



FOR A CAUSE
 Artists unite to save a life; performance at Chhobir Haat today
 PAGE 11

'I'M INNOCENT'
 Says Assange, as prosecutors drop sexual assault charges against him
 PAGE 9

Fatal deaf ear

August 15 tragedy could have been averted if Bangabandhu had not ruled out RAW's alert twice

SHAKHAWAT LITON

It was sometime in June of 1974. Some army officers including Major Faruk and Major Rashid had gathered at the residence of Major General Ziaur Rahman, then deputy chief of army.

During the three hour long meeting, their discussion was centered on a coup. One of the participants had doodled on a scrap of paper which had been thrown carelessly into a waste paper basket.

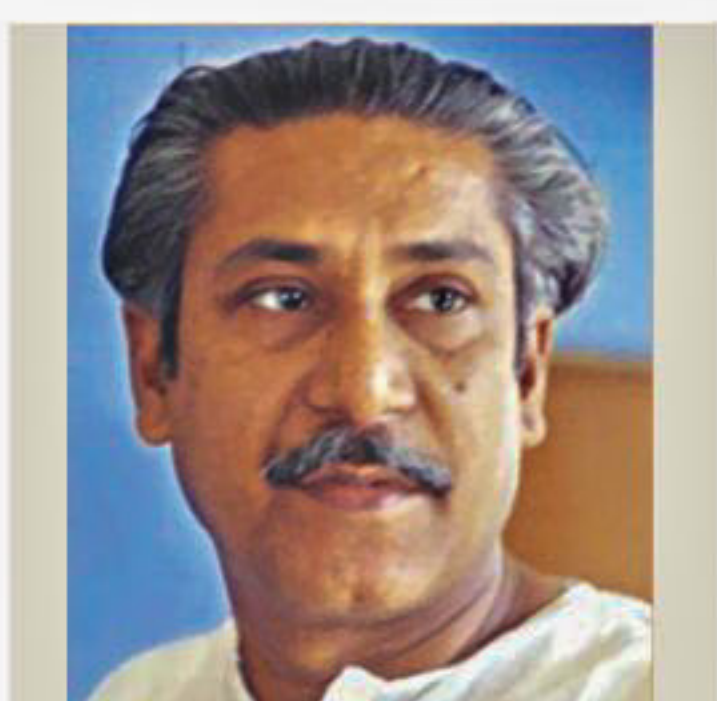
The scrap of paper was collected from the garbage pile by a clerk and passed on to a RAW (Research & Analysis Wing) operative. That bit of information found its way to New Delhi and into the hands of Rameshwar Nath Kao, founding chief of RAW, the Indian intelligence agency. Convinced that a coup was in the offing, Kao flew into Dhaka in the guise of a 'paan' (betel leaf) importer.

Before his Dhaka trip, Kao had personally met Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and informed her of his mission to Dhaka. He said that these reports had been received through a very sensitive source whose identity had to be kept secret at all costs.

With her approval Kao came to Dhaka in December of 1974.

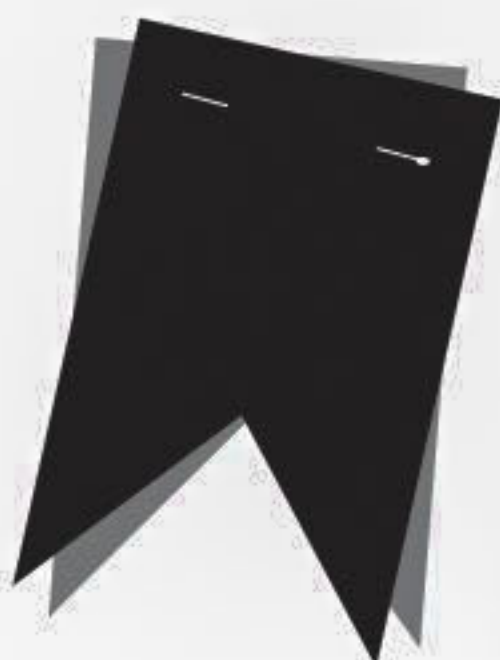
He was driven after his arrival to a rendezvous arranged beforehand. He met Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabhaban and requested him for a short stroll with him in the Bangabhaban garden.

When they were alone, Kao told him what RAW knew about the threat to his life. He also mentioned the names of the officers who were preparing for a coup.
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"These are my own children and they will not harm me."

BANGABANDHU DISMISSING RAW CHIEF'S CONCERN THAT A COUP WAS IN THE OFFING



Mushtaque, whose name has become a byword for treachery and betrayal, glowing in the affection of Bangabandhu. The man was part of the conspiracy to kill the father of the nation.



PHOTO: ARCHIVE

Mushtaque, a hero!

Khaleda-led BNP mourned his death at JS

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Being the foreign minister he engaged in a conspiracy to foil Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971 and wanted to keep Pakistan united. In independent Bangladesh, he joined another conspiracy to overthrow Bangabandhu's gov-

ernment.

He grabbed the presidency and declared martial law after the brutal assassination of Bangabandhu and overthrow of his government on August 15, 1975. His government was quickly recognised by Pakistan.

