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Zia's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The crisis-riddled BNP observes the 27th death anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman today, with party Chairperson Khaleda Zia and dozens of senior leaders detained in jails on charges of corruption.

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No dialogue, no polls without Hasina, Khaleda

Says Delwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said there would be no dialogue and election in the country keeping the major political parties and their party chiefs out of the process.

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Law ministry to sponsor TAC

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday decided in principle that the Law Ministry would sponsor the Truth and Accountability Commission.

The commission is poised to start soon the exoneration proceedings for those who would voluntarily unveil their illegally amassed wealth.

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PURCHASING 2 AIRCRAFT

Biman strikes deal with Boeing in 2 weeks

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd is likely to strike a deal with US plane-maker Boeing to procure two Boeing 737-800s within the next two weeks.

Biman is likely to sign another deal with Orient Thai in three-four days to lease a Boeing 747 Jumbo Jet in order to minimise the disruptions in its flight schedules.

Sources at the civil aviation ministry said the deal with Boeing will also include an option to buy two more similar planes.

The two 737-800s, scheduled to arrive in 2015, will be used on regional routes.

A high-level Boeing delegation is to arrive in Dhaka today to discuss

the pros and cons of the deal with Biman while officials of Orient Thai arrive in Dhaka Sunday to discuss their deal with Biman, a top Biman official told The Daily Star last night.

"We hope to sign the deal with Boeing within the next 15 days for procuring two 737-800s," Mahbub Jamil, special assistant to the chief adviser for civil aviation and tourism ministry, told The Daily Star last night.

Biman on April 23 signed a deal with the US plane-maker to procure four 777-300ER and four 787-8 Dreamliner planes at a cost of \$1.26 billion (Tk8,728 crore).

The deal included an option for purchasing four more planes, two 777-300ERs and two 787-8s. Boeing is yet to put 787-8s into service.

On that day, Biman also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Boeing for buying two 737-800s.

On the deal with Orient Thai, a top Biman official told The Daily Star that they are at the final stages of the agreement. "We are hopeful about signing the agreement within three-four days," the official said requesting anonymity.

Under the prospective Aircraft, Crew, Maintenance and Insurance (ACMI) lease agreement, Orient Thai will provide all staffs and crew for the Jumbo Jet while Biman will provide fuel.

Earlier, a four-member technical team went to Bangkok to inspect the plane of the Thai

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MANPOWER EXPORT

Diplomatic move continues to lift Bahrain ban

BSS, Dhaka

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday said diplomatic efforts are underway to lift Bahrain's ban on the Bangladeshi workers.

The ministry in its statement said Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, also in charge of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, has sent letters to the foreign affairs, labour and social affairs and interior ministers of

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Graft suspect Elias Ali made convener of Sylhet BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday reconstituted the party's Sylhet district unit with Elias Ali, a corruption suspect on the list of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), as its convener.

Elias, a former lawmaker, has been on the run since the imposition of the state of emergency on January 11, 2007, after being

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Mojahid quizzed in Barapukuria graft case

UNB, Dhaka

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General and former minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid was yesterday interrogated by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in connection with the Barapukuria graft case.

A competent source told the news agency that investigation officer Monirul Haque questioned Mojahid for an hour at an undisclosed location in connection with the case.

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Army personnel distribute drinking water among slum dwellers at Hazaribagh in Dhaka yesterday as an acute water crisis persists in the area.

DESCO SHARE SCAM CASE Ex-secy Akhter, 15 others charged

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against detained former power secretary ANH Akhter Hossain, incumbent Managing Director of Desco Saleh Ahmed and 14 others in the Desco share scam case.

ACC Assistant Director Amirul Islam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet against them to the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court showing 26 people as prosecution witnesses.

The charge sheeted accused include former chairman of Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (Desa) Towhidul Islam, ex-joint energy secretary SM Mesbaul Islam, ex-

deputy energy secretary Zahidur Rahman, incumbent Deputy Energy Secretary Abdullah Mahmud, Senior Assistant Secretary Laila Jesmin, Deputy Secretary Ismat Ara Jahan, Desco Company Secretary AHM Nurul Huda, ex-assistant energy secretary Ali Hossain, Summit Power Ltd MD Chanchal Krishna Talukder, former Desco directors Khan Lodi Mainul Haq, and Mustafizur Rahman, Desco directors Monzur Rahman and Kudrat-e-Khuda and Desamember Monzur Hossain.

The charge sheet was submitted under section 409 (criminal breach of trust by public servant) and 109 (abatement) of the Bangladesh Penal Code and 5(2) of Prevention

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GATCO CASE Hearing for framing charges against Khaleda, Koko June 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The hearing on charge framing in the Gatco graft case against detained former prime minister Khaleda Zia, her younger son Arafat Rahman Koko and 22 others will begin on June 4.

Judge Shahed Nuruddin of the Special Court-3, set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises, fixed the date yesterday.

The case was transferred to the special court from Dhaka Metropolitan Session Judge's Court on Wednesday.

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq ordered sending the case to the Special Court for its quick disposal.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Suicide bombers kill 20 in attacks on Iraq police

AFP, Mosul

A suicide bomber shattered a police base in northern Iraq while another blew up a patrol on Thursday, killing 20 people, just as the US military announced plans to withdraw 4,000 more troops.

Seventeen people were killed and 30 wounded, hospital sources said, when a man in an explosives-packed jacket blew himself up at police headquarters in Sinjar, a town on the road to Syria from the main northern city of Mosul.

Interior ministry spokesman Major General Abdul Kareem Khalaf said the bomber targeted a police and security services recruiting centre for the area, located inside the police headquarters.

Sinjar police chief Lieutenant Colonel Awad al-Sourge was suspended pending investigations, Khalaf told AFP. The authorities slapped a ban on cars travelling in the province without any passengers.

The move is aimed at minimising

ing the risk of suicide car bomb attacks, which are usually carried out by lone drivers.

Security authorities will also step up searches in Mosul following the twin bombings, Khalaf said.

The mountains around Sinjar are a major centre of Iraq's non-Muslim Yazidi Kurdish community and saw the single deadliest attack since the US-led invasion of 2003. Last August, four suicide bombers blew up lorries in two Yazidi villages near Sinjar, killing more than 400 people.

Only hours before Thursday's attack in Sinjar, a suicide bomber drove into a group of police officers and detonated his explosives in Al-Gabat, a village north of Mosul, police Captain Aziz Imara told AFP.

At least three people, including two policemen, were killed and 12 people wounded, he said, adding that the blast had also damaged nearby shops and restaurants.

Mosul, Iraq's third largest city, is regarded by the American military as the last urban bastion of

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ACC finds graft charge against Chittagong mayor not true

UNB, Ctg

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) placed a final report in a Chittagong court yesterday recommending exoneration of

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Student protesting sister's insult fighting for life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology student Mehedi Hasan Rana, who was beaten up by some students of Asian University on May 20, has

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Prayer Timing		
May 30		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-43	6-47
Esha	8-05	8-35

Source: Islamic Foundation

SATKHIRA GRENADE RECOVERY Charge sheet against Huji cadres Abu Zandal, Gharami

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A Satkhira court yesterday framed charges against Zandal and Gharami, operatives of banned Islamist outfit Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji), for possession of 44 grenades.

The two accused -- Mo'in Uddin alias Abu Zandal and Nazrul Islam Gharami -- were brought from Dhaka and produced before the court yesterday amid tight security for hearing of the case.

Judge Ashish Ranaj Das of the District and Sessions Judge's Court passed the order and fixed June 4 and 5 for recording of statements from prosecution witnesses in the case, said court sources.

Zandal, a close aide to Huji chief Mufti Hannan who led the August 21, 2004 grenade attack on an Awami League (AL) rally in Dhaka, was arrested from Gazipur on February 14 this year.

