

Hasina fears

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after a meeting with her in the sub-jail.

Five days into Hasina's arrest, AL leader and former law minister Khasru was the first one to be allowed yesterday to meet the former prime minister, who told him that the country is heading towards a crisis, and urged her party leaders, activists and supporters to remain calm and united.

"I may not get justice, I have been arrested as a part of a conspiracy to eliminate me from politics. The caretaker government will punish me anyhow utilising the state of emergency," Khasru quoted Hasina to The Daily Star.

Hasina also told her lawyer that a conspiracy has been afoot so that she cannot participate in the upcoming election, and attempts have been simultaneously on to disqualify her from contesting the election.

Khasru said Hasina complained to him that she had been mistreated by the security personnel at the time of her arrest. She told Khasru that the security personnel cordoned off her residence in such a way to arrest her as if she was a top wanted criminal.

"I had never been mistreated in my life like the way they mistreated me. They can't treat the leader of a major political party and a former prime minister, like that," Khasru quoted Hasina as saying.

She told her lawyer that she felt unprotected as her police protection had been withdrawn three hours before her arrest.

Khasru entered the sub-jail around 3:00pm and stayed there till 4:10pm. He was allowed to talk to his party chief for only 25 minutes in presence of three to four plainclothes security personnel. Later, Hasina's tax lawyer Khandaker Moniruzzaman was also allowed to meet her.

Although AL had sent a list of eight defence lawyers for meeting Hasina, the jail authorities allowed only Khasru. The authorities have yet to allow any of her relatives or personal staff to meet her on security grounds'.

Khasru told journalists that the AL chief is physically well but she is quite annoyed by the behaviour of the

Moeen calls

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Independence at the call of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1971 and liberated the country.

On December 10, 1971, Bir Srestha Shaheed Ruhul Amin embraced martyrdom in the enemy bombardment while sailing warship "Shapla" from Mongla to Khulna.

General Moeen said the nation is proud of the independence and indebted to the heroic sons who sacrificed their lives for country's independence. He said the government has decided to incorporate the history of national heroes in textbooks for class one to nine.

This will help the new generation to learn the true history of the Bangalee nation, said General Moeen, whose force is acting in aid of the present caretaker government.

The civic gathering was also addressed, among others, by Noorjan Begum, sister of Bir Srestha Shaheed Ruhul Amin, DC Habibul Kabir Chowdhury, District Muktijoddha Unit Commander Muzammel Huq.

Huda, Sigma

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The caller introduced herself as Sigma Huda and demanded Tk 2 crore and transfer of my shares in the company to Bo-Sun Park and Nazmul Huda," police said quoting the first information report (FIR).

She alleged that the caller threatened her that otherwise she would have to face serious consequences as her husband was an influential minister of the then BNP-led corrupt government. She said that at this time she saw Kajol talking to several persons in Bengali which she could not understand. But they were staring at her as if they would do her grievous harm.

The complainant mentioned in the FIR that she believed that accused Nazmul Huda, Sigma Huda and Kajol backed accused Bo-Sun Park in his move against her.

Later, she had heated talks with Kajol and some officials at the JSCF registrar's office. At that time Nazmul Huda sent some police personnel for arresting her but they did not as some journalists had already gathered there and were observing the situation, the FIR said.

"They harassed me in many ways such as forcefully ousting me from the company, getting me arrested and putting me in jail by using police, filing false cases by misusing their powers," the complainant said. On various occasions, the accused persons threatened her with dire consequences including death if she filed any case against them regarding their demand for money from her, she added.

They also told her that as they were powerful persons, none could touch them.

She said she could not file the case earlier as she was afraid of her safety due to their threats.

Myanmar

FROM PAGE 16

The Trans-Asian Highway, which the last BNP-led four-party government chose not to sign up for, Myanmar would have to take up Bangladesh's case, as only signatories of the agreement can recommend another country, sources said.

This visit comes hot on the heels of recent Bangladeshi interest in purchasing hydro-electric power from Myanmar, which is in its primary stages and awaiting a feasibility study by both sides.

"The participants will exchange views on the law and order situation in the wake of the recent bomb blasts, and discuss measures to control the situation and bring peace," the spokesman said.

The meeting came after the White House ramped up the pressure on its key ally.

Gen Masud

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Chittagong yesterday where he was the chief guest. He was a student of the institute in 1964-69.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad was also present as a special guest at the programme.

Masud while talking to journalists later on said the task force is now taking actions against corrupt people and those who misused their power.

He said the government neither has any plans to harass any political leader nor has it anything to do with the "minus two" plan in the name of reforms as alleged by two major political parties. Each and every person arrested or sued so far was accused of corruption, he claimed.

On Awami League's decision not to make any steps towards reforms until its chief Sheikh Hasina is released, Masud said it was Awami League's own decision.

When asked about the corrupt politicians involved in the reforms process, he said everything would be done step by step. It is impossible to take action against all the corrupt people at the same time due to the lack of manpower in the existing organogram of the task force.

Requesting every parent to teach their children to hate corruption, he urged all to wage a movement against corruption for the sake of the country and its people.

Terming the listing of corrupt

military backed caretaker government.

Hasina alleged that the complainant of the extortion case, in connection of which she was arrested, had been missing for several days before filing the case. "After torturing him physically and mentally he was forced to file the case against me," Hasina was quoted by Khasru as saying.

NSI official

FROM PAGE 1

To National Heart Foundation in Mirpur where the doctors declared him dead.

Atiar's brother-in-law Golam Mostafa said as Atiar was not returning home, they tried to contact him through cellphone, but could not reach him.

