

## Aug 21 probe

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confidently pointed fingers to a student named Shaibal Saha Partha and later claimed involvement also of some criminal groups and a field level leader of the AL itself.

They also obtained confessional statements from Joj Miah, Abul Hashem alias Rana and Shafiqul Islam.

Latest investigations, however, found the accusations were wrong and the confessions were obtained using force.

Some of these prominent CID investigators are now facing charges for their offences.

Yesterday the prosecution lawyer, Chief Public Prosecutor Syed Rezaul Rahman, in his prayer to the judge said verifying documents and statements of witnesses it is clear that the attack was carried out in a planned way to kill people gathered at the rally on August 21, 2004.

He argued that the grenades used in the attacks were not simple explosives and not easy to obtain without involvement of explosives experts.

He said elaborate investigation has not been held to find out those involved in collecting and supplying the special types of explosives. So, further investigation is required to bring those explosives experts and influential people to trial.

Through several investigations the then BNP-Jamaat alliance government tried to establish that the AL killed its own leaders and activists to tarnish the image of the government. They also tried to prove that a "foreign enemy" instigated the carnage and that some criminals absconding in India staged the attacks.

Eleven days after the grisly incident, the then premier and BNP chief Khaleda Zia pinned the blame on AL leaders.

Interestingly, weeks later she told a meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Party that no

Islamist extremist groups existed in the country.

The one-member judicial probe committee of Justice Joylul Abedin, formed by the then government within a few days of the grenade attack, claimed in its 162-page report to have identified perpetrators of the massacre—a "foreign enemy". Investigators have, however, failed to substantiate it. The report was never made public.

An investigation was conducted under the direct supervision of the then state minister for home, Lutfozzaman Babar, and 22 persons including Partha, the AL leader and ward commissioner Mokhesur Rahman were arrested. They had to undergo a lot of harassment and tortures.

The probe drama was given a twist with the government's claim about "confessions" of Joj Miah, Abul Hashem and Shafiqul Islam that a criminal gang carried out the attack.

The latest investigation has found that those confessional statements were obtained, as per the BNP government's desire, using force. The previous CID investigators and the supervising officer were found to have paid Joj Miah's family on a monthly basis.

CID's Assistant Superintendent of Police Fazlul Kabir, the present investigation officer of the grenade attack cases, filed a case on March 29 this year with Paltan Police Station against three of its former investigators for intentionally misdirecting the probe into the two cases.

Retired special superintendent of CID and former supervisor of the case Ruhul Amin and two retired assistant superintendents of police—Abdur Rashid and Munshi Atiqur Rahman, the previous investigation officers—were also accused of destroying evidence and forcing people into making confessional statements.

## JS body for terrestrial facility for other channels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary standing committee yesterday said they are in favour of providing terrestrial facility to other television channels although the cabinet decided to preserve the facility only for Bangladesh Television (BTV).

The parliamentary body on information ministry at its meeting asked the Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad to enquire into alleged illegal operations of two companies who are distributing two pay channels in breach of the government rule.

The committee asked the minister to come up with correct information on this issue before its next meeting.

The committee members at the meeting wanted to know from the information minister why terrestrial opportunity would be reserved only for BTV, the lone state-run television channel.

Following the private television channel ETV's request for terrestrial facility the information minister told the meeting that it is not possible as the cabinet decided to preserve terrestrial facility only for BTV.

Two companies—Nationwide Communications and Total Sports—are distributing two pay channels illegally causing huge financial loss to the country, Obaidul Quader, chairman of the standing committee, told The Daily Star last night.

"We have asked the information minister to investigate the matter and take actions if the allegation proves to be right," he added.

Cable Operators' Association of Bangladesh (Coab) informed the meeting that the two organisations are allegedly engaged in money laundering.

Quader, former state minister for youth and sports, said they are not against providing terrestrial facility to other television channels but they could not stand in its favour as the cabinet had already decided against it.

## Swine flu

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continuous follow up and their conditions are not critical at all, he said.

Most of the infected have returned from the USA in the same flight on June 18 as the first victim was diagnosed on the same day.

However, the government already urged people not to be panicked about swine flu as it has taken precautionary steps to combat the infectious disease.

The health experts however advised people to follow cautionary measures like washing hands, maintaining safe distance from those suffering from flu-like illnesses, cover the mouth and nose while sneezing and coughing.

