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Babar shown arrested

COURT CORRESPONDENT
Former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar was shown arrested yesterday in a murder case filed in connection with the August 21 grenade attack.
Dhaka First Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ehsanul Haque passed an order to show him arrested in the case for allegedly giving administrative support to the attackers.
The court order came after Abdul Kabir Akond, additional superintendent of Criminal Investigation Department of police and investigation officer of the case, submitted a petition to show Babar arrested in the case and place him on a ten-day remand for interrogation.
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AUG 21 ATTACK ON HASINA, AL RALLY

It was Hawa Bhaban plot

The Daily Star investigation reveals some characters behind the chilling conspiracy to kill Hasina; Babar 'supplied' grenades; Huji used as mercenary group

AUGUST 21 'SUSPECTS'

Hawa Bhaban bigwig
Lutfozzaman Babar
Harris Chowdhury
Abdus Salam Pintu
Absconding killer of Bangabandhu
Mufti Abdul Hannan
Huji founder
Huji leader
Al Markazul leader

Quips & quotes

STAR REPORT
The then state minister for home affairs Lutfozzaman Babar had declared a Tk 1 crore reward for disclosing the names of the people or groups responsible for the August 21, 2004 grenade attack on the Awami League rally.
Terming the announcement of the reward unprecedented, Babar told journalists eight days after the attack, "The government has decided to announce the reward since the government gives highest priority to the matter."
Making oblique reference
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JULFIKAR ALI MANIK
It was a long, dark plot. A chilling conspiracy was getting final touches in an eerie August of 2004, a month that brings to mind the memories of a past bloodbath. The plot for a high-profile assassination was awaiting approval, again.
On August 14: At Hawa Bhaban -- the alternative powerhouse of the BNP-led coalition government. At least nine people sat to discuss a recommendation coming from a series of meetings in the past. The Awami League was branded as the archenemy for the country and Islam, and it was recommended that its president Sheikh Hasina must die.
State minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu, prime minister's political secretary Harris Chowdhury, a fugitive killer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a top Jamaat leader, two Huji founders and one leader of Al Markazul Islami found no reason to disagree. In the presence of a top Hawa Bhaban bigwig, they chose to kill.
On August 15: At the same office, the same group sat again. This time they discussed how to accomplish the mission. The fugitive killer suggested Hasina be attacked at her home, on road or at a rally. They settled for a rally, just six days away.
Now it was time they chose weapons. "Grenades are no problem," said Babar. Earlier on April 2, 10 truckloads of smuggled arms and

ammunition were seized in Chittagong and two more trucks reportedly went missing.
They decided to use grenades and rifles in the operation that was to be carried out either at Muktangan or in front of AL's central office on Bangabandhu Avenue. The government was dithering over the permission for the rally.
The Daily Star obtained a highly privileged document in which a top accused of the gre-

nade carnage gave some descriptions about how the killing mission had been organised. Most of the people whose names surfaced in the narration are either in jail or on the run and could not be contacted for comment.
Apart from Huji leaders, this correspondent talked with investigators and intelligence officials involved with the probe over the last
SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Taking crores of taka in bribe and saving killers and smugglers, Lutfozzaman Babar, the most talked-about figure of the BNP-Jamaat alliance government, established himself as a controversial and infamous politician.
The most junior minister (state minister for home) in the Khaleda Zia-led cabinet, Babar turned out to be a symbol of corruption through land grabbing, tender manipulation, purchase procedures,
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Confrontation ruled politics at that time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
In the months before the August 21 grenade blasts four years back, the BNP-led alliance government was lurching from one crisis to another.
The political situation grew increasingly volatile amid a breakdown of law and order.
At least 13 major terror attacks led up to the August 21 carnage at an Awami League rally. Most of those assaults were against AL, the main opposition party then, and organisations championing secular ideals.
The BNP-Jamaat-led administration was in a tight corner also because of the opposition's call for the incumbents to step down growing louder.
SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Protector turned predator

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Taking crores of taka in bribe and saving killers and smugglers, Lutfozzaman Babar, the most talked-about figure of the BNP-Jamaat alliance government, established himself as a controversial and infamous politician.
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SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Rab captures six JMB operatives

2 of them Shura members; gun, bomb-making materials, jihadi books seized in massive raids in 3 districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two majlish-e-shura members and four other operatives of banned Islamist militant organisation Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), busting their dens in Narayanganj, Jamalpur, and Bagerhat early yesterday.
Majlish-e-shura is the highest decision making forum of JMB.
The two top tier leaders -- Mehedi Hasan alias Abeer, who was in charge of JMB's Khulna division, and Zahirul Islam alias Zahid alias Badal, who was in charge of Dhaka division (north), were arrested from a house at Borpa of Rugganj in Narayanganj.
The elite battalion seized one foreign pistol, 19 grenade casings, 20 detonators, other bomb making materials, and some books on jihad from the hideout.
Following up on information provided by the two arrestees, another team of Rab intelligence wing launched drives at different places in Jamalpur and arrested Hasan Sheikh, an ehsar member who was in charge of Jamalpur district, and gayre ehsar members Abdul Mazed and Akhtaruzzaman alias Shuruz
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Attorney gen, Indian HC get death threat

