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Farzana Rupa, Shakil held at airport

Shown arrested in murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former head of news at Ekattor Television Shakil Ahmed and its principal correspondent Farzana Rupa were arrested at Dhaka airport yesterday as they tried to leave the country.

"We completed the immigration but they were wanted in cases. A requisition was given by the Detective Branch (DB) against the case, and they were taken into custody from the airport," a senior official of the special branch (SB) told The Daily Star.

Airport sources said they were trying to take a Turkish Airlines flight to go to France via Turkey.

According to a notification of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), Shakil and Rupa were shown arrested in a murder case filed with the Uttara East Police Station on Tuesday.

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Participants at a roundtable discussion titled "Vision of the Youth" organised by The Daily Star at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday. Nine organisers of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement from different campuses joined the discussion alongside others. Story on back page.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

BANNED FOR FORGERY Contractors pressurise RHD to withdraw ban

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

A group of contractors who were banned by Roads and Highways Department (RHD) over the last year for indulging in forgeries to secure contracts are now putting pressure on the authority to withdraw their ban.

They have even threatened to besiege the RHD headquarters unless the authority withdraws the ban, which has debarred 47 contractors in the past year and demanded that RHD halt all ongoing work until their demands are met.

These contractors were among the highest beneficiaries under the Sheikh Hasina-led government.

On Sunday, under the banner of RHD's Affected Contractors' Coordination Committee, the group submitted a memorandum to the RHD chief engineer, incorporating 10 demands.

In this situation, the chief engineer yesterday held a meeting with the contractors to discuss their demands.

According to RHD sources, 44 contractors were banned between February and July this year for different periods for indulging in different kinds of forgeries to secure contracts. They will not be allowed to participate in any RHD bidding processes during the ban period.

Thirteen contractors, upon filing a writ with the High Court, got a stay against the debarred order, meaning the debarred order is still valid for 31 contractors, they said.

According to sources, the banned contractors had allegedly engaged in malpractice in collusion with a section of unscrupulous officials of the RHD.

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46TH ANNIVERSARY BNP declares 5-day event from Aug 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday announced a five-day programme, beginning on August 31, to observe its 46th founding anniversary.

Speaking at a press conference at the party's Naya Paltan office, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir outlined the schedule.

The programme will kick off on August 31 with discussion meetings at the district and upazila levels. On September 1, the party will pay tribute to its founder, Ziaur Rahman, at his grave.

The activities will continue with rallies on September 2 at the metropolitan, district, and upazila levels. On September 3, the party plans to release fish fry in these areas.

Tree plantation drives are scheduled for September 4 across the metropolitan, district, upazila, and union levels, he added.

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3 top police officials sent into forced retirement

All DIGs and metro commissioners transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government sent three top police officials on forced retirement and transferred all range Deputy Inspector General (DIGs), and metropolitan commissioners outside Dhaka.

Ten district superintendents of police (SPs) were also transferred. The Public Security Divisions of the Home Ministry issued five separate notifications regarding the developments yesterday.

The three top police officials, who were sent into forced retirement from service are identified as Police Headquarters (PHQ) Additional Inspector General of Police (additional IGP) Atikul Islam, addition IGP (supernumerary) Anwar Hossain; and the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police chief Md Asaduzzaman.

According to three separate home ministry circulars signed by Senior Secretary Mohammad Abdul, the move was taken in the public interest.

The circular invoked section 45 of the Public Service Act 2018.

In a separate circular signed by the ministry deputy secretary Mahbur Rahman Sheikh, seven range DIG were transferred and attached with other police units.

DIG of Dhaka Range Syed Nurul Islam has been transferred to Rajshahi Police Academy while

The three top police officials are Additional IGP Atikul Islam, addition IGP (supernumerary) Anwar Hossain; and CTTC unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police chief Md Asaduzzaman.

Chittagong Range DIG Nur-e-Alam Mina to Rajshahi Police Academy, Sylhet Range DIG Shah Mizan Shafiqur Rahman to Railway Police and Rajshahi Range DIG Md Anisur Rahman has been transferred to River Police.

Khulna Range DIG Moinul Haque also transferred to Rajshahi Police

Academy, Barisal Range DIG Ilias Sharif to the Anti-Terrorism Unit in Dhaka and DIG of Mymensingh Range Shah Abid Hossain has been attached to the tourist police.

Earlier on August 13, the Rangpur Range DIG Abdul Baten was sent on forced retirement.