The World Health Organisation declared the swine flu pandemic on June 11.

## Eviction halts

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"I was not prepared for it as it was embarrassing," said Hawlader adding that he could have saved both time and money if he knew the decision a day earlier.

The drive was supposed to resume yesterday after a two-day break according to a BIWTA letter sent to the district administration.

BIWTA and Narayanganj district administration had jointly been carrying out the drive in Shitalakhya river to evict encroachers.

In a report on June 23, BIWTA officials mentioned that they have dismantled 120 out of 134 listed structures. They would require one or two more days to complete demolition of remaining 10 structures as owners of four of them have obtained court's stay against eviction.

Narayanganj Additional Deputy Commissioner (revenue) ABM Aminullah Nuri said, "We stopped the drive as we have already evicted more encroachers."

He said that they served notice on 106 encroachers but evicted 120.

A BIWTA deputy director said they had submitted a list of 134 encroachers to the district administration.

About the sudden interruption in the drive, Nuri said, "BIWTA did not inform us of the resumption of drive and there was a misunderstanding."

He however said the drive would restart after 'regularising' the eviction notices.

BIWTA Chairman Md Abdul Mannan Howlader said that he was yet to know why it happened. "It will be difficult to carry out the drive if such trifling lapses are taken into account so seriously," he said, "But you may rest assured that the drive will resume."

Meanwhile, the excavation work to remove sand dumped in Turag near Gabtali-Amin Bazar bridge continued yesterday, said BIWTA Senior Deputy Director Golam Kabir.

## Mainul's graft

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of the parliamentary standing committee ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury.

The committee recommended cancellation of allocations of some plots during the past caretaker government as those were allocated "by exploiting power."

"We received allegation of allocating government plots to his (Mainul) wife and son. The one in Tejaon industrial area that was allocated to his wife was earmarked for a health complex. He took benefits exploiting the office too. Hence we formed the sub-committee to investigate the allegations," said Fazle Karim.

The committee had received more allegations of corruption against the former adviser but it would not disclose those before investigation, he said.

The members of the committee also castigated the former adviser for mishandling the demolition task of Rangs building that caused death of 11 workers.

"The sub-committee will also investigate whether there was any negligence on housing ministry's part in demolishing

the structure," Fazle Karim added.

He said the sub-committee had been asked to submit the probe report within a month.

Earlier, the parliamentary standing committee on shipping ministry decided to summon another adviser to the last caretaker government maj gen (ret'd) MA Matin for his alleged involvement in awarding container handling assignment at Chittagong port.

The two former advisers—Mainul and Matin—were very vocal in criticising politicians and allegedly played pivotal roles in detaining many politicians including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Opposition leader Khaleda Zia on charge of corruption. However, both the advisers are now facing parliamentary investigation for allegations of corruption and misuse of power.

Ruling Awami League (AL) lawmaker Nasrul Hamid Bipu will lead the five-member sub-committee that includes AL lawmakers Asaduzzaman Khan, Zahurul Haque Bhuiyan Mohon, Enamul Haque and Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Lutfur Rahman.

## Whitening money

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against Corruption in 2007. The scope for money whitening undermines the status of Bangladesh as a signatory to the convention, he said.

Priyani further said domestically the Awami League government ratified in parliament the money laundering prevention act and anti-terrorism act. The scope also undermines these acts.

Zahid said the expansionary fiscal stance of the budget is appropriate given that growth is subject to significant downside risks, but its effectiveness will depend on the quality and quantity of actual spending.

The ambitious projected spending hinges on mobilising concessional external financing and strengthening the revenue earning efforts, he said.

Implementation of the budget is a big challenge, he said, adding ADP (annual development programme) implementation rate declined as original ADP size grew bigger and bigger over the years.

The WB economist said the budget is innovative as it also makes provisions for infrastructure development

beyond the traditional ADP, and provides for dealing with the possible impact of global recession.

He appreciated that for the first time the proposed budget introduces the concept of PPP and stressed proper institutional arrangement for its implementation.

The WB country director said the FY-10 budget broadly captures the promises made in the government's election manifesto.

Against the backdrop of global economic recession, the government rightly emphasised an expansion in public spending. At the same time, it must focus on strengthening its ADP implementation capacity, said Xian Zhu.

He also said strengthening accountability and transparency in the procurement process, selection of projects, determination of project costs, bidding process and evaluation of the quality of completed project would lead to faster and effective ADP implementation.