He termed the changeover "historic"

and "for the sake of the nation" and portrayed the killers of Bangabandhu as the brightest son of the armed forces and indemnified them by promulgating an ordinance.

He is none other than Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed. His conspiratorial role and betrayal has made him a villain

in the country's history.

Yet, after his death eulogies flowed calling him a "seasoned politician and parliamentarian" and the Jatiya Sangsad was made to express deep sorrow and condolence for his death. He was also portrayed as a "meritorious

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Gunmen kill AL leader, another

Two more injured in Badda shooting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people, including an Awami League leader, were killed and two others injured in a gun attack at the city's Badda last night.

The dead are Shamsuddin Molla, 53, and Feroz Ahmed Manik, 42, police said.

Shamsuddin was a vice president of ward-6 of Badda union while Manik was the manager of a private hospital in the area, relatives told The Daily Star.

Condition of one of the injured, Mahbubur Rahman Gama, 35, assistant cultural affairs secretary of Dhaka city (north) Swechhasebak League, was "very critical," said authorities of the United Hospital where he was being treated.

Critically injured Shamsuddin and Manik were also taken to the same hospital, but doctors said they were already dead.

The other injured is Abdus Salam, 40, owner of a rickshaw garage. He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. His condition could not be known immediately.
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2 Janakantha editors guilty of contempt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court sentenced the editor and publisher of the daily Janakantha and its executive editor to confinement in the courtroom for three hours yesterday for contempt of court by publishing an article relating to war crimes convict Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

The court also fined them Tk 10,000 each, to be donated to two charitable organisations in a week. In failure, they will have to serve times in prison for seven days.

"All elements of grave contempt of court are present in the impugned article," the apex court said about the write-up published in the daily on July 16.
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Two girls 'murdered after rape'

STAR REPORT

Two schoolgirls were allegedly killed after rape by their stalkers in Madaripur Sadar upazila yesterday.

Sumaiya Akhtar, 15, and Happy Akhtar, 14, were class eight students at Mostafapur Bahumukhi High School.

Ziaul Morshed, officer-in-charge of Madaripur Sadar Police Station, however, told The Daily Star that they could not confirm whether the victims were raped unless they got the autopsy reports.

Two suspects were detained for interrogation. They are Rafiq Sikder, 21, and Shipon Sikder, 18.

According to the victim families, the duo frequently stalked the girls and they raped and killed the victims yesterday, the police

officer said around 1:30am today.

Sumaiya and Happy left their homes at Mostafapur village around 3:00pm yesterday to have tuition at a school.

Around 4:30pm, four youths aged between 18 and 20 brought the girls to Madaripur Sadar Hospital in an unconscious state and claimed the victims had taken poison, said Ziaul.

The youths fled after Happy died around 5:00pm. Sumaiya also breathed her last around an hour later.

Family members, relatives, friends and classmates of the victims rushed to the hospital after hearing the news.

In the evening, Rafiq and Shipon were captured by the hospital authorities when they went to the hospital. Afterwards, they
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"Whenever auto-rickshaw drivers see me, they hold their ears even if I don't ask them to do so."

OBABDUL QUADER
 ROAD TRANSPORT AND BRIDGES MINISTER
 AT A DISCUSSION AT DHAKA UNIVERSITY

Mahmudur gets 3yrs for not giving wealth info

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday sentenced Mahmudur Rahman, former energy advisor to ex-prime minister Khaleda Zia, to three years in prison for not submitting his wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission "deliberately".

The Special Judge's Court-3 also fined Mahmudur, acting editor of Bangla daily Amar Desh that was shut-down in 2013, Tk 1 lakh. He would have to serve one more month in prison if he fails to pay the fine.

The amount of time Mahmudur had already spent in jail in connection with the case would be deducted from the
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Charred cars lie in rows and smoke rises over burnt buildings at the site of yesterday's massive explosions in Tianjin port of China that killed at least 50 people. Story on page 20.

PHOTO: AFP

KILLING OF BLOGGER NILOY State minister's nephew held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two men have been arrested in connection with the killing of secular blogger Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy.

Of them, Saad-al-Nahin, 26, is the son of Nazrul Haque Nannu, younger brother of State Minister for Labour and Employment Mujibul Haque Chhunnu.

The other arrestee is Masud Rana. Both are suspected members of banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT), police claimed.

Deputy Commissioner (media) Muntasirul Islam of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) confirmed the arrests.

Nahin earlier was arrested along with three others in April 2013 for attempting to murder blogger Asif Mohiuddin in January that year. They were later freed on bail.

His father Nazrul, who lives in Kishoreganj, claimed his son's innocence in regard to the Niloy murder.

"I was with my son in Dhaka all the time between August 6 and 8. There is no way he could be involved in the killing," Nazrul told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

Niloy, 28, was hacked to death by suspected ABT militants inside his house at Goran in the capital on August 7.

Though Nahin's father said detectives had picked up his son from the capital's Uttara area on Sunday, DB Deputy Commissioner (East) Mahbub Alam of the DMP claimed he was arrested yesterday evening. Masud was arrested around the same time from the capital's Mirpur area, according to police.
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