In the same circular, the commissioner of the Chattogram, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Gazipur, and Barisal were also transferred to different police units. On August 13, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner was sent on forced retirement, following his transfer to PHQ on August 7.

In another circular, ten districts - Chattogram, Kishoreganj, Manikganj, Magura, Natore, Sirajganj, Gaibandha, Hobiganj, and Patuakhali - SPs were also transferred to different police units.

Besides, the deputy commissioner of the Sylhet Metropolitan Police Azbahar Ali Sheikh has been transferred to the Rajshahi Range DIG office, reads the notifications.

According to PHQ sources, these officials have played major

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Khaleda Zia back home from hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia returned to her residence in Gulshan yesterday after more than a month's treatment at the capital's Evercare Hospital.

Having been under house arrest for the past five years, she finally went home as a free person following a presidential pardon earlier this month.

She was acquitted of all charges against her following the fall of the AL government on August 5.

Party activists and senior leaders escorted her home as she left the hospital around 7:00pm, said Shayrul Kabir Khan, a BNP media cell member.

Suffering from various ailments, including liver cirrhosis, arthritis, diabetes, and issues related to kidney, lungs, heart, and eyes, the 79-year-old former prime minister was admitted on July 8.



RECOGNISING DIPLOMAS Doctors protest BMDC decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of doctors and intern doctors staged a demonstration at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka for five hours yesterday, raising a nine-point demand against the recent decision of Bangladesh Medical & Dental Council (BMDC).

BMDC has decided to recognise medical assistants with Diploma in MATS (Medical Assistant Training School), DMF (Diploma in Medical Faculty), and LMF (Licentiate of Medical Faculty) qualifications as "Diploma Medical Practitioners".

The demonstration, titled "March to BMDC," began at 10:00am, with doctors from various healthcare institutions participating.

At the programme, Prof Nurul Amin, principal of Sapporo Dental College and Hospital, said, "Doctor is not just a matter of identity; it is a matter of qualification. Those who do not have this qualification cannot identify themselves as doctors. Technologists are helpful but are not doctors by any means."

The protesters also voiced grievances about the non-payment of salaries and allowances by some medical colleges and demanded that such institutions be held accountable, with the possibility of closure if necessary.

Among their nine demands are restricting the title of "Dr" to individuals who hold MBBS or BDS degrees, curbing the prevalence of healthcare service providers that lack qualified doctors, and enforcing stricter regulations on pharmacies that sell medicines without prescriptions.

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AUGUST 21 ATTACK Awami League doesn't hold programme

STAR REPORT

The Awami League did not hold any programme marking the 20th anniversary of the August 21 grenade attack on an AL rally in Dhaka that killed at least 24 people.

On this day in 2004, during the BNP-Jamaat alliance government's tenure, the attack targeted an anti-terrorism rally organised by the AL, with the then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina the apparent target.

Every year, the AL placed floral wreaths at the Martyr's Altar in front of the AL's central office.

However, the party did not announce any such programme this year. The AL has been in disarray since party president Sheikh Hasina resigned from her post as prime minister.

2 AL leaders among 3 on remand for murder

Around 380 other party members sued in separate murder cases

STAR REPORT

Two Awami League leaders and a former government official were placed on remand yesterday on charges of murder and violence.

Also, around 380 AL men, including two former lawmakers, have been sued over murder charges.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Jashim placed AL organising secretary Ahmad Hossain and Chattogram Port Authority's former chairman Mohammad Sohail on four-day remand each after they were produced with a 10-day remand prayer.

Ahmad and Sohail were arrested from Rampura and Banani respectively on Tuesday night in a case filed over the murder of a shop owner, Nabin Talukder, who died after getting injured in Dhaka's Paltan on July 19 during protests.

Nabin's wife, Ruma Akhter, filed the case against unnamed persons on July 20.

Also, a Brahmanbaria court placed

Captain (ret'd) AB Tajul Islam, former state minister for Liberation War affairs, on nine-day remand in a case filed over attacking police and snatching firearms from law enforcers.

Tajul was arrested from Dhaka's Gulshan on Tuesday night.

Police opened fire at a group of BNP men in Banchharampur upazila on November 19, 2022.

Rafiqul Islam Nayan, the then president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal's Sonarampur union unit, was injured in the incident and later died.

A day later, a sub-inspector of Banchharampur Police Station filed a case accusing 117 people, mostly BNP men, of an attack on police and snatching of firearms from police.

AB Tajul was shown arrested in this case, police said.

Nayan's father had filed a murder case with a local court accusing the then senior police officials of Brahmanbaria, but the court later dismissed the case.

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