## Padma bridge

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The design would be finalised by next month, he said, adding that the construction of the bridge would be completed by the end of December 2013 when the tenure of the government also ends.

Until yesterday, the consultant firm has finalised only 15 percent of the design. In its design, it has proposed two sizes of spans—150 metres and 180 metres.

The construction cost of 150-metre span will be \$816 million while \$887 for the 180-metre span, the minister said.

Replying to a query, he said there would be no problem in having the funds for the bridge.

Officials of Bridge Division Authority said the funds for constructing the country's proposed longest bridge on the Padma river connecting Mawa in Munshiganj with Jazira in Madaripur would almost entirely be provided by international lenders, including World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and Japan International Corporation Agency.

In the meantime, IDB has agreed to provide Bangladesh with \$1.3 billion for construction of the much-awaited Padma Bridge.

He said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had envisioned the bridge to connect the northern region with the southern one. The communications minister said the bridge would boost economic activities facilitating movement of goods.

A couple of week ago, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked the communications minister to take immediate steps to start the tender process for constructing the bridge.

Abul Hossain also said already almost all compensation money for land acquisition in three districts—Shariatpur, Madaripur and Munshiganj—has been given to the respective district's deputy commissioners for resettlement of people.

Representatives from different donor agencies, experts, a team of consultants and senior government officials were present at the programme.

## Indo-Bangla

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government of Bangladesh to discuss with India to resolve this (Tipaimukh dam) issue," he said in reply to a question at a discussion styled "Engaging South Asia: Obama's South Asia Policy" at the city's Brac Centre.

India started the construction of Tipaimukh dam on the river Barak in Manipur in 2003 to generate electricity. It halted the project following national and international uproar and resistance against probable environmental degradation inside and outside Indian territory. But it resumed the construction work late last year.

Environmentalists, politicians and the conscious section in Bangladesh have been protesting against construction of the dam, fearing that India will unilaterally use the river's water that may turn Bangladesh's north-eastern lush green fertile soil into a wasteland during dry season.

The Barak enters Bangladesh as Kushihara and flows further downstream as the Surma. As a lower riparian country Bangladesh should have an equitable share of the water of the international river.

At the discussion programme the audience asked the US ambassador about his country's role in South Asia, especially its foreign policy regarding India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

"US-India relation is aimed at stabilising the South Asian region but it will not affect the US-Bangladesh relation," Moriarty told the audience.

Asked about the controversial Tipaimukh dam, he said he did not have data on the flow of water coming from the upstream in India and possible impacts of the Tipaimukh dam.

On water disputes in South Asian region, Moriarty said, "Obviously that needs to be worked out through dialogue with the countries engaged." His country has no stake in the water disputes in South Asia, he added.

On the trial of war criminals in Bangladesh, the US ambassador said Bangladesh government has not sought any direct help from the US government. He emphasised that the issue should not be "politicised" and the trial should meet international standards.

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies organised the discussion at Brac Centre. Its president Major General ANM Moniruzzaman presided over the discussion. A number of foreign envoys, teachers and students attended the programme.

## Brig Gen Azmi

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be son of former Jamaat Ameer Golam Azam.

The sources said several other officials with rank and status of lieutenant colonel, major and captain have also been dismissed recently.

Meanwhile, the government has promoted two brigadier generals to the post of major general. They are: Engineering-in-Chief of Army Headquarters Brig Gen Hamid Al Hassan and Acting Director General of Ansar and VDP Brig Gen Md Rafiqul Islam.

## Liberation war

**FROM PAGE 16**  
army had surrendered before the Joint Command Forces of the Mukti Bahini (freedom fighters) on December 16, 1971, by removing the structures at the places, if any.

The court also in the rule asked the government to show cause why it should not be directed to form a committee to identify the historic places and then to recover the original positions of those places.

The HC bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Mamatazuddin Ahmed came up with the rule upon a public interest writ petition jointly filed by Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Saifullah, Bir Uttam, and Prof Muntasir Mamun.

Secretaries to the cabinet division and the ministries of housing and public works, and liberation war affairs and the chief engineers and chief architects concerned have been asked to make replies to the rule.

Petitioners' counsel Advocate Manzill Murshid told the court that there are instructions in the Constitution of the republic to protect and maintain the historic places.

