

# No unity in defiance of Khaleda's decisions

Says Hannan Shah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia's adviser Brig Gen (ret'd) Hannan Shah said yesterday that unity in the party was not possible in defiance of the decision made by the party chairperson.

"Unity is possible in the party only through acceptance of Khaleda Zia's decision making Khandakar Delwar Hossain the secretary general of the party," Hannan told reporters at his Mohakhali residence in his first public appearance since his latest release from the jail.

He reminded the reporters that Begum Khaleda Zia has already expelled both Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Ashraf Hossain from

the party.

Brig Hannan further said that he was optimistic that the High Court verdict on the writ petition filed by Khandakar Delwar Hossain (against EC's decision to invite BNP's pro-Saifur faction to talks) would clear everything.

The BNP leader said making Delwar the party secretary general was Khaleda's directive to the party. He added that BNP would run in accordance with its existing constitution and that nothing beyond the constitution would be accepted.

Meanwhile Hannan Shah has also accused the jail authority of discriminatory treatment for withholding the BNP chairperson's letter to the chief

election commissioner.

"It is not a political letter as Khaleda Zia did not write it to her secretary general or any other political leader," he said.

The BNP leader also dismissed Delwar's recent remarks about the much talked about October 29 BNP meeting with Saifur Rahman as unimportant.

He said, "Delwar made a personal remark, it was not a party demand or condition".

Delwar Hossain has recently said that the standing committee meeting held at Saifur Rahman's house on October 29 last year must be declared illegal and that would be a precondition for party unity.

## 'An agency sends people to Saudi Arabia as hajj pilgrims with fake visas'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An owner of a hajj agency yesterday alleged that a group using fake visa, pilgrim pass and agency license has been sending people to Saudi Arabia as hajj pilgrims.

SM Mubiniul Haque, owner of Al Safa International, at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity brought this allegation and urged the religious affairs ministry to take stern actions against the culprits responsible.

ABM Amanuzzaman, managing partner of Flyhome Travels, Kamal Uddin, managing director of Al Safa International, and Sagor Mia of National Travels were also present.

Mubiniul also alleged that two recruiting and hajj agencies sent at least 14 Rohingyas using the license of Al Safa International, fake visa, pilgrim pass and other ministerial documents and those people are yet to return home.

Police arrested two employees of a travel agency after Mubiniul filed a case with Paltan Police Station against another agency as both the agencies were engaged in such practices.

Mubiniul added that the arrestees had confessed to the crimes.

## Zandal placed on 7-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained Harkatul Jihad Al Islami (Huji) leader Moin Uddin alias Abu Zandal was placed on a seven-day remand yesterday by a Dhaka court.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) earlier filed a petition with the chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka on Sunday seeking a 10-day remand for Zandal to interrogate him.

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Zandal in connection with the August 21 grenade attack case on February 14 in Gazipur.

Based on information obtained from him Rab seized 41 grenades from Shimolia village in Debhata upazila in Satkhira and arrested Nazrul Islam Ghorami on charge of possessing the grenades.

A Satkhira court sent them to jail on February 17 after they were produced before it in a case filed under the Explosive Substances Act following recovery of the grenades.

Zandal was shown arrested in the August 21 grenades attacks case filed by the CID.

## Bengali version of 'A Golden Age' to be launched today

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Sonajhara Din', the Bengali version of a novel 'A Golden Age' by Tahmima Anam, will be held at the Amar Ekushey Book Fair in the city today, says a press release.

Prof Anisuzzaman will launch the book at the Shahjahan Prakash stall at 5:00pm. Author Tahmima Anam will also be present at the ceremony.

The novel 'A Golden Age' has been shortlisted for the 2008 Commonwealth Writers' Prize.

## Workshop for police on human rights begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-day training workshop for the police on human rights began at the Police Telecom Auditorium in the city yesterday.

Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad formally inaugurated the workshop on Monday.

A total of 30 police personnel are taking part in the workshop sponsored by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation.

The workshop is aimed at equipping the national police trainers with knowledge and skills on human rights principles and practices to further strengthen the day-to-day work of the police in law enforcement.

Pieter Cronje and Cliff Walsh, formerly of the South African Police Force, are conducting the workshop.

The topics of the training course include ethics, powers and practices of arrest; search and seizure tactics; community policing; dealing with vulnerable groups; addressing victims of crime; and balancing the freedom of assembly with the maintenance of public order.

The programme, which has been run by the Commonwealth Secretariat's Human Rights Unit (HRU) since 2005, has benefited police trainers in more than 25 Commonwealth countries.



Participants observe one minute's silence in memory of Gono Forum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik at a meeting at the Institute of Engineers yesterday.

## Two robbers lynched in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mob beat up three robbers at Naddapara in the city early yesterday, leaving two of them dead on the spot.

The other robber is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital under the police custody. His condition was stated to be critical.

The identity of the robbers could not be known immediately. Police said a revolver with seven

bullets and a sharp weapon were recovered from their possession.

Sources said a gang of 10 or 12 robbers wearing masks swooped on the house of Towhid at Naddapara in Dakkhinkhan at about 3:00am and tried to loot valuables.

Some family members then made phone calls to the police and their relatives asking for help.

The relatives went to the local mosque and made arrangement to raise an alarm through loud-

speaker, prompting local people to rush to the spot.

As the robbers tried to flee, the mob managed to catch hold of three robbers and beat them up, leaving two of them dead.

