



The Daily Star

Plus Star Lifestyle



COMMITTED TO

People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIX No. 200

DHAKA TUESDAY AUGUST 4, 2009

SRABAN 20, 1416 BS

SABAN 12, 1430 HUIRI

24 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 10.00

Finger pointed at Mainul

JS body blames him for Rangs deaths, charges with graft to favour family; he bins allegations

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary sub-committee yesterday blamed former caretaker government adviser Mainul Hosein for the death of 13 construction workers during demolition of the Rangs Bhaban in the capital.

It observed the workers lost their life on December 9, 2007, because of Mainul's arbitrary decision as the then housing and public works adviser.

It said it has minutes of the housing ministry meetings to bear out its claim.

Nasrul Hamid, chief of the sub-committee, said ship-breaking workers were employed to demolish the Rangs Bhaban on Bijoy Sarani, and the decision was clearly a blunder that led to the high-rise disaster.

He was talking to reporters after a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Commissioned to investigate alleged corruption in the housing and public works ministry over the last seven years, the five-member



Mainul Hosein

sub-committee will now recommend legal actions against Mainul.

"We have documents and evidence of abuse of power and irregularities by the former adviser and his family members," observed Hamid, ruling Awami League lawmaker from Keraniganj.

The allegations include grabbing of plots and apartments.

Meanwhile, Mainul Hosein has refuted all allegations

against him.

In a written statement last night, he said no-one was given plots during his one-year stint as adviser to the last caretaker government.

He dismissed the allegations of allocating hundreds of plots in Khulna and Kushtia as baseless.

He said that earlier when similar allegations were raised against him, he wanted to know who of his family was allotted plots. But he got no answer.

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The 22-storey Rangs Bhaban, demolished in December 2008, is now a history.

PHOTO: FILE

Investigation misdirected by 3 IOs

CID may submit charge sheet in 10 days

KAILASH SARKAR

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has found its three former officials involved in misdirecting the probe into August 21 grenade attack case to save the actual offenders, CID sources said.

The CID is likely to submit within 10 days the charge sheet in the case filed against the three, who were investigation officers (IOs) of the August 21 incident.

The sources however mentioned that yesterday's court order for further probe into the grenade attack case created confusion among investigators of the probe misdirecting case against the former IOs.

Contacted last night, Rownakul Huq Chowdhury, CID assistant superintendent of police (ASP) and IO of the case against three former IOs,

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Grenade suppliers gone missing

Court orders more probe into Aug 21 attack, report in 2 months

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered further investigation into the August 21, 2004 grenade attack on an Awami League rally, stating that the investigation conducted earlier could not identify the collectors and suppliers of grenades used in the attack.

The court ordered the inspector general of police to conduct the investigation and submit the report to the court within two months.

The order came after a state lawyer, seeking further investigation into the two cases filed in connection with the attack on the rally on Bangabandhu Avenue, submitted two petitions before the court.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina narrowly escaped the attack but 23 of her party leaders and workers were killed and over 300 were maimed.

The lawyer in the petitions, submitted on June 25, said influential people who had supplied the grenades are still untraced. After hearing the petitions on three days, Judge Masdar Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 passed the orders.

During the rule of four-party government, the investigation officers diverted the probe by detaining one Juj Miah and forcing him to give false confessional statement, the judge said.

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Six more months for party charters

Cabinet okays proposal to amend RPO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The political parties that failed to submit to the Election Commission (EC) their amended constitutions ratified by national councils, will get six more months to do so in order to be registered as parliamentary parties.

A cabinet meeting yesterday approved a proposal for amending the Representation of the People Order (RPO) making way for extending the submission deadline.

Following a request from the EC, the law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry suggested that the cabinet gives the political parties one more year, but Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina approved six months.

The previous deadline was July 24 this year, which will be extended till January 25, 2010.

Meeting sources said Hasina approved the proposal despite her cabinet colleagues' opposition to the extension.

"Many of us told the prime minister that BNP does not care about the electoral laws and not serious about amending its constitution. But she was adamant to give more time," a cabinet minister told The Daily Star after the meeting.

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Koko challenges graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's son Arafat Rahman Koko has filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the legality of the proceedings of a money laundering case against him.

Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon on Sunday filed the writ petition on behalf of

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Two judges reinstated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has reinstated judges Abdul Gafur and Md Shahjahan to their offices revoking an earlier notification, which sent them into retirement four days ago, said an official handout yesterday.

The law ministry issued a

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India assures of Tipai talks

JS team member happy with visit

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

A senior member of Bangladesh parliamentary delegation to Tipaimukh site said India has expressed willingness to have more discussions and give more information to Bangladesh if necessary.

"During meetings, Indian ministers told us that India would not do anything harming the interests of Bangladesh. We have more than what we wanted in respect of information from the Indian side," Jatiya Party (JP) Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawladar MP told The Daily Star at Maurya Sheraton Hotel here yesterday.

Hawladar said both Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna and Power Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde have assured the Bangladesh delegation that Tipaimukh is not a dam but a hydro-power project, which would also help flood control in Bangladesh.

The parliamentary delegation led by senior Awami League leader Abdur Razzaque is expected to return home today while the non-parliamentarian members have already returned to Dhaka.

"Our visit and interaction with Indian ministers and officials

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PM to lead team to network intelligence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A high-powered national committee headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been formed recently to coordinate the activities of the country's intelligence agencies.

The committee members include the cabinet secretary, principal secretary to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), and heads of the

Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), National Security Intelligence (NSI), Special Security Force (SSF) and the police department.

Security Adviser to the premier Maj Gen (retd) Tariq Ahmed Siddiqui has been given the responsibility to oversee its activities.

However, none from the home ministry, responsible for maintaining law and order, was

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