But no steps have been taken to protect the places where Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had delivered the historic speech and Pakistani army had surrendered before the Joint Command Forces of the Mukti Bahini during the Liberation War, he said.

Attorney General Mahbub Alam argued before the court, supporting the writ petition.

## Jalil deems

**FROM PAGE 16**  
The AL-led government amended government rules of business empowering Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to appoint her advisers and special assistants as many as she deems necessary.

The amendments authorise the premier to determine the terms and conditions of the appointments, as she deems expedient in public interest and also allow her to let any of the advisers or special assistants attend cabinet meetings or any other government committee.

The premier has already appointed five advisers—former bureaucrats HT Imam, Dr Mashhur Rahman, Major General (ret'd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique, former director general of Health Directorate Prof Syed Modasser Ali, former vice chancellor of Jahangir Nagar University Dr Alauddin Ahmed and Dr Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury.

They attended the cabinet meeting as the prime minister provided them with the ministerial tasks.

On defence budget, Abdul Jalil, who is not being allowed to perform as general secretary of AL though he is still elected general secretary, said it was mentioned in the proposed budget that 5.3 percent of the total revenue budget was allocated for the defence forces.

"But the actual figure is much higher as the defence forces receive allocation from different ministries, which is not mentioned in the defence budget," Jalil said.

As for example he mentioned the money allocated to the army from the education ministry to run cadet colleges and from the health ministry to run military hospitals.

He also criticised the assignment of the army to collect toll at the Bangabandhu Bridge. "On what condition the army was given the job? Is it a trade body? They are also given banks, hotels," Jalil posed a question.

Jalil also demanded trial of the past caretaker government for their unconstitutional activities.

LDP leader Oli Ahmed demanded investigation into the alleged harassment of politicians and businessmen during the past caretaker government.

Supporting the proposal for whitening of black money Oli said if the scope is not given the black money will be siphoned off.

Participating in the budget

## Swat freed

**FROM PAGE 16**  
released the figure of 1,592 Monday and with seven more militants killed in the 24 hours to Wednesday afternoon, the figure has gone up to 1,599.

Also on Monday, ISPR had said the operations were in their 'final phase', an assertion that was repeated Tuesday but which did not find a mention Wednesday—a clear indication that these would take time.

"During the last 24 hours (to Wednesday afternoon), seven terrorists were killed and seven were apprehended," an ISPR statement Wednesday said.

During this period, six soldiers, including two officers, were killed and three soldiers were injured, the statement added.

Detailing the course of the operations, the statement said the security forces consolidated their positions in the Kabbal, Akhun Kalle, Dadhrar, Khazna and Gardi areas of Swat.

## Jubak chief

**FROM PAGE 16**  
arrest, a number of its clients thronged the police station and demanded punishment to Jubokmen.

Officer-in-Charge of Paltan Police Station Mujibur Rahman told The Daily Star that a total of nine arrest warrants have been issued against him in nine cases filed with different police stations for cheating people. Another case, filed against him, is under investigation, he added.

Earlier police submitted charge sheets in all the nine cases before the court, which issued the arrest warrants against him.

Meanwhile, a number of hired cadres from the controversial NGO thronged the police station and misbehaved with the journalists who went there to gather information.

According to sources, Jubak had been running its activities without government approval and since starting of the NGO its officials had been collected crores of taka from people with a fake assurance of providing additional profit.

Later, the NGO officials closed its activities and went into hiding after misappropriating their money.

Earlier on May 5, police arrested Lokman Hossain, chairman of the housing project of the NGO.

discussion, Jatiya Party lawmaker ABM Ruhul Amin Hawlader proposed scrapping the caretaker government system and empowering the Election Commission (EC) to hold the parliamentary election.

**TIPAIMUKH ISSUE**  
Chief of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources Ministry Abdur Razzaque yesterday said BNP could send names of its two lawmakers to include them in the parliamentary team that will visit Tipaimukh dam site.

"Send two names instead of one if you want. Let's work together for national interests," the parliamentary body chief said participating in the general discussion on proposed budget for the next fiscal year.

The parliamentary body formed a team with its members to visit Tipaimukh dam area.

BNP lawmakers were not included in the parliamentary team as they are not members of the parliamentary standing committee on water resources ministry.

Later, Razzaque urged the opposition to send one lawmaker's name to the committee to incorporate them into it.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday, however, urged the main opposition BNP to send its own delegation to the Tipaimukh dam site and submit report after their return.