Later, the police sent the bodies to Dhaka Medical College morgue and took the injured robber to hospital for treatment.

In the last two weeks, at least five robberies took place in the area, local people said.

## Three best performing project teams get ADB award

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Resident Mission of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) yesterday awarded three best performing project teams implementing projects in Bangladesh.

The 2007 award-winning project teams are the Northwest Crop Diversification Project (NCDP) implemented by the Department of Agriculture Extension and Bangladesh Bank, and the Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement (Sector) Project (UGIIP) and the Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (RIIP), both implemented by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED).

ADB Country Director Hua Du handed over certificates to the project directors, coordinators and project representatives at a ceremony at the ADB's Dhaka office.

"The awards were given recognising the project teams' excellent performance, efficiency, integrity, transparency in procurement, effective project implementation, achievement of targets, innovations, strong leadership, overcoming project start-up delays, efforts in women's empowerment and other criteria," Hua Du said.



Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) AK Khandkar, right, launches a book titled 'The Evidence' by Lt Gen (ret'd) Mir Shawkat Ali, middle, at Amar Ekushey Book Fair at Bangla Academy in the city yesterday while Maj Gen (ret'd) CR Dutt, left, looks on.

## CURRENCY SMUGGLING

# ZIA authorities asked to take cautionary steps

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday asked the authorities concerned at Zia International Airport to take cautionary steps to prevent currency smuggling which were frequently detected during the past several weeks.

The directive was given from a meeting of the National Smuggling Control Committee at the home ministry in the wake of increasing reports of foreign currency smuggling through ZIA.

Chaired by Home Adviser Meji Gen (Ret'd) MA Matin, the meeting was told that civil aviation and customs officials foiled several attempts of foreign currency smuggling recently and recovered foreign currency worth about Tk 11 crore.

Later, Home Secretary Abdul Karim at a press briefing said concerned agencies, including customs, civil aviation and intelligence

agencies at ZIA have been asked to take cautionary measures to stop it.

The meeting stressed that the

## NU admission test result published

The result of admission test for the first year of National University (NU) under academic session 2007-08 was published yesterday, says a press release.

The result is available at the websites: www.nuadmission.com; www.nu.edu.bd. Students can also get their result by sending sms to 4636 from any mobile number writing 'nuatroll' in the message text.

The result will be handed over to the concerned colleges today.

A total of 1,69,041 students passed in the admission test out of 2,66,779 appeared in the test against 1,50,501 seats in different colleges.

drives against fertiliser smuggling be intensified and fertiliser-loaded sacks marked with different colours to stop sale of fertiliser of one district to another district, he said.

Karim said shipping department has been asked to bring trawlers under registration to stop fertiliser smuggling.

The meeting was told that the smuggled goods worth about Tk 173 crore were seized between August and December last year which was more than Tk 63 crore compared to April-July 2007.

Karim said the meeting asked National Board of Revenue (NBR) to destroy the seized smuggled cloths and sarees instead of putting them on auction.

Director General of BDR and Coast Guard, senior officers of Police, Rab and intelligence agencies and officials attended the meeting.

## KERAMAT ALI WINS CHANNEL I KRISHI PADAK 2008 'Ensure farmers' rights for dev'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 25 years ago when the people of southern region especially the district of Bagerhat were enduring hardship, only one man's initiative changed the socio-economic scenario of the whole area.

Syed Keramat Ali, a shrimp cultivator of Falpita at Mollarhat under Fakirhat upazila of Bagerhat district, brought the changes in people's lives by starting shrimp cultivation in 1978.

His continuous efforts changed the fate of thousands of people as most of them started shrimp cultivation under his direction and helped the country earn a huge amount of valuable foreign exchange.

Keramat Ali has been declared the winner of Channel I Krishi Padak 2008 for his outstanding contribution to agriculture and rural development.

Managing Director of Channel I Faridur Reza Sagor announced his name at a press conference at Channel I office in the capital which was organised on the occasion of stepping into fifth year of its popular agriculture-based documentary programme titled 'Hridoy-e-Mati O Manush'.

The Channel I Krishi Padak will be conferred on Keramat Ali at a ceremony at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city on March 28, he added.

He will receive a crest and Tk 50,000 in cash.

Sagor said Channel I has been giving the award to an enlightened



Shykh Seraj speaks at a press conference at Channel I office in the city yesterday. On his left is Faridur Reza Sagor.

people or organisation every year for their contribution in the field of agriculture and rural development since 2006.

During question-answer session, Shykh Seraj, director of both the programme and Channel I, said the rights of the farmers need to be ensured for the sake of the country's development.

Though the farmers are making significant contributions to the country's economy by producing a large quantity of foodgrains they do not get enough seed, water, fertiliser and agricultural loan, he said, adding, if the successive governments formulate rural-based policy, there will be no such problems in future.

He said as a large section of the country's population are farmers no development is possible exclud-

ing them.

Seraj said the production of food grain is decreasing globally due to climate change and that is why the agricultural land should not be used for industrial purpose.

Hridoy-e-Mati O Manush is going to step in fifth year on February 21, he said, adding that they will continue their efforts for the development of farmers in the coming days.

The slogan of the programme on the occasion of stepping into fifth year will be 'Let us raise our voice for implementing the farmers' rights'.

Mir Nawbat Ali, head of market communication of Grameen Phone, and Aditya Shaheen of Channel I also spoke at the press conference.

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