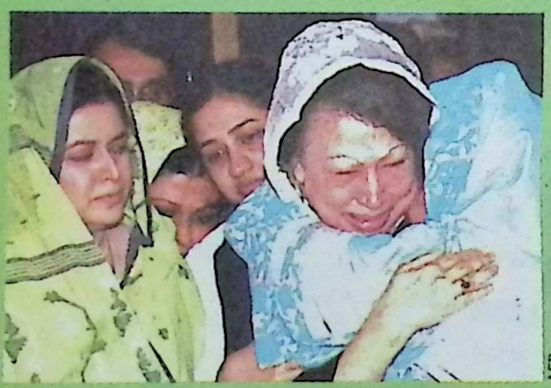


Four advisers resign en masse

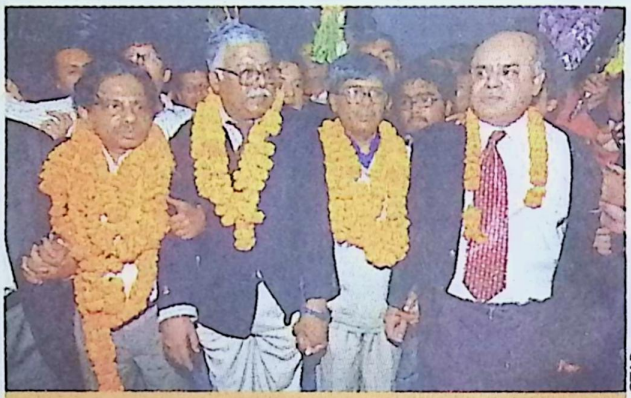
Four advisers to the caretaker government resign on Jan 8 just three days before the military-backed administration completes a year in office. Law adviser Mainul Hosein, food adviser Tapan Chowdhury, health adviser ASM Matiur Rahman and industry adviser Geeteara Safiya Choudhury stood down on advice of chief adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, according to sources. Mainul and Tapan say they quit as that's what the government had wanted. The chief adviser's press secretary Syed Fahim Munaim tells reporters that the four had resigned for personal reasons.

Khaleda paroled to see mother's body

BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia is released on parole Jan 19 for a matter of hours to have a last glimpse of her mother who died the previous night. Her sons Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko are also granted a brief freedom to pay respects to their grandmother Taiyeba Majumder. Khaleda gets two hours to spend beside the body while Tarique and Koko each spend about an hour at their cantonment residence. The former premier and her sons, however, do not meet each other as jail authorities had their release staggered. They were sent back to prison separately.



AFP



STAR

Four DU teachers finally freed

Four Dhaka University teachers are released from prison Jan 22, after being granted presidential mercy as three of them were convicted by a court the same morning in the second case of emergency power rules violation in connection with last August's campus unrest. Prof Sadrul Amin, Prof Anwar Hossain and Prof Harun-or Rashid, each of whom were sentenced to two years imprisonment, are freed along with Prof Nimchandra Bhowmik, who was acquitted in the same case. Coming out of Dhaka Central Jail, the freed teachers -- at a rally at Central Shaheed Minar -- vow to continue the 'DU legacy of standing up against all sorts of injustice for the sake of the country and the people'.

RU, DU students released

The government releases 10 Rajshahi University students and a university employee on Jan 21, and eight Dhaka University students on Jan 24, all detained in cases filed in connection with the August 2007 campus violence. However, not all the students are cleared of charges, and vow to continue with protests until all cases are withdrawn.



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