



OFFICE OF
CIRCULATION

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

Plus Rising Stars



COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVIII No. 216

DHAKA THURSDAY AUGUST 21, 2008

www.thedailystar.net

BHADRA 6, 1415 BS

SABAN 19, 1429 HJRI

24 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: Tk 10.00

Missing masterminds mock probes, charge sheets

AUGUST 21

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and
SHARIFUL ISLAM

The masterminds behind assassination attempt on Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina on August 21, 2004 remain undetected even after charges have been pressed in two cases filed in this connection.

The government investigators believe although 22 people are charge-sheeted, the key planners of the grisly grenade attack are still untraced.

"The gravity of the attack indicates it was not possible to be carried out without backing of any

influential group or some most powerful people. But we don't see any such findings," says an investigator who was assigned soon after the attack and discharged the duty for quite a long time.

Referring to charge-sheeted

accused BNP leader and former deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu and Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Hujji) top leader Mufti Abdul Hannan, another former investigator says though it's convincing that

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Haunted for life

SHAMIM ASHRAF and EMRAN HOSSAIN

Rashida Akhter Ruma was struggling to hold back her tears, all the while cursing the fickleness of fate. Why she was not killed on this day four years ago when grenades rained down all around her, leaving her to bear the throes of injuries for life?

She has a point. Her death would have drawn public attention, enabling her two daughters to get some help.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Interpol issued red notice for grenade supplier

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four years into the grisly grenade attacks on a Awami League rally on this day, neither the supplier of the grenades has been arrested nor the channel through which those were smuggled in could be tracked down.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Advisers okay consumer rights ordinance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The council of advisers yesterday approved the Consumer Rights Protection (CRP) ordinance, allowing consumers to sue retailers for selling adulterated products or deceiving them.

The ordinance also sanctions the formation of a CRP council and a directorate to serve as watchdogs to protect consumers' interests, said a government press release.

Under the new ordinance, retailers could face jail sentence up to three years and could be fined Tk 2 lakh if found guilty of deceiving customers through false advertisement, selling adulterated products or failing to provide adequate information about products.

A 21-member national consumers rights protection council, said a government press release.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Most graft convicts absconding abroad

ANTI-GRAFT DRIVE-2

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

An ironic twist of fate after the 1/11 changeover has turned the powerful world of politicians upside down, no matter how horrible or painful the life has become for the people.

Be in power or opposition, the politicians always remained powerful except for last few months when political bigwigs were either arrested on corruption charge or promptly went into hiding.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



A small tea stall has been set up at the house of former BNP minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury in Gulshan-2 as the leader is absconding.

PHOTO: STAR

Cases shrouded in questions

Statements full of contradictions

SHARIFUL ISLAM and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

When the two cases filed for the August 21, 2004 carnage are now finally in court for charge framing, contradiction between the statements of Joj Miah and those of eight militants questions the merit of the cases.

Joj, Abul Hashem and Shafiqul Islam gave similar statements before magistrates in June 2005, naming Awami League (AL) leader and former ward commissioner of Maghbazar Mokhesur Rahman as one of the masterminds of the attacks. They also said infamous Seven-Star Group led by top criminal Subrata Bain carried out the attacks.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



An Awami League activist holding AL leader Ivy Rahman after she was fatally injured in the August 21, 2004 grenade attack on a party rally on Bangabandhu Avenue.

FILE PHOTO

Hasina's health complications resulted from grenade blasts

State US doctors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former premier Sheikh Hasina's hearing, eye, blood pressure and allergic complications resulted from the August 21 grenade attack, said her doctors in the US.

Hasina's personal physician Prof Modasser Ali, an ophthalmologist, yesterday told this to The Daily Star quoting the doctors in USA. "The US doctors said that three of the complications except for the hearing problem are late consequences of the grenade attack."

Prof Modasser recently came home from the US after overseeing

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

MiG-29 corruption case goes to trial

Hasina arraigned; hearing from Sept 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday framed charges against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and five others in a graft case in connection with purchase of MiG-29 warplanes.

Judge Golam Mortuza Majumder of Special Judge's Court, Dhaka Division, also fixed September 3 for beginning the hearing of witnesses' depositions.

With yesterday's charge framing the Awami League chief is now charged in three cases. On January 13, Hasina was indicted in a Tk 2.99 crore extortion case filed by busi-

nessman Azam J Chowdhury, and on May 18, charges were framed against her in a graft case in connection with setting up a barge-mounted power plant.

The trial of Niko graft case filed against Hasina and nine others, which had been going on in the second special court, was stayed for two months by the High Court on July 7.

Hasina, who is now getting medical treatment abroad, was exempted from appearing in person during the proceedings of the MiG-29 graft case on June 9.

She was represented by her

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

KHALEDA'S RELEASE 4-party submits memo to chief adviser today

DMP imposes restriction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led four-party alliance will march towards the Chief Advisers' Office today to submit a memorandum before the chief adviser demanding release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) however banned the alliance's planned street protest, saying such programme will violate the Emergency Power Rules (EPR).

The 4-party's demands also include sending Tarique abroad for treatment, lifting of the emergency and holding the parliamentary

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Faisal Morshed gets 10yrs for amassing wealth illegally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday sentenced Faisal Morshed Khan, son of former foreign minister M Morshed Khan, to 10 years' imprisonment for amassing wealth illegally and concealing information in his wealth statement submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The court ordered confiscation of Faisal's ill-gotten wealth worth Tk 1.66 crore.

Judge AKM Arifur Rahman of the Special Court-10 on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises also fined him Tk 10 lakh, in default of which he will have to serve jail term for one more year.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 8

9 top graft suspects granted bail

SC rejects ACC appeals against 61 HC orders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted bail to nine high-profile prisoners, including seven politicians, on different terms and stayed the graft case against Awami League leader Abdul Jalil.

The politicians who got bail are former law minister Moudud Ahmed, former health minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, former state ministers Prof Rafiqul Islam, Amanullah Aman, Fazlur Rahman Patal, former BNP whip Shahidul Haq Jamal and former

lawmaker Mohammad Shahjahan. Industrialists Beximco Group Vice-Chairman Salman F Rahman and HRC Group Chairman Syed Hossain Chowdhury also got bail.

A two-member HC bench comprising Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice M Emdadul Haque Azad passed the bail orders.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld 61 different HC orders that granted bails and stayed proceedings of 40 graft cases filed against politicians and businessmen including BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her

sons Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko.

The five-member full bench of the SC headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin passed the orders following appeals against the HC orders filed on different dates by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The other accused in these cases include Khaleda's Political Adviser Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, former communications minister Nazmul Huda, former BNP lawmaker Mosaddak

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

RU closed after violent clashes

Teachers among 60 injured; halls vacated

ANWAR ALI and
ABU KALAM, Rajshahi

Rajshahi University (RU) was closed for an indefinite period yesterday following violent clashes that erupted the night before between students and local businesspeople.

The RU authorities asked resident students to vacate all of the 16 dormitories by 12:00 noon yesterday.

At least 60 people including teachers, students and police personnel were injured and six off-campus stores vandalised during the clashes. Out of the seriously injured, mostly students, 20 were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital while the rest were given first aid at RU Medical Centre.

Bangladesh Rifles and Rapid Action Battalion were deployed on the campus at around 2:00am to contain the situation.

The RU syndicate in an emergency meeting held later in the morning at the vice chancellor's (VC) residence decided to close the university sine die.

Prof Mamnunul Keramat, the acting VC, said the decision was

taken to avoid further casualties or damage to properties. "Academic activities will resume as soon as possible," he added.

Many students had to start vacating their dorms as early as 2:30 in the morning when senior teachers following a meeting with law enforcement agencies informed them that the RU authorities had decided to close the university.

RU Proctor Enamul Haque, Assistant Proctor Abdul Haque, Student Adviser Faridul Islam, Prothom Alo photojournalist Azhar Uddin were also injured in the clashes.

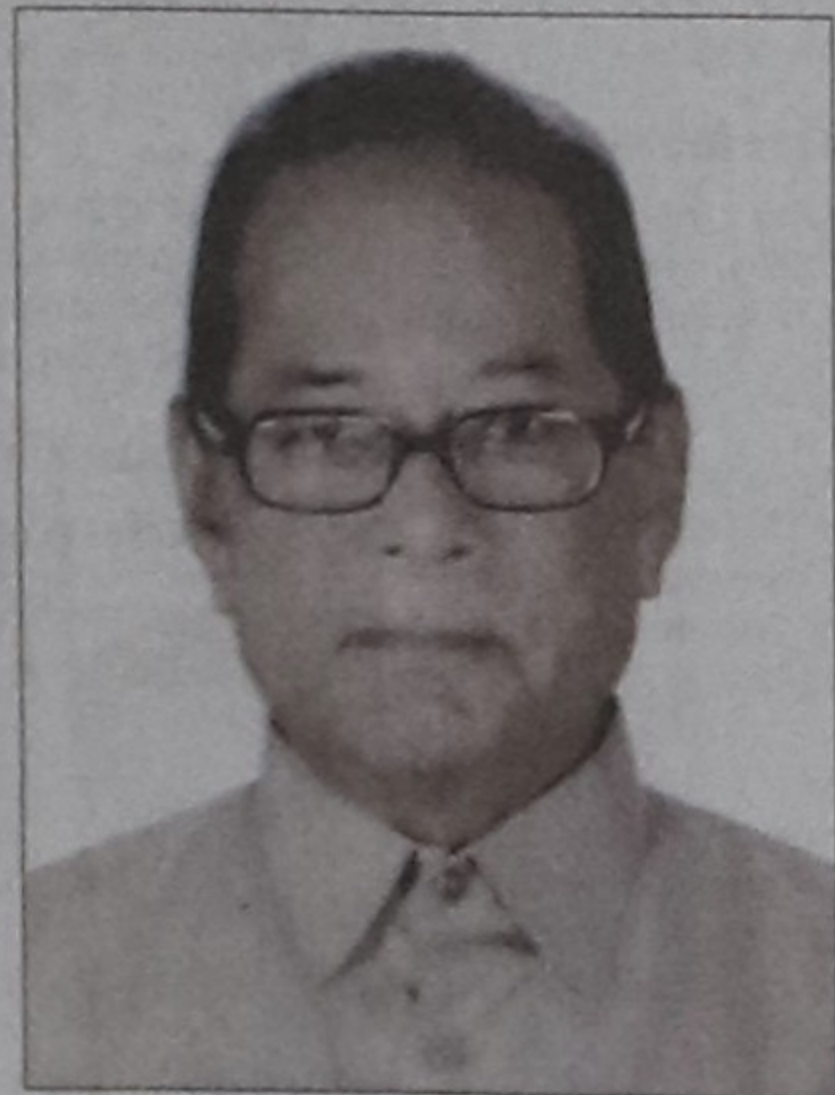
The students were infuriated with transport service operators at around 8:30pm on Tuesday as one of their fellow students was allegedly forced out of a Dhaka-bound bus, said sources.

The student, Humayun Kabir, said even though he had paid Tk 250 for the trip, the bus crew refused to ensure his designated seat. As he insisted on getting a seat, he was forced off the bus near Natore - 45km away from Rajshahi.

Kabir's fellow RU students were

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

QULKHWANI



AL-HAJ MUSTAQUE ALI KHAN, son of Late MUBARAK ALI KHAN, the owner of BABA ZARDA passed away on Monday on August 18, 2008 (Innalillahi.... Rajiun).

His qulkhwan will be held today August 21, 2008 after Asr prayers at 55/A, Kaptan Bazar, Wari, Dhaka.

All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the qulkhwan and pray for his departed soul.

.....Wife, Sons, Daughter and Grand Children

Global Voice Connectivity

The first IGW to go live

Mir Telecom

proudly announces its start of operation on

August 21, 2008

as Bangladesh's first International GateWay



RED CRESCENT BORAK TOWER (Level - 7)
71-72 Old Elephant Road, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka - 1000
Phone : 9354812, 9354821 Fax : +88 02 9354793
e-mail : info@mirtelcom-bd.net web : www.mirtelcom-bd.net