

TIMELINE

FROM PAGE 1

Bangabandhu phones army chief General KM Shafiullah and says, “Shafiullah, your forces have attacked my house. Perhaps they have already killed Kamal. Send forces quickly.” Shafiullah rings his deputy General Ziaur Rahman and chiefs of two other services to mobilise troops to help the president. It is to no avail.

After killing Kamal, army officer Mohiuddin and his accomplices go around the house hunting for Bangabandhu and they find him standing calmly with his pipe in hand on the front veranda. Seeing him, even killer Mohiuddin is taken aback. He cannot shoot Bangabandhu. He merely utters, “Sir, please come with us.”

As they bring him down the staircase, Bangabandhu shouts, “Where are you taking me?” At this point, Bazul Huda asks Mohiuddin to move away and Noor opens fire at the president. Along with him, most members of his family are killed.

Two other groups of army personnel launch simultaneous attacks on the residences of Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni and Abdur Rab Serniabat and kill them along with their family members.

Later in the morning, Major Dalim announces on the radio, “Sheikh Mujib has been killed.”

Masterminds of the coup, Major Faruk and Major Rashid, as per their plan, prepare to install Awami League leader Khondokar Moshtaque in the presidency.

Moshtaque is sworn in as the new president in the afternoon. He addresses the nation and describes the killing and coup as a “historic necessity”. Martial law is declared countrywide for an indefinite period and curfew imposed in the capital.

Chiefs of three services are forced to express loyalty to the new regime.

Moshtaque appoints 10 ministers and six state ministers, most of whom are AL leaders, to form his cabinet.

Pakistan becomes the first country to recognise the Moshtaque regime, only a few hours after the coup.

AUG 16
Bangabandhu is buried at Tungipara in Gopalganj. Other victims are laid to rest at Banani graveyard amid an unprecedented tense situation. The situation in Dhaka cantonment remains tense. Saudi Arabia and Sudan recognise Bangladesh as an

independent country and the Moshtaque government as well.

AUG 18
Britain, Jordan, Japan and Myanmar recognise the Moshtaque government.

AUG 19
Army chief Gen Shafiullah convenes a meeting of brigade commanders at the army headquarters. The meeting ends in chaos.

AUG 20
President Moshtaque through a declaration announces that the constitution remains in force subject to the president’s orders and martial law regulations. He also announces that he has assumed all powers of the state.

AUG 22
Chief Justice ASM Sayem and Speaker Abdul Malek Ukil call on Moshtaque at Bangabhaban. US recognises Moshtaque government.

AUG 23
Four national leaders -- Syed Nazrul Islam, M Mansur Ali, Tajuddin Ahmed and AHM Kamaruzzaman -- and 22 others are detained under martial law regulations on charges of corruption, anti-social activities, nepotism and abuse of state powers.

AUG 24
In a surprise move, General Ziaur Rahman is made army chief, replacing General Shafiullah. Major Rashid and Major Faruk, staying at Bangabhaban since the changeover, force Moshtaque to make the sudden change at the top in the Bangladesh Army. General MAG Osmani is appointed defence adviser to the president. Brigadier General Ershad is promoted to the rank of major general and made deputy chief of army staff.

AUG 26
President Moshtaque sends message to Pakistan’s prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, expressing his desire to strengthen ties with Pakistan.

AUG 27
India, Oman and Hungary recognise Moshtaque government.

AUG 30
President Moshtaque issues ordinance imposing a ban on political activities and formation of political parties.

AUG 31
China recognises Bangladesh.

Many students upset

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A number of students from Scholastica, Sunnydale, SFX Green Herald International School and others expressed dissatisfaction over their A level results.

Sunnydale student Dipro Nishanto said he got an A star in mathematics, an A in chemistry and physics in his Advanced Supplementary (AS) exam under Cambridge International last year. This year, his result was downgraded in maths and physics to an A and B grade respectively.

