

## Delwar talks of death threat to call it quits

Party cannot be crippled for a person: Saifur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP chief Khaleda Zia-appointed secretary general of the party, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, yesterday alleged that his and his family members' lives were threatened by a 'certain quarter'.

He claimed that the threat was for forcing him to resign from his current party post and to exclude the detained party chairperson from the leadership.

Meanwhile, Maj (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, who had been appointed as the new secretary general of the party by a national standing committee (NSC) meeting on Monday night, categorically said at a news briefing in former finance minister Saifur Rahman's house yesterday that those who do not accept the decision made by the highest policy making forum of the organisation also do not have the right to claim themselves as the bearers of BNP politics.

With the rivaling speeches, BNP is now formally divided in two factions, although both the factions seem to believe that the cloud of chaos will be cleared soon as they hope Khaleda Zia will send her message regarding the matter



BNP leader Khandaker Delwar Hossain talks to newscasters on his bed in the capital yesterday.

through her lawyer, who is scheduled to meet her today.

"They came into my house on Sunday night and told me that I would have to agree to resign from my post, accept the new chairperson and secretary general of their choice, and would have to join Monday's standing committee meeting, or else the lives of my family members and my own

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would be in danger," Delwar Hossain told journalists from a hospital bed in Birem about the threat.

While terming the NSC meeting held in Saifur's house as illegal and unethical by the standard of the party constitution.

Claiming himself as the legitimate secretary general of the party he said the party is united under

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the party constitution.

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No place for acting chairman, secy gen in BNP constitution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The constitution of BNP does not have a provision for acting chairman and acting secretary general and empowers the party chief to run the party unilaterally, even dissolve all important committees.

Only the chief is authorised to convene a meeting of the party standing committee and he or she will preside over it as the committee chief.

But some standing committee

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Nine militants handed over to PS after probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nine people arrested for their direct and indirect involvement with the August 21 grenade blasts at an Awami League (AL) rally in 2004 were handed over to the police stations concerned yesterday after primary interrogation.

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## Yaba raid yields cache of Tk 50 crore wealth

several crore taka, alcoholic beverages and two passports.

During the swoop, they also took hold of some documents to know about Joynal's businesses.

The NBR will examine Joynal's

income tax files to know whether he had declared the wealth in his income tax returns.

The crime busters also seized

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Rab puts on display a huge haul of gold, diamonds, foreign liquor and currencies worth about Tk 50 crore recovered from the house of Hotel Purbani MD in Dhanmondi yesterday.

## Babar jailed for 17 yrs over illegal arms

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced detained former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar to 17 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition at his Gulshan residence in the capital.

Babar was convicted for keep-



Judge Sayed Jahed Mansur of the Metropolitan Special Tribunal 9 handed down the sentence in a

packed courtroom at 12:45pm in presence of the four-party alliance government's influential minister.

Babar was convicted for keep-

ing an unlicensed revolver and 25 bullets of .32 bore rifle in his possession. The court awarded 10 years' RI for possessing illegal firearms under Section 19(A) of the Arms Act, and seven years' RI for possessing ammunition under Section 19 (F) of the same Act.

The verdict was given in the first case out of two filed against the former state minister since he was arrested at his Gulshan residence on May 28.

Under tight security, Babar was produced before the court at 12:15pm from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University

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At a press conference organised by the forum at the Liberation War Museum auditorium, they also demanded punishment to former

## Sector commanders to sue war criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Sector Commanders' Forum yesterday decided to file cases against the war criminals and called upon all to identify them at the grassroots level and send the lists of names to the forum.

Protesting Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahed's recent remarks on the Liberation War and genocide of 1971, the commanders of different sectors of the Liberation War demanded his immediate arrest and trial.

At a press conference organised by the forum at the Liberation War Museum auditorium, they also demanded punishment to former

secretary Shah Abdul Hannan for describing the Liberation War as a "civil war". Hannan denied the sacrifice of the country's people for the independence of the nation, they said.

Air Vice Marshal (retd) AK Khandker, who was the deputy chief of staff of the liberation forces in 1971, said these persons have played seditious roles by denying the country's constitution and existence and their statements are part of a hatred conspiracy to erase the history and identity of the nation.

