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ATTACK ON TAPOSH

5 army men detained

They point at 6 seniors removed from service; 35 cell numbers of attackers, plotters traced

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Five army officers detained for interrogation have named six of their former superiors as masterminds behind last month's bomb attack on Awami League lawmaker Fazle Noor Taposh, said intelligence agency sources.

They have also claimed Lt Col Saiful Islam Joarder, one of the six, provided funds for the attempt on Taposh's life. Saiful has been on the run since he lost his job on November 5 for suspected links with the blast. He had been posted at the Jessore cantonment.

Besides him, three other lieutenant colonels--Abdur Rouf, Zahid and Afzal--were dismissed that day.

The rest two of the six--Brig Gen

Habibur Rahman Rukon Uddin and Major Zakir Hossain--have been sent into retirement.

Meanwhile, the five army men, hauled up for questioning five days ago, are still being quizzed. Of them, four hold the rank of captain and one major.

Following up their information, the six army officers were removed from the services.

The bomb attack in front of Taposh's law chamber at Motijheel on October 21 left 13 persons injured. The ruling party lawmaker, also nephew of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, escaped unhurt.



Investigators claim Habibur Rahman Rukon Uddin has been a rokon (full-member) of Jamaat-e-Islami, while Saiful Islam Joarder had close relations with sacked Brig Gen Abdullahi Aman Al Ajmi, son of Jamaat's former ameer Golam Azam.

Contacted, Habibur's wife however dismissed the claim as rubbish.

She also said there's no question of her husband having involvement in the attack on Taposh.

Detectives have traced 35 cellphone numbers that were used by the suspected

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Hasina asks for thorough probe

Orders action if alleged links found true; directs ministry to amend BDR act for future mutiny trial

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the home ministry to launch a comprehensive investigation into the alleged link of some "dismissed" army officers with the bomb attack on lawmaker Fazle Noor Taposh and take action accordingly.

The directive came at a regular cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's Office last night. The premier talked with some of her colleagues about newspaper reports on army officials having link with the recent bomb attack on Taposh.

Confirming the direction, Home Minister Sahara Khatun told The Daily Star last night that the allegation would be thoroughly investigated. "If their involvement with the incident is found, stern action would be taken," she added.

At the meeting the prime minister once again asked her cabinet colleagues to remain alert to possible subversive activities ahead of the Supreme Court verdict on Bangabandhu killing case.

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Dhaka, Thimphu agree on energy cooperation

Focus on land connectivity, trade

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Bhutan have agreed to explore the possibility of cooperation in energy sector under Saarc regional collaboration.

The agreement came in the wake of growing demand for energy in Bangladesh and Bhutan's high potential for production of hydroelectricity, according to a joint press release issued yesterday from Dhaka and Thimphu at the end of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Bhutan.

Both sides agreed to explore the possibility of land connectivity between the two next-door neighbours under the aegis of Saarc transport connectivity to promote intra-regional trade and travel.

Dhaka and Thimphu also agreed to work together in promoting regional tourism recognising the potential of developing tourism packages, offering visits to the Himalayan mountains in Bhutan and with the golden sandy beaches of Cox's Bazar and

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Babar gave vital info on grenades

Aug 21 case IO informs court; 3-day remand granted

STAR REPORT

Detained former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar has given interrogators vital information about the suppliers of Arges grenades used in the August 21 attack on an Awami League rally in 2004.

The investigation officer of the August 21 murder case told it to a Dhaka court yesterday before seeking a fresh six-day remand for Babar. The court granted his three-day remand.

CID Additional Superintendent of Police Abdul Kahar Akond, the IO of the case, however did not elaborate on the lead.

The same court also granted a four-day remand for Moulana Sheikh Abdus Salam, convener of Islamic Democratic Party, and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

LeT men also targeted some dignitaries

Investigator tells court; fresh remand granted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The suspected militants, recently rounded up from Chittagong for plotting attacks on US Embassy and Indian High Commission in Dhaka and some key installations, also targeted to attack several local dignitaries.

The official investigating the plot by Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) to attack the US Embassy, told a Dhaka court yesterday about the new information

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AL constitution still not RPO-proper

EC decides to ask for further amendment

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday decided to ask the ruling Awami League (AL) to further amend the party constitution as it still contains provisions in conflict with the Representation of the People Order (RPO).

It also decided to ask three other parties--Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Samyabadi Dal and Jatiya Party (JP-Manju)--to include new provisions in their constitutions to meet the criteria for registration, EC officials said.

"We will ask the parties to correct their

constitutions in line with the RPO provisions," Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hossain told The Daily Star when contacted.

Two provisions in the ratified AL constitution run counter to the RPO, the officials said after an EC meeting that took the decisions.

The provisions still recognise Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad and Awami Ainjibi Parishad along with some more as associated bodies of AL, and allow formation of party units abroad, they said.

But the RPO does not allow any party to have

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Judges must not become CMLA

Attorney general pleads for SC observations on this

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday urged the Supreme Court to pass some observations so that none of the SC judges becomes the Chief Martial Law Administrator (CMLA) in future in order to uphold the constitution and democracy.

Without citing the name of then chief justice Abu Sadat Muhammad Sayem, he said an SC judge had become president and the CMLA violating the constitution and democratic

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SC HEARING
DAY 26

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