“They could have given similar grades to the AS exams as a benefit of doubt because the exams did not take place due to the pandemic. What kind of justice is this?” he asked.

Normally, students get better grades in the A2 exams than their AS exams, he added.

Teachers have also said that many O level students, under the Cambridge International board, were also unhappy with the results they have gotten.

A student of Green Herald International School said he got a B in physics and chemistry while his AS grades were A for both subjects last year, under the Cambridge International board.

He said results of 64 out of 128 students were downgraded this year.

A student of Willes Little Flower School and College who took part in the exams under Pearson Edexcel said he achieved A grades in biology units 1 and 2 and B grades in units 3 and 4 last year.

This year he was awarded an E grade and a U in biology units 5 and 6 respectively.

He said he got a C in chemistry unit 5 this year against an A achieved last year in units 1,2,3 and 4.

“I had the country-highest score in economics for AS, and got downgraded to B now. The process to challenge these results is proving to be notoriously difficult because the authorities aren’t cooperating right now and different teachers are saying different things about how evidence was provided for these grades,” an A Level student from Green Herald said.

“Sitting for retakes seems like the only option for students who didn’t already get into colleges, and there’s the question of whether retakes are even possible under the current circumstances as schools are closed,” he added.

“Downgrading of results without any exams was an unfair decision. These students should have been given grades similar to their previous year’s exams,” Dhaka University English department Associate

Professor Ashim Dutta said.

He said this will hamper the students’ chances of getting scholarships if they want to go to abroad for higher education. “They will not be able to sit for the admission test of Buet as they will not be able to fulfil the academic criteria for the test,” he added.

All students said that they have contacted their respective school authorities and are trying to find ways of appealing against these results.

Sunnydale Vice Principal Yasmeen Habib said many students, who are capable of getting A* or A, have not got the desired results.

English Medium School Association General Secretary GM Nizam Uddin, also principal of Green Gems International School, said results of many students were downgraded and all school authorities are in the process of contacting the relevant authorities.

Cambridge International in a statement on Thursday said their awarding process combined teacher insights -- predicted grades and rank orders -- with a rigorous standardisation process, keeping teacher judgments consistent across different schools.

“This ensured grades issued for June 2020 would be fair and reliable and accepted by universities and employers globally, in the same way as any other year,” it added.

“We have been listening to schools and students as they’ve received their results. While many students are happy with their grades, we know some are disappointed. Schools can make different sorts of appeals to us, and we will consider each appeal carefully and make changes where needed,” a spokesperson for Cambridge International said Thursday night, while replying to queries of The Daily Star through email.

“Students can also take part in exams in October and November with extra subjects available and alternative arrangements to support schools with distancing and safe reopening.”

The spokesperson for Cambridge International, working with its South Asia office, said they don’t have the number of grades changed for Bangladeshi students.

“But what I can tell you is that globally, just over half the grades awarded to students are the same as those predicted by their teachers,” said the spokesperson.

Over 8,000 students in Bangladesh received results across the year’s exams,” Dhaka University English department Associate



Farmers harvest their onion crops as Mount Sinabung spews volcanic ash during an eruption seen from Sukandebi village in Karo, Indonesia yesterday. Indonesia is home to about 130 active volcanoes due to its position on the “Ring of Fire”, a belt of tectonic plate boundaries encircling the Pacific Ocean where frequent seismic activity occurs.

PHOTO: AFP

Seven taken into Rab custody

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Rab officers have also not interrogated the three top accused -- suspended officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station Pradeep Kumar Das, Inspector Liaquat Ali and Sub-Inspector Nandadulal Rakshit.

“Changing an IO of a case is absolutely routine work,” said Ashique Billah, legal and media wing director of Rab.

He added that the authorities decided to employ a much more experienced officer who has vast experience in solving sensitive and critical cases.

Asked whether the interrogation was delayed for the appointment of a new IO, he said no.