Anonymous letter demands release of Bangabandhu killers
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
An anonymous person has threatened to kill Attorney General Mahbub Alam along with his family members unless the convicts in the Bangabandhu Assassination case are released in 15 days.
Alam received a death threat letter by post in the evening.
The letter, addressed to the attorney general and dated October 3, reads, "The accused of Mujib murder case have been put behind bars unjustly. You along with your family members will die if they
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EC wants to know 14 MPs' tax status

To ask NBR to see if they have taxable income as they didn't submit tax records
SHAKHAWAT LITON
The Election Commission will ask the National Board of Revenue to see if the 14 lawmakers who did not include tax records in their candidacy applications had earnings subject to tax.
The decision came yesterday at a meeting where the EC Secretariat placed a list of lawmakers who in documents submitted to the commission before the December 29 election claimed they did not have any taxable income, EC sources said.
"In a couple of days, the list will be sent to NBR for taking necessary measures," said a senior EC official declining to be identified talking about the matter.
Of the 14 MPs, 12 belong to ruling Awami League and one each to BNP and Jatiya Party.
The AL lawmakers in question are Zakir Hossain of Kurigram-4, Ziaur Rahman of Chapainawabganj-2, Miraz Uddin Mollah of
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LAUNDERING Tk 20CR ACC sues Tarique, Mamun for graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a money-laundering case against BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman and his business partner and associate Giasuddin Al Mamun.
ACC Assistant Director (AD) Mohammad Ibrahim filed the case with Dhaka Cantonment Police Station, Officer-in-Charge of the station Hosne Ara Begum told The Daily Star.
Upon a bail from the Supreme Court, Tarique, elder son of former prime minister and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia, is now in London on medical grounds. He already has 14 graft cases against him.
The case statement said Tarique and Mamun are accused of laundering Tk 20.41 crore (around Tk 204 million) to Singapore between 2003 and 2007.
The ACC will investigate the case.
Talking to The Daily Star, AD Ibrahim said Mamun received the money from Khadiza Islam, proprietor of Nirman Constructions at Banani, assuring her of awarding the work contract of a proposed 80MW power plant at Tongi.
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Review of CHT accord, if necessary

Says Sajeda Chy
UNB, Dhaka
Deputy Leader of the House and Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord Implementation Committee Convener Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury yesterday said the government would review the CHT peace agreement if it is necessary.
"The present government
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Rab detained six JMB men from different parts of the country yesterday and gathered them at the Rab headquarters. Inset, bomb-making materials recovered from them.
PHOTO: STAR

ATTACK ON TAPOSH Foreign link of suspects under probe

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN
Detectives are suspecting that the recent bomb attack on ruling Awami League lawmaker Fazle Noor Taposh might have been plotted abroad, as they found that some of the suspects have foreign links.
Assistant Commissioner (AC) Akbar Hossain of the Detective Branch (DB) who is also the investigation officer of the case said, "We have Mehnaz's three cell phone numbers which she used to talk to people in Pakistan, and we found that Sheikh Shafiqullah Sofu's wrist watch is equipped with a cellphone. We are looking into the call lists of the cellphones."
Khandaker Mehnaz Rashid was arrested from Gulshan and put on a five-day remand on Saturday, and Freedom Party leader Sofu was arrested from Segunbagicha the following day.
During interrogation another detained suspect Kamrul Haque Swapan, younger brother of condemned convict in Bangabandhu murder case Maj (ret'd) Shariful Haque Dalim, said he used to visit Pakistan, AC Akbar added.
The AC also said Mehnaz's parents, absconding condemned convict in Bangabandhu murder case Lt Col (ret'd) Khandaker Abdur Rashid and his wife Jobaida Rashid, are in the habit of visiting Pakistan.
However, six days into the bomb attack on Taposh that left 13 persons injured, police still do not have any conclusive answer to who were the perpetrators and what was their motive.
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TAX DODGING CASE Jalil asked to appear in court Nov 17

COURT CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka court yesterday asked former Awami League (AL) general secretary Abdul Jalil to appear before it on November 17 in connection with a tax evasion case.
Judge ANM Bashir Ullah of Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after Jalil's lawyer submitted a petition, saying his client had earlier got bail from the High Court (HC).
The lawyer also submitted another petition saying the AL lawmaker could not appear before the court yesterday due to illness.
The HC on October 18 granted anticipatory bail for three months to Jalil in the case.
Earlier on October 15, the same court issued an arrest warrant against Jalil hours after the National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed a case against him in connection with dodging income tax to the tune of Tk 4 lakh.
In the statement, the NBR
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RECRUITING JMB Four ansar officers suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) authorities yesterday suspended four officials and closed another one in connection with illegally including 12 Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh members in the ansar training programme in Shariatpur.
On October 21, police
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