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# Hurdles were aplenty

*It took 5th investigation officer, further probe, 10 years for truth to come out*

WASIM BIN HABIB, TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and DWAIPAYAN BARUA

The probe and trial in the sensational 10-truck arms haul cases saw ups and downs in the last 10 years, with the big shots being left out in the initial investigation, raising eyebrows of many.

Only the small fry were implicated during the initial probe as the erstwhile BNP-led four-party alliance government allegedly tried to cover up the involvement of state machinery -- ministers and top officials of intelligence agencies -- in the biggest ever arms haul of the country's history.

Several investigations into the incident had been carried out since the recovery of the arms cache in the wee hours of April 2, 2004, but most of those were unsatisfactory and could not identify the masterminds behind the smuggling operation.

Two cases -- one under the arms act for illegal possession of firearms and the other under the Special Powers Act, 1974 for smuggling weapons -- were filed with Karnaphuli Police Station a day after the arms were hauled at the jetty of

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1



Labourer Jasim Uddin cannot hold back his tears, unaware of what the verdict might be inside the intense courtroom yesterday. Jasim was acquitted in the 10-truck arms haul cases.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## 'Politically motivated'

*Defence, families denounce verdict; prosecution says justice ensured*

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Families and the defence of those found guilty of smuggling in 10-truckloads of arms and ammunition in 2004 said the judgement giving them the capital punishment was politically motivated.

The verdict will be challenged at the High Court, family members said.

Hearing the court announce the death sentence, many burst into tears at the courtroom. They said they were "deprived of justice".

The prosecution, however, said justice had been served through the verdict.

Masud Ahmed Talukdar, a defence counsel of former state minister for home

Lutfozzaman Babar, said,

SEE PAGE 12 COL 3

## It's a plot to kill Nizami

*Says Jamaat; 5 hurt as Shibir blasts bomb; BNP to react later*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aghast at the verdict in the 10-truck arms haul cases, the Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday said the judgement is part of the "government's conspiracy to eliminate patriotic political leaders from the country."

The BNP said it will give a reaction on the verdict later, while the ruling Awami League expressed satisfaction over the judgement.

Rejecting the verdict, Jamaat acting

SEE PAGE 12 COL 3

## BNP leader among 3 killed in 'shootouts'

*20 killed so far in similar way in January*

STAR REPORT

Three people, including a local BNP leader, were killed in "gunfights" between their cohorts and law enforcers in Noakhali, Sirajganj and Feni yesterday.

With them the number of extrajudicial killings in this month comes to 20. At least nine were killed while they were in custody of law enforcers. Police versions of the "gunfights" were found to be more or less similar.

Extrajudicial killings should be stopped immediately, said Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra, a rights body that provides legal aid.

"If they are really accused [of crimes], they

should be punished through a proper judicial process," she said, adding such extrajudicial killings should not be allowed in any democratic country.

Meanwhile, expressing concern over the recent spate of extrajudicial killings, Human Rights Watch called for an independent investigation into the incidents.

Yesterday, Towhidul Islam, 42, former joint convener of Sonaimuri upazila BNP unit in Noakhali, was killed in an exchange of shots between his associates and police at Medipur village in the upazila.

Anisur Rahman, superintendent of police (SP) of

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

## WEALTH REPORT ACC files case against Tarique's mother-in-law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed a case against Syeda Iqbalmand Banu, mother-in-law of BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman, with the Ramna Police Station for not submitting her wealth statement.

ACC Deputy Director RK Majumdar filed the case as she failed to submit her wealth statement within the stipulated time.

On September 2007, the graft watch dog filed a case with the Kafrul Police Station against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's son Tarique, his wife Dr Zubaida and mother-in-law Banu for concealing wealth information

Later, the ACC issued a notice to Banu on October 20, 2011 asking her to submit "statements of moveable and immovable assets and liability acquired by her and her dependents in their name or in the name of others, and source of income with detailed particulars" within seven days.

Later, on January 30, 2012 the High Court stayed the operation of the notice for four months following a writ petition filed by Banu with the HC.

However, on May 3, 2012 the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court stayed the order, paving the way for the ACC to obtain Banu's wealth statement.

Meanwhile, Banu's counsel, AM

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

## SL thump Tigers in 4



PHOTO: STAR


Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim puts his head down in dismay, at Mirpur, after the hosts lost the crucial wicket of Mominul Haque in the post-lunch session yesterday. The Tigers were bundled out for 250 on the fourth day of the first Test and went down to Sri Lanka by an innings and 248 runs -- their fourth worst innings defeat. The match saw the Tigers leak 730 runs in one innings. It was a flow-stopper for the Tigers', who had otherwise had a good run in the last two years.



Tourists spotted this Bengal tiger with a rope tied to its left fore limb around Lawodobe area of Chandpai range in the Sundarbans around 10:00am on Tuesday. The rope, presumably from a trap of poachers, cut deep into the tiger's limb and it was bleeding. Village Tiger Response Team, Forest Tiger Response Team along with Forest Department and WildTeam personnel are looking for the tiger.

PHOTO: COURTESY

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with the Human Rights Watch that the government should conduct an independent investigation into a recent spate of alleged extrajudicial killings by security forces?

Yes

(85%)

No

(15%)

TOTAL VOTES: 233

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with President Abdul Hamid that the new House was formed through a free and impartial election?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

## 5 BNP leaders denied bail

*SC stays HC order against 'harassment' of Fakhrul*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected the bail petitions of five top BNP leaders, including Moudud Ahmed, in five cases filed with the capital's Motijheel and Ramna police stations.

The four other leaders are MK Anwar, barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Major (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed and Fazlul Haque Milon.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court yesterday stayed the High Court orders that directed the government not to arrest or harass BNP acting secretary general Mirza

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Brain has a bad decision detector

MAIL ONLINE

A part of the brain that helps stop humans from making bad decisions and acts as our conscience has been discovered by scientists.

The small ball of neural tissue, named the lateral frontal pole, is vital for pondering the 'what ifs' of life, researchers said.

Other parts of the brain keep tabs on how well decisions are working, but this

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



## Google sells ailing Moto

BBC ONLINE

Google has sold struggling US mobile phone company Motorola Mobility to Chinese computer maker Lenovo for \$2.91bn, in a surprise move.

Google had paid \$12.5bn for the company less than two years ago.

Lenovo plans to build up its smartphone unit through the Motorola purchase, which may help offset its slowing personal computer business.

However, Google will keep the majority of Motorola's lucrative patents, which include one for Android software.

In a statement, Google said the smartphone market was "super competitive" and that Motorola would "be better served by Lenovo".

The purchase is set to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

PRAYER TIMING			January 31
Fajr	5-35	6-10	
Juma	12-30	1-15	
Asr	4-15	4-30	
Maghrib	5-46	5-50	
Esha	7-15	7-45	
Source: Islamic Foundation			

## IN REMEMBRANCE



We fondly remember **Late Aziz H. A. Sattar**, the founding Managing Director of GMG Group of Industries, on his 21th death anniversary. He was a pioneer and a role model of industrialization in this country. His unfathomable depth of knowledge, vision, uphill struggle and firm determination may inspire all of us. Today we solicit doa from his well-wishers for his departed soul.

**Family members & employees of GMG Group**