“The previous officer took the time because he thoroughly studied the case, talked to the witnesses, visited the place of occurrence, and talked with Sefat and Shipra. He was taking meticulous notes for a neutral

investigation,” Ashique said.

A team of Rab-15 took the seven accused from Cox’s Bazar prison around 10:00am, reports our correspondent in the district.

Besides the four policemen, the three other accused are Nurul Amin, Nijam Uddin and Ayachh Uddin. They were named as witnesses in the two cases filed by police after the killing.

The accused were taken to Cox’s Bazar Sadar Hospital for check-ups around 10:35am, said resident physician Saheen Abdur Rahman.

No health issues were found during the examination, he added.

PROBE COMMITTEE VISITS SITE

A four-member committee formed by the home ministry yesterday visited Marishbunia village in Teknaf and talked to several villagers.

Shahidul Islam, a nine-year-old boy, who helped Sinha on July

31 find the trail to climb a hill, and his grandfather Zahir Ahmed accompanied the officials as they visited the hill.

They also visited Baitun Nur mosque from where it was announced that there were robbers on the hill when Sinha was there.

Sinha used to make travel documentaries for a YouTube channel called Just Go. On the fateful night, he was returning to Cox’s Bazar from Teknaf with Sefat.

His car was stopped at Shaplapur on Marine Drive road.

Police claimed they were about to search the vehicle when Sinha aimed his pistol at them, prompting the officers to open fire. They also claimed they seized drugs from the vehicle.

However, witnesses said Sinha stepped out of his car, put his hands over his head, and then a police officer shot him.

More than 12,000

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“Most of the Bangladeshi migrants applied to the domestic work sector as caregivers,” he said over a WhatsApp call.

Asked whether all will be regularised, the mission official said there is a condition for the domestic work sector that workers have to apply under the specific employer, which the authorities will verify afterwards.

So, it cannot be said at this stage how many have fulfilled the condition, he added.

He added that the Bangladesh mission was trying to help the undocumented workers process their papers properly.

The Italian government declared amnesty for undocumented migrants from June 1 amid the coronavirus pandemic. The last time it announced a similar amnesty was in 2012, said the mission official.

Under the latest amnesty, the authorities also gave workers scope to be regularised in the agriculture sector. Besides, those who are currently unemployed are also getting the opportunity.

Like the domestic work sector, workers in the agriculture sector have to apply under the specific employer, while the unemployed have the scope to get work permits at a fee of 130

euros each.

As of July 16, the Italian interior ministry received 123,429 requests for the regularisation programme, according to ANSA, a well-reputed wire service in Italy.

Cleaners and caregivers made up the bulk of the requests, ANSA said in a report.

Alongside Bangladeshis, Ukrainians and Moroccans mostly requested permits as cleaners or carers. Besides, Albanians, Moroccans, and Indians mostly requested permits as agricultural workers, it added.

The number of Bangladeshi workers seeking regularisation was 12,746 until July 31, said Bangladesh mission official Arfanul, adding that it was made available by the Italian interior ministry.

Italy is home to about 1.45 lakh Bangladeshi migrants with valid documents, he said, citing the data of the Italian ministry of labour and social policies.

Besides, an estimated 20,000 more Bangladeshis live and work in that country without valid documents.

According to a mission official, the Bangladeshi community in Italy said the number could be 50,000.

Arfanul said following the coronavirus outbreak, the Italian government announced different

stimulus packages, including that for low-paid workers with work permits.

Such workers, including foreign nationals, had the opportunity to receive financial support from the Italian government, he said.

He added that many restrictions imposed by the Italian government to contain the spread of coronavirus had recently been lifted.

As a result, the low-paid workers and self-employed vendors, who were affected severely, get the scope for earnings, he said.

WHO downplays

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of food. There is no evidence that food or the food chain is participating in the transmission of this virus.

“Our food, from a Covid perspective, is safe.”

Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO’s Covid-19 technical lead, said the United Nations health agency was aware of the reports and understood that China was looking for the virus on food packaging.