Most leaders of the Jamaat-e-Islami were the collaborators of the Pakistanis in committing war

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## High hopes, hurdles as judiciary to start new era

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The country tomorrow sees the much-awaited implementation of the constitutional provision for separation of the judiciary from the executive, which has been ignored by political and military governments over the last 36 years.

From tomorrow all magistrate courts across the country will come out of the executive control and continue operating under the authority of the Supreme Court (SC).

The separation nourishes big hopes of ensuring smooth functioning and absolute independ-

ence of the judiciary but also faces a few problems initially.

According to the constitution, "The state shall ensure the separation of the judiciary from the executive organs of the state." But, the provision has remained neglected since formulation of the constitution in 1972.

The SC gave a directive in 1999 for the separation, but successive governments deliberately delayed fulfilling the constitutional demand.

The present non-party caretaker government started initiatives for separating the judiciary in January after assuming power.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will inaugurate the historic event at the China-Bangladesh Friendship Conference Centre at 10:30am tomorrow by declaring the Dhaka District Judicial Magistracy and the Dhaka District Metropolitan Magistracy.

Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin will attend the programme as special guest while Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Mainul Hosein will preside over the ceremony.

Around 600 executive magistrates entrusted by the administration with judicial job will return to

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## Regulatory reforms body formed to overhaul rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed a 17-member Regulatory Reforms Commission (RRC) in a bid to overhaul outdated administrative rules and regulations with specific focus on removing bottlenecks for economic investment, commerce and trade.

"The Regulatory Reforms Commission has been formed to prepare recommendations aiming to modernise the existing rules and regulations after necessary reform and review," stated a government notification.

The notification stated the Board of Investment (BOI) would serve as the secretariat for the RRC, while the BOI executive chairman will serve as the member-secretary of the commission.

With a tenure of one year, the commission will be chaired by former adviser and cabinet secretary Akbar Ali Khan and include former adviser Manjur-e-Elahi, a member-secretary of the commission.

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## 39 Bangladeshi workers held in Malaysia

UNB, Dhaka

Malaysian police on Monday arrested 39 Bangladeshi nationals following a gang fight involving Bangladeshis and locals in Johor Baru of Malaysia.

The fight started near a foreign workers' hostel in Taman Kota Puteri, Masai at 10:20pm. Police rounded up the 39 Bangladeshis after the clash, reported Malaysia Star.

Johor Baru's acting CID Chief Assistant Commissioner Che Yusoff Che Ngah said the two local workers and five Bangladeshis suffered injuries and were brought to a nearby clinic for treatment.

Initial investigations showed that four locals, who were hired to relocate the workers to another place, had injured some of the workers. This angered the workers.

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## RELIGION-EXPLOITING PARTIES CEC agrees in principle to proposal for a ban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday agreed in principle to a proposal placed by Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal for imposing a ban on political parties based on religion.

"A consensus has been reached over this issue. We'll see later how we can implement it," CEC Huda said during talks on electoral reforms with a JDS delegation.

The EC response came following growing demands from different quarters to keep religion-based political parties and war criminals out of polls.

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## Dr Wazed visits Hasina in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Wazed Miah yesterday visited his detained wife Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina at the jail on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises.

This was the first visit of Dr Wazed, a nuclear scientist, to his detained wife after her arrest on July 16.

The detained former prime minister became emotional as she met her husband who has been suffering from heart disease, diabetes and other complications, sources said. Wazed was accompanied by four of their relatives.

During the hour-long meeting, Sheikh Hasina and her husband talked mainly about their family issues, sources said. They also enquired about each other's health.

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## 25 deposit Tk 424cr of ill-gotten money to BB

STAR REPORT

A total of 25 individuals and business firms on Sunday deposited Tk 424 crore of their ill-gotten money to the central bank.

Of the amount, Tk 410 crore was deposited locally and \$ 2 million or nearly Tk 14 crore, smuggled out, abroad during the last few years, was brought back from abroad.

The individuals and firms that deposited the money on Sunday are Glasuddin Al Mamun, a businessman and friend of Tarique Rahman, Lutfuzzaman Babar, former state minister for home affairs, Rezaul Karim, director of Orion Group, Wakil Ahmed, an Awami League leader, Noor Ali, a businessman, Amin Mohammad Foundation, National Bank Ltd, AB

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