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FOR EXPORT BOOST

German minister says Bangladesh should comply with standards

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STUDENT POLITICS

Syed Fattahul Alim examines its glorious past and dull present

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WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Ratko Mladic set to boycott the UN war crimes court today

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It's a plot against Zia family
Says BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has condemned and protested submission of supplementary charge sheets implicating party leaders Tarique Rahman and Lutfozzaman Babar in the August 21 grenade attack cases.

In a statement yesterday, Fakhrul threatened to put up strong resistance to the government if it

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Tarique faces 14 cases

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Tarique Rahman, who has been accused in the August 21 grenade attack case, came into political limelight when he was promoted to BNP leadership as the senior joint secretary general during BNP-led four-party alliance regime in 2002.

Tarique, son of late president Ziaur Rahman and former premier Khaleda Zia, soon became one of the most powerful persons in the country and attracted tremendous

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SUPPLEMENTARY CHARGE SHEETS IN AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK CASES

Tarique among 30 new accused

Investigators find Hawa Bhaban's role in attack plot; arrest warrant against 18



AUGUST 21 ATTACKS



Tarique Rahman



Lutfozzaman Babar



Harris Chowdhury



Mojahed



Bangabandhu Avenue after the grisly grenade attack on August 21, 2004.

FILE PHOTO

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and KAILASH SARKAR

Tarique Rahman, Lutfozzaman Babar, Harris Chowdhury and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahed are among the 30 more people charge-sheeted yesterday in the August 21 grenade attack cases.

Hawa Bhaban, former political office of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, different militant organisations and the then administration had collaborated in planning and staging the grisly blasts at an

Awami League rally in the capital in 2004, Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Abdullah Abu said quoting the charges.

The attack, which killed 24 leaders and workers and injured around 300 others including the then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, was carried out to eliminate the AL leadership. The anti-liberation forces had plotted it over a long time, he added.

The PP was talking to reporters after the Criminal Investigation Department sub-

mitted the supplementary charge sheets to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka in the afternoon.

Replying to a query, he said Tarique Rahman, senior vice-chairman of BNP and elder son of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia, was one of the masterminds behind the attack.

During the last BNP-Jamaat rule, when the attack took place, Tarique used to control Hawa Bhaban, which was widely considered an alternative power

centre. Harris was political secretary to the then prime minister Khaleda; Babar was state minister for home; and Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mojahed was social welfare minister.

The Daily Star on October 27, 2009, ran an investigative report, headlined 'It was Hawa Bhaban Plot', about the people behind planning and staging the attack.

The metropolitan PP said Hawa Bhaban and the then administration

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The attacks preceding Aug 21

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

In the months before the August 21 grenade blasts about seven years back, the political situation was growing increasingly volatile amid a breakdown of law and order.

At that time, the BNP-led alliance government was lurching from one crisis to another.

At least 12 major attacks led up to the August 21 carnage at an Awami League rally on the capital's Bangabandhu

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The accused

A total of 30 people are on the supplementary charge sheets of the August 21 grenade attack cases while 22 were on the charge sheet submitted in 2008.

SUPPLEMENTARY CHARGE SHEETS

- Tarique Rahman
- Lutfozzaman Babar
- Harris Chowdhury
- Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahed
- BNP MP Kazi Shah Mofazzal Hossain Kaikobad
- Former NSI chiefs Maj Gen (retd) Rezaqul Haider Chowdhury and Brig Gen (retd) Abdur Rahim

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MONEY LAUNDERING
Hearing on Tarique's case deferred

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred until July 25 the hearing on the charge framing against Tarique Rahman, senior vice-chairman of BNP, and his business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun in a money laundering case.

Judge Mohammad Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge's Court-3 passed the order following a petition submitted by the defendants' lawyer, barrister Mahbub Uddin Khokon, seeking an adjournment of the hearing.

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Hartals, weekend make 6-day 'vacation'

BNP, allies call 48-hr hartal July 6-7, followed by 2-day weekend, 12 parties' 30-hr hartal

RASHIDUL HASAN

The BNP-led opposition and 12 other parties have called for 78-hour country-wide hartals in two phases, which will virtually put the country on a six-day "vacation" from July 6.

In the first phase, BNP and its three allies will enforce a 48-hour shutdown on Wednesday and Thursday in protest against scrapping of the caretaker government system and "hurting" the religious sentiment of the people through the 15th amendment to the constitution.

BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami announced the hartal through separate press confer-

ences at their party offices in the capital yesterday.

The four-party alliance's hartal will be followed by Friday and Saturday -- two weekly holidays.

An alliance of 12 parties led by Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis will then enforce a 30-hour shutdown from Sunday morning till 12:00 noon of Monday.

The alliance, comprised of mostly Islamist parties, announced the hartal on June 30 in protest of dropping the phrase "absolute faith in Allah" from the country's charter.

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Shun hartal to avert confrontation

Ashraf asks BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam has called on BNP to shun hartal and end the political tension over revoking of the caretaker system through discussions with the government.

"There is no alternative to talks. When dialogue is closed, confrontation is imminent. But the people of Bangladesh do not want conflict, nor do we," he told reporters yesterday.

"Nothing can be

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Thaksin allies win Thai election

AFP, Bangkok

Allies of Thailand's fugitive ex-leader Thaksin Shinawatra stormed to victory in elections yesterday, in a remarkable comeback after years of turmoil sparked by his ouster in a military coup.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva conceded defeat and congratulated a victorious opposition led by Thaksin's youngest sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, who is now set to become Thailand's first female premier.

With 92 percent of votes counted, Puea Thai had won 260 seats out of 500, well ahead of the Democrats with 163, according to the Election Commission.

"The outcome is clear -- Puea Thai has won the

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MANMOHAN'S COMMENT
Dhaka won't make formal statement

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka will not make any formal statement on Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's observations about Bangladesh since it is convinced there is no "necessity" of doing so after the official clarifications given by the Indian government.

"I have seen both the statements issued by the Indian external affairs ministry and the high commission in Dhaka. After these two statements, I don't see the

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