“They’ve tested a few hundred thousand samples of looking at packaging and have found very, very few, less than 10 positive in doing that,” she said.

Bhutto’s statement

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Pakistan President ZA Bhutto’s statement to the National Assembly recently that he tried hard to have talks with “Dacca authority” without success. A Bangladesh spokesman says today, “If there has to be any talk with Pakistan it would have to be on equal terms. Mr Bhutto has spoken of ‘authorities of Dacca’. He cannot just deal with ‘authorities’ in Bangladesh. He must talk with the prime minister of Bangladesh. To refuse to do that is to ignore hard facts and realities.

“When he talks of ‘authorities of Dacca’ does Mr Bhutto still think Bangladesh as a part of his own domain? As he still seems to be unwilling to recognise the sovereignty of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has no alternative but to refuse to meet him. Once the condition is accepted, Sheikh Mujib is willing to talk on all problems of mutual interest,” adds the spokesman.

YUGOSLAVIA’S SUPPORT TO BANGLADESH UN MEMBERSHIP

Yugoslavia fully supports Bangladesh’s application for membership of the United Nations, reports PTI. Official circles in Belgrade emphasises that UN membership for Bangladesh is not only logical in view of the hard fact of the existence of the new state and its recognition by many countries, but also necessary as a contribution to peaceful development in that vital part of the world.

SOURCES: August 16, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Doraiswami

FROM PAGE 16

Dhaka at a time when India and Bangladesh have lined-up a series of high-profile bilateral projects in the field of connectivity and infrastructure in the coming months, particularly during the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Despite recent rough edges in bilateral ties due to the Citizenship Amendment Act passed by Indian parliament in December last year, Bangladesh is considered one of India’s closest allies in South Asia.

OC withdrawn

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some people to record the case.

He was also seen keeping the money in his pocket and asking more money. The police officer then gave them directives on how to harass their opponents through the case.

Sources said Shahana Begum, a railway employee, took loans from Sukhi Begum of Baltipatti area of Lalmonirhat town.

There was a conflict between Shahana and Sukhi, who gives people loans and takes interest on them, over repaying the loans.

Following this, Sukhi and her men vandalised Shahana’s house in Baltipatti area and injured her on July 21.

Shahana alleged that valuables were also looted from her house.

The next day, she filed a case against seven people, including Sukhi, with the Sadar Police Station.

After the case was lodged, Sukhi and her men asked for help from OC Mahfuz to get away with the case. The OC recorded a false case against Shahana in exchange for bribes on July 27.

The video clip of taking the bribe and sanitising his hands went viral on August 11.

SP Abida said a three-member committee was formed to look into the incident. The higher authorities would take departmental actions on the basis of the investigation report, she added.



Advanced Chemical Industries Limited
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Price Sensitive Information

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Advanced Chemical Industries Limited (ACI Limited) on Thursday, 13 August 2020 has approved foreign investment of BDT 1,260,000,360/- (One Billion Two Hundred Sixty Million Three Hundred and sixty only) for 2,333,334 Convertible Non-cumulative Preference Shares of BDT 100/- each at a premium of BDT 440/- in the share capital of ACI Motors Limited, one of its Subsidiaries and approved the draft Shareholders' Agreement and Share Subscription Agreement for execution. The said shares will be issued to Bangladesh Managed Account C.V, a limited partnership of FMO (NETHERLANDSE FINANCIERINGS-MATTSCHAPPIJ VOOR ONTWIKKELINGSLANDEN N.V.), a limited company incorporated under the Laws of the Netherlands and SDI Pte. Limited, a company established under the laws of Singapore. The proceeds will be used for business growth and expansion of existing manufacturing facilities of ACI Motors. This arrangement will reduce the Company's shareholding in ACI Motors Limited from 65.00% to 52.70%.

By Order of the Board



Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman
Company Secretary

13 August 2020, Dhaka