

Tragic Aug 21 back to memory

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, *Patuakhali*

"Can you tell me why my son was killed? I buried here (showing Mamun's grave) all my hopes three years back," said Motaleb Mridha, father of Mamun Mridha, one of the 22 people killed in the grenade attack on Awami League rally on Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka on August 21 in 2004.

Mamun, a second year student of Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam Government College in Dhaka, Mamun lived with his father Motaleb Mridha at Nayabazar in Old Dhaka.

"I heard that the present government has arrested many corrupt leaders, top criminals and godfathers across the country. Can they not bring to justice the killers of my son?" said Motaleb.

A landless farmer turned sawmill worker, Motaleb is the only earning member of the family gripped with frustration and poverty, struggling hard for existence.

Mamun's mother Morseda burst into tears when we started talking with her at their old and decaying house at Alipura under Dashmina upazila, about 60 km

from Patuakhali town.

"Hearing the news of blasts that day, I rushed to Bangabandhu Avenue. Shrapnel smashed both of his legs. Four grenade splinters pierced through his ribs, one through the right chin and some might have hit his brain," recalled Motaleb.

"I accompanied him as rescuers were taking him towards Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead," he said.

"Mamun was a brilliant student and worked as a private tutor to help the family. He wanted to be an army officer," said Morseda with tears rolling down her pale cheeks. Failing to bear educational expenses, they married off two daughters -- Mahmuda, 18, and Jhumur, 16, while two other daughters -- Runa, 14, and Tuli, 12, are now studying in class ten and class seven.

"Of the Tk 1 lakh we received from Awami League, we have already spent Tk 50,000 for Mamun's chehram and my elder daughter Mahmuda's marriage. I bought a piece of land with the rest Tk 50,000 in last year. On August 21 in 2005, Awami League President Sheikh Hasina



August 21 grenade attack victim Mamun's mother (holding his photograph), father, and sisters on the premises of their house in Patuakhali.

donated Tk 25,000 for my daughter Jhumur's marriage," Motaleb said.

"We are yet to get any help from

the government. The government is rehabilitating many landless people but they are not taking any step for our poor family," he said.

ARREST BID FOILED

Rab official hurt in attack by accused in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

A Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) official was injured when he was hit allegedly by a wanted accused, his accomplice and lawyer on court premises here yesterday.

Being informed Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) of Rab-9 Shah Alam and ASI Md. Asmat Ali went to Mymensingh Court premises to arrest one Abdur Razzaq, 40, accused in a case filed with Joydevpur police station atarround.

At one stage, Abdur Razzaq and some others including advocate Mohammed Ali came out of the court. When Shah Alam, in plain clothes, moved towards Abdur Razzaq, he and his accomplices including Mohammed Ali allegedly hit him. The culprits fled the scene riding on a motor bike.

Being informed, Assistant Director of Rab-9 ASP Shahinor Alam Khan, Rab Captain Rakib along with other Rab personnel rushed to the spot and found Shah Alam at the office Mymensingh Bar President M. Jubed Ali. Later senior members of the bar also rushed there.

Rab sources said, Capt Rakib first recorded statement of Shah

Alam and then talked to advocate Mohammed Ali. Mohammed Ali's statement proved his involvement in the attack, Rab sources said.

Advocate Mohammed Ali begged apology to Rab members in presence of Bar Association president and other senior lawyers, Rab sources said.

Injured Rab official Shah Alam was admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

An emergency meeting was held at local bar association office soon after the incident to mitigate the matter. M. Jubed Ali and Jalal Uddin Khan, president and secretary of Mymensingh Bar Association and its other officials were present at the meeting.

The other accused are Umme Obabia Tania, Umme Fatema, Tajul Arefin, Rajibul Islam, Rabibul Islam and Obaidur Rahman.

All the accused other than Azharul Islam are relatives of former lawmaker Habib, sources said.

As the investigation officer, Sub-inspector Liakat Hossain of Detective Branch submitted the charge sheet with Sajibkira Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, the court fixed September 10 for next hearing of the case.

Assistant Commissioner Abdus Sabur of Khulna tax region on July 14 filed the case with Sadar Police Station for dodging government revenue by making an affidavit with forged non-judicial stamps.

The complainant alleged that former lawmaker Habib leased

FORGERY CASE

Satkhira ex-BNP MP charge-sheeted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Investigation authorities yesterday submitted charge sheet against 11 people including former BNP lawmaker Habibul Islam Habib, Kalaroa upazila BNP President Rafiqul Islam, Habib's sister-in-law Nilufar Yasmin and Public advocate Azharul Islam in a case for forging non-judicial stamps.

The other accused are Umme Obabia Tania, Umme Fatema, Tajul Arefin, Rajibul Islam, Rabibul Islam and Obaidur Rahman.

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The complainant alleged that former lawmaker Habib leased

his Ureka Petrol Pump to his sister-in-law Nilufar Yasmin by making an affidavit with forged non-judicial stamps in 2006 to dodge income tax.

The other accused are shown as partners of the petrol pump.

ACC chief joins oath taking programme

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt. Gen. (rtd) Hasan Moshud Chowdhury yesterday said corruption can be rooted out from any area or any institution if the people there decide.

On information, a police team from Islampur police outposted rushed to the spot and arrested them.

The arrestees are Delwar Hossain, 42, of Narayanganj district, Kairul Islam, 42, Jasim, 21, Lahab Uddin, 20, of Kishoreganj; Jamshed Mia, 25, Ershad Mia, 26, Mizan Mia, of Comilla district, Babul Mia, 42, of Chandpur district and Kawsar Mia of Ghatura village in Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila

Villagers yesterday handed over nine members of a gang of thieves to police for stealing uncondensed oil from the national grid line at Kalishima village of Chandura union in Sadar upazila, police and villagers said.

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MiG-29 corruption

FROM PAGE 1
lawyer Advocate Sahara Khatun yesterday.

The other accused in the case, former air force chief Jamaluddin Ahmed, former defence secretary Syed Yusuf Hossain, Air Commodore (rtd) Mirza Akhter Maruf, former joint secretary Mohammad Hossain Serniabat, and Unique Project Managing Director Nur Ali were however in the dock yesterday.

On August 12, the court relieved former army chief Gen (rtd) Mustafizur Rahman of all charges in the case, as he had passed away on August 3.

During yesterday's proceedings, defence lawyers repeatedly prayed for an adjournment of the charge framing, but the court declined as it did not find any ground for that.

As the court sat at 10:00am, the defence filed a petition seeking a one-month adjournment.

The defence counsels in their submission told the court that Hasina is now staying abroad for treatment on an executive order by the government, and she is scheduled to return home on September 8.

"It is her desire to be present physically in the court for hearing the charges against her, so the charge framing should be adjourned for a month," argued Advocate Kamrul Islam.

Opposing the defence's prayer, prosecution lawyer Advocate Sharifuddin Khan Mukul told the court that the defence does not have the right to file the petition at this stage.

He submitted that the former prime minister was exempted from appearing in court, and her lawyers have been regularly representing her in the proceedings.

Advocate Kamrul Islam argued that the judge framed the charges, being influenced by the prosecution.

"We will file an appeal against the decision with the High Court," he added.

The defence also said the case was filed just to 'besmirch the political reputation of the former prime minister'.

The prosecution however denied the defence's allegations.

Advocate Syed Shamim Ahsan Habib told the reporters that whenever a decision goes against the defence, they find it unjustified.

He said the defence lawyers filed an improper petition just to waste time.

Hundreds of AL leaders and activists were present outside the court.

OC accused of grabbing land

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Moniruzzaman Molla, Officer-in-charge of Dumuria police station in Khulna has been accused of grabbing land with help of a notorious criminal, Abed Ali of Batiaghata Upazila.

The accusation was made by businessman Sheikh Abdul Kader Apu, proprietor of Compact Telecom in Khulna city at a press conference held at Khulna Press Club yesterday.

The businessman alleged that OC Moniruzzaman grabbed a piece of his paternal land near Rupsha bridge under Batiaghata thana on August 5. He also threatened to ruin my family by implicating me in false cases one after another if I do not surrender the land to him, the businessman alleged.

Apu said that he had filed a case with the court of First Class Magistrate Biswas Russell Hossain on August 6 seeking security. The court asked the Khulna Police Superintendent to take action after probe.

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