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Jalil, Babar, Hashem on remand in graft probe

Joint forces continue raids, pick up ex-AL minister Rafiqul, Barisal Mayor Majibor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil, former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar and former BNP lawmaker and Partex Group Chairman MA Hashem were remanded in custody last night by a Dhaka court for interrogation about alleged corruption.

The three, who were among

those picked up in high profile raids Monday by joint forces, were remanded for four days at a crowded court that also sent former minister Attaf Hossain Chowdhury and former state minister Fazlur Rahman Patal to Dhaka Central jail with recommendations for 30 days' detention.

The moves came hot on the heels of the rounding up of AL leader and former state minister

for energy Rafiqul Islam and BNP leader and Barisal City Corporation Mayor Majibor Rahman Sarwar yesterday. Rafiqul was later sent to jail by another Dhaka court with the recommended detention of 30 days.

All of them were arrested under section 16(2) of the Emergency Power Rules.

On Monday morning, the army-led joint forces had also detained

former AL lawmaker Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, former FBCCI president Abdul Awal Mintoo, and Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Shamim Iskandar.

The ACC asked them to come up with wealth statements within seven days of receipt.

When the ACC published its first

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BABAR'S LITANY OF 'MISCHIEF' Master manipulator of state power

STAR REPORT

Arrested BNP leader Lutfuzzaman Babar virtually enjoyed the power of a full minister while serving as a state minister for home affairs, and played dubious roles in the investigations of major terrorist incidents, in instilling partisanship within the police department, and in bulk purchase of government motor

vehicles, according to reliable government sources.

As a close aide to BNP's detained Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman, who is also the elder son of former prime minister and BNP chief Khaleda Zia, Babar led law enforcers in resorting to extreme violence in order to suppress opposition

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Forest boss held with tucked away Tk 1cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) Osman Gani was arrested yesterday at his Uttara house with Tk 1 crore in cash that he had hidden at some unusual places in his house.

A joint team of Anti-Corruption Commission, army, Rab and police raided Osman's Bonobithi house at Sector 8 at around 11:00am and found the money, in several currencies, hidden inside a rice drum

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21 graft suspects asked to submit wealth reports in 7 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday served notices on 21 new graft suspects including former premier Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Rahman and her brother Shamim Iskandar.

The ACC asked them to come up with wealth statements within seven days of receipt.

When the ACC published its first

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Arrests designed to divert attention

Hasina criticises govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the government of trying to suppress "people's wishes" and diverting focus away from the government's failure to rein in rising prices of essentials by making arrests and creating a "suffocating" environment of "fear".



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HC sets hearing dates in Aug for 2 graft cases against Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday set August 1 and 7 for hearing on Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina's petitions for quashing two graft cases against her regarding the purchase of MIG-29 fighters and a frigate.

The decision followed a sudden move by the military-backed interim government to revive the

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Mamun alleges he was threatened with 'crossfire' Says he was unofficially detained for weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Giasuddin Al Mamun, the detained businessman friend of Tarique Rahman, yesterday told the court that he could not submit his wealth statement in time since he was in the joint forces' custody from January 31 to March 26.

During hearing of the case against him for not declaring his assets to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), he pleaded not guilty. The anti-graft body issued the notice for him to turn in the statement in person on February 18 within 72 hours of receipt.

He said while in captivity the joint forces had taken him to a site and threatened to kill him and his staff in crossfire.

Mamun was taken to the fifth graft tribunal at the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar MP Hostel at around 11:00am yesterday. In the dock, he took some time from the judge and

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Zia's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 26th death anniversary of founder of BNP and late president Ziaur Rahman will be observed across the country today rather

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ATTENTION

Mr. A.H.M. Kamruzzaman (32), S/O. Late Moulana Abul Bashar is a practicing religious Muslim and is the Manager of The City Bank Limited, Faridpur Branch. For saying his ASAR prayer on 26.05.2007 he left his residence "LINA" Muktijoddah Salim Sarak, Jheelthuly, Faridpur and did not return back till date.

All kind hearted person are earnestly requested to inform his whereabouts or any clue of his disappearance (if known) either to kotwali Police Station, Faridpur (GD-No.1341, dt.27.05.2007) or to his above mentioned residence or to Manager, The City Bank Limited, Faridpur Branch (Telephone-0631-62668, Mob-01711404114) or to HRD, The City Bank Limited, Head Office, Jibon Bima Tower, 10, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka or Phone No. 9569554/9565925.

Rajuk reclaims Harris house

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and PINAKI ROY

Despite showing the highest level of deceivability, now convicted political secretary to a former prime minister Harris Chowdhury finally lost his ill-gotten palatial house, which he had acquired from

PHOTO: STAR

The outer view of Harris Chowdhury's palatial house, which he occupied illegally, in the city's Gulshan area. Rajuk with the assistance of the joint forces reclaimed the house yesterday.

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