## Bombs hurled at garment factory: 2 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals launched a bomb attack on a garment factory in the city's Shewrapara area last night, leaving two people injured.

Kafrul police said criminals hurled three bombs at Outright Garment Factory building at about 11:00pm and left the scene.

Two injured construction workers—Amir Hossain, 25, and Abdur Rahim, 30,—were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The victims said when they were walking through the factory building at around 11:00pm, the criminals hurled the bombs.

After the attack, the criminals managed to flee the scene, they added.

They were workers of an under construction building near Shewrapara footbridge in the area.

## Fight poverty

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tion when Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Dhaka V Krishnamoorthy paid a farewell call on her at the PM's office yesterday.

Hasina and Krishnamoorthy expressed satisfaction over the fact that both in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka democratic governments are in power.

The premier said democracy is the most indispensable element to ensure overall development of people of all walks of life.

They hoped that the peoples of the two countries would be able to attain their desired development and prosperity under their democratic governments.

The two sides also exchanged views over the education systems of the two countries, particularly about the education at the primary level.

Hasina said the present government firmly believes that education is one of the most effective tools to improve people's living standards by eradicating poverty.

She reiterated her government's plan to make education free up to degree level to build the nation as an educated one.

Krishnamoorthy mentioned the outstanding training programmes of the National Defence College (NDC), Bangladesh and expressed interest in sending more students from Sri Lanka to take modern education and training at the NDC.

He appreciated the "visionary" leadership of Hasina for the way she has been successful in solving various recent crisis after assumption of her office.

The Sri Lankan envoy thanked the prime minister for all cooperation and support he has got in Bangladesh in discharging his duty.

The premier said Bangladesh attaches high importance to its relationship with Sri Lanka, which is deeply rooted in shared history and culture.

They hoped that the friendly relations between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka would strengthen further in the days to come.

Besides, various other issues related to national, regional and international development also came up for discussion during the meeting.

## HC outlines

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The other media followed suit to sensitize people to the issues, he added.

The court said once the demarcation is complete, the authorities must have the river banks lined with pillars by May 30, 2010.

Besides, they will have to remove the piles of garbage and deposits of sand and soil from the rivers by November 30, 2010. For the Dhaka City Corporation and the public works department, the directive is to construct walkways and plant trees along the riverbanks by May 31, 2011.

The court asked the DCs to continue the ongoing campaign to knock down the illegal structures from the river land.

It ordered the Water Development Board to take measures to dredge the Dhaka rivers at their sources to ensure the water flows unhindered within five years.

The HC said within six months after demarcation the land ministry will have to hand over possession of 50 yards along the river banks to the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority.

The finance ministry has been asked to earmark essential resources for the jobs.

The bench ruled that the officials concerned cannot be transferred during the demarcation process.

Moreover, the government must ensure no influence is exerted on those involved in the job. It must also see to security arrangements for the staff concerned.

The government officials will be held accountable if the directives are not carried out within the time specified.

In its judgment, the HC

## HC asks BRTA

**FROM PAGE 16**  
The court said anyone looking for new orders regarding ideas to prevent road accidents may move prayers to this court.

As per the eighth schedule of the Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1983, the speed limit for light vehicles like cars is 113 kilometres per hour (kmph), for passenger vehicles (buses, minibuses etc) 56 kmph, heavy vehicles (trucks, lorries and fire brigade vehicles) 48 kmph.

The HC bench came up with the directions, as the BRTA authorities could not comply with its (HC) last year's suo moto ruling for installing "speed governor seal" in all kinds of automobiles.

Intervener of the case Manzill Murshid earlier drew the court's attention to direct BRTA Chairman Md Ehsanul Haque and its Director (engineering) Md Rafiqul to appear before the court to explain the reason for their non-compliance with the verdict.

The officials yesterday appeared before it and told the HC bench that the speed governor seal couldn't be installed, as the mechanism is only available for diesel-run vehicles.

observed that the four rivers have become "biologically dead", and steps should be taken to save them without delay, as they are the lifeline for over 1.20 crore Dhaka city dwellers.

Unattended dumping of garbage and household rubbish in the rivers has left water bereft of its natural qualities, the bench said quoting the submissions.

The HC bench also cited the Wasa officials' opinion that the way the water table