The victim's only son Mamun Ferdous, a textile engineer, went to Sabubagh Police Station at midnight to file a general diary in this regard. Officer-in-charge of the police station concerned then told him that an unidentified body was lying in the National Heart Foundation.

They rushed to the National Heart Foundation but by that time the body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy. Later, they identified Atiar at the hospital morgue.

When Atiar's body was brought to his residence, his only daughter Farzana Rahman, a master's student of the Department of Economics, Dhaka University, burst into tears. "We all were supposed to visit our village home with our father. Now we will go, but taking my father's body."

Morgue sources said they found dark mark in the victim's eyes and marks of injury to his head and throat.

A doctor at the Forensic Medicine Department seeking anonymity told The Daily Star that the killer strangled Atiar.

A murder case was filed with Kafir Police Station.

The law enforcers started raiding different places in the city yesterday, but could not arrest anyone as 9:00pm.

Fresh areas flooded

FROM PAGE 1

Lama municipality have remained waterlogged since yesterday.

A total of 211mm rain was recorded in the district in 24 hours from 9:00am Thursday.

Water Development Board sources said water in the Shankha and Matamuhuri rivers is flowing above the safe water level from yesterday morning.

Many areas of the town including Armapara, Memberpara, Banorupa, Rupnagar, Islampur, Langipara, Shere-e-Bangla Nagar, Madhampara, Ujanipara, Kouchingpara, Kalaghata, Hafiz Ghona and the stadium and fire service office areas have gone under three-four feet of water.

Sources in the Calamities Control Cell said the district administration has set up nine shelter centres in the town where over 600 families have taken shelter.

Dry food was distributed among them.

Khagrachhari

At least 25 villages in different upazilas have been affected in the flash flood caused by heavy rain and the onrush of water from the hills, forcing over one lakh people to take shelter on the highlands and tall buildings.

The flood affected villages are Latibar, Fatema Nagar, Natunpara, Koncharepara in Panchhari upazila, Bara Merung, Chhoto Merung, Younchhari, Mirung Bazar, Betchhari and Babuchhara in Dighinala upazila, the APBN area, Musimpura, Ganjapara, Rajjamonipara and Perachhara in sadar upazila, Kaladeva, Fenirkul and Masterpara in Ramgarh upazila, Shantipur,

Kushhtia

FROM PAGE 16

The family of the victim informed the police, but did not file any case with the police station concerned as of 4:30pm yesterday.

In Kushhtia, a cattle trader was stabbed to death by a gang of criminals in Daulatpur upazila on Thursday night.

The victim, Asadul Haq, 30, son of Barkat Mollah of Gachheria village in the upazila, came under attack while he was returning home at Gachheria from local Baragandia Bazar at about 8:30pm.

Asadul was taken to Kushhtia General Hospital where he died at about 11:30pm.

Police arrested two persons—Mosarraf Hossain and Ala Mollah—for their alleged involvement in the killing the same night.

Moriarty served as minister-counsellor for political affairs at the US Embassy in Beijing. Earlier assignments in Moriarty's career included postings at the US embassies in Pakistan, Swaziland and Morocco.

They (police) recovered six live bombs, a foreign-made revolver, a toy pistol, three charger batteries and bomb making materials from their possession.

The arrestees are Sirajuddin, 26, Ibrahim Hossain Surat, 24, Majnu, 23, Harun, 21, Abul Khan, 30, Mohammad Ali, 25, Mohammad Anu, 28, Osman Khan, 28, and Anu, 22.

Police said the arrestees are the members of an inter-district robber gang.

In Rajbari, nine robbers were arrested with firearms and live bombs at Choupara village in Pangsha upazila early yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team raided the house of Majnu at the village at around 4:00am and arrested the robbers while they were preparing to commit a robbery, reports UNB.

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"We are afraid the government will lose its credibility and public support fast which will lead to further uncertainty, chaos, political vacuum, totalitarianism and more alarmingly, help the rise of extremism and terrorism," said the memorandum read.

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BRTA official

FROM PAGE 1

Signs of beating and strangulation were found on the body, CMCH sources said.

Prity left City Guest House of Bohuddarhat, where he was staying, for the bus stand at Colonel Hut at around 8:30pm before meeting the tragic end, said the victim's family members.

Prity's wife Tuku Rani Chakma said they planned to visit their two sons studying in Sylhet during the two holidays at the weekend.

Tuku was coming directly from Debarish Nagar in Rangamati where they hailed from and Prity was to meet her at the Sylhet-bound Volvo bus of Green Line at 10:15pm, she said.

"After arriving at GEC intersection from Rangamati at around 8:40pm I contacted Prity over cell phone when he told me to go to the bus counter at Colonel Haat directly," Prity told this correspondent at CMCH emergency ward yesterday morning.

"He told me that he would come to the counter by hiring a CNG-run three-wheeler within half an hour," Tuku said.

"I could not realise that this would be our last conversation. I failed to contact him over phone despite several attempts after reaching the bus counter," she said.

BRTA officials who gathered at the CMCH mortuary yesterday said, Prity lived simply and he never had any enmity or dispute with any of his colleagues.

7 robbers held

FROM PAGE 16

Work may entail preparation and dissemination or publication of "informational materials"; setting up press conferences, lectures, and speeches; conducting media and advertising campaigns; and more.

However, Adviser to the BNP Chairperson Maj Gen (retd) ZA Khan expressing his surprise said, "I am not aware of any such decision made at any level of the party. If someone hired a lobbyist firm, it should be considered his or her own effort not the party's initiative."

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