has been accused of a number of



Salman

financial crimes since the independence of Bangladesh while he became synonymous to loan default.

His financial influence helped

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Former BNP state minister for land Ruhul Quddus Talukdar Dulu allegedly helped the rise of militant kingpin



Dulu

Siddiqui Islam Bangla Bhai in greater Rajshahi area in 2004, while the ex-minister also raised a gang of criminals led by his cousins and

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

During his four years as the state minister for civil aviation and tourism, Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin was widely criticised



Mir Nasir

for his alleged corruption in transfers, promotions, procurements, supplies and plundering crores of taka.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5
(See also back page)

Ex-secy Shamsul Huda made CEC

Former law secy picked as commissioner; oath likely today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government last night appointed former secretary Dr ATM Shamsul Huda as chief election commissioner (CEC) and another former bureaucrat Mohammad Sohul Hossain as election commissioner.

Former water resources secretary Huda and ex-law secretary Sohul are likely to take oath today.

Huda also served as secretary to Banking Division at the Ministry of Finance. Sohul, meanwhile, served in the judicial service of the then Pakistan and Bangladesh for more than three decades as additional district and sessions judge. He has

specialisation in drafting of laws and documents, and vetting of all legal instruments.

President Iajuddin Ahmed made the appointments following resignation of controversial CEC Justice MA Aziz on January 21 and five other commissioners 10 days later.

It could not be known last night whether the government is going to appoint any other commissioners soon.

Law Adviser Mainul Hossain earlier said the reconstituted EC would have three members including the CEC.

The council of advisers moved

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Jubilant citizens demand public trials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing satisfaction over the arrests of 'corrupt' political leaders, a cross section of the people in the capital yesterday demanded immediate public trials of the detainees.

They also said big corruptionists, who are yet to be arrested, should be captured immediately irrespective of their political affiliations.

While talking to The Daily Star, many citizens demanded that the trials must be held during the caretaker government's regime.

Many of the people however expressed their doubts about whether the detainees will be put on trials.

People of all walks of life also demanded immediate arrest of corrupt government officials and police personnel.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Forces search for 41 political bigwigs

Will disclose their names, ask them to surrender

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces are on the hunt for another 41 political bigwigs allegedly involved in corruption and criminal activities, sending a chill of panic among political leaders and a few businessmen.

Sources said the law enforcers will disclose the list of the 41 "big fish", who have been hiding since

the crackdown began, and ask them to surrender if they cannot be held in a couple of days.

Two advisers to the caretaker government yesterday said the government will take legal actions against the corrupt political leaders without considering their positions in the parties.

"Our task is to catch the big fish, not the fries," Communication

Adviser MA Matin told reporters yesterday, following the arrest of over a dozen former ministers and lawmakers of BNP and Awami League (AL).

The caretaker government will take actions not only against the corrupt politicians of the immediate past government but also those of any other government, Law

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Firearms, ammo seized from Dulu's house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Joint forces raided former deputy minister Ruhul Quddus Talukdar Dulu's Natore residence as well as his village home at Ramsa, Kazipur and seized two firearms and 137 bullets early yesterday.

The army-led forces found a 22 bore rifle along with its 76 bullets, and 50 more different rifle bullets from Dulu's residence at Alaipur in Natore town.

A shotgun along with its 11

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Ijtema ends with prayer for mercy

UNB, Tongi

Lakhs of Muslim devotees raised their hands in a mass prayer seeking forgiveness and blessings for mankind and the Islamic world as the three-day Biswa Ijtema concluded yesterday with Akheri Munajat.

Maulana Zobairul Hassan from Tablig-e-Jamaat, India led the 15-minute Akheri Munajat (concluding prayer) from 12:47pm at the

Ijtema, the second largest congregation of the Muslims after hajj, on the bank of river Turag.

Over an estimated 3.5 million people joined the munajat for divine forgiveness and purgation of their souls. Several thousand devotees from foreign countries also attended the annual event of the Tablig-e-Jamaat.

All roads led to the northern outskirts of the capital as the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

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