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TRANSCOM

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

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 Mokhlesur 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.

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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.

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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.

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 bail and stayed proceedings of 40 graft cases filed against politicians and businessmen, including BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her

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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).

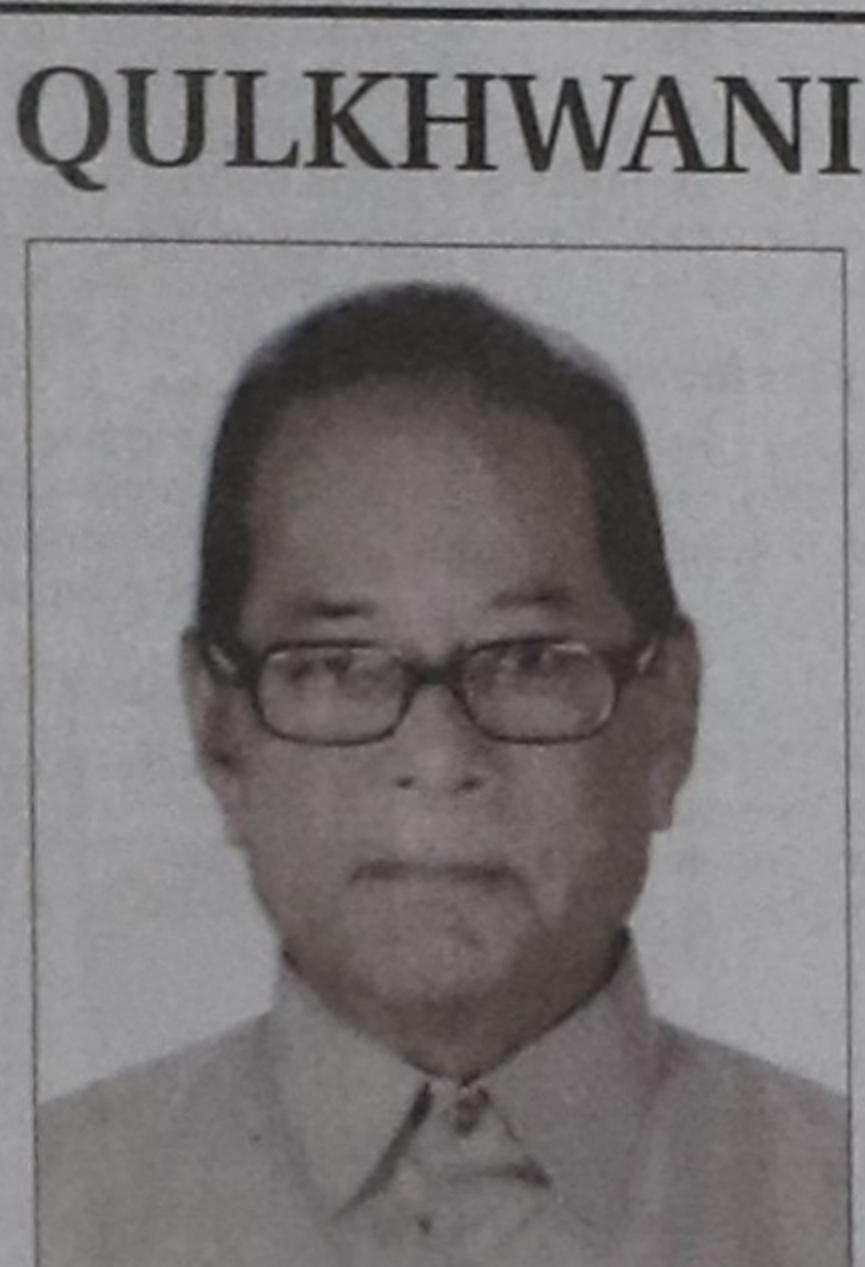
The other accused in these cases include Khaleda's Political Adviser Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, former communications minister Nazmul Huda, former BNP lawmaker Mosaddak

Chowdhury, former BNP lawmaker

Shahidul Haq Jamal and former

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

His qulhwani 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 qulhwani and pray for his departed soul.

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

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 2:00 am 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 Azahar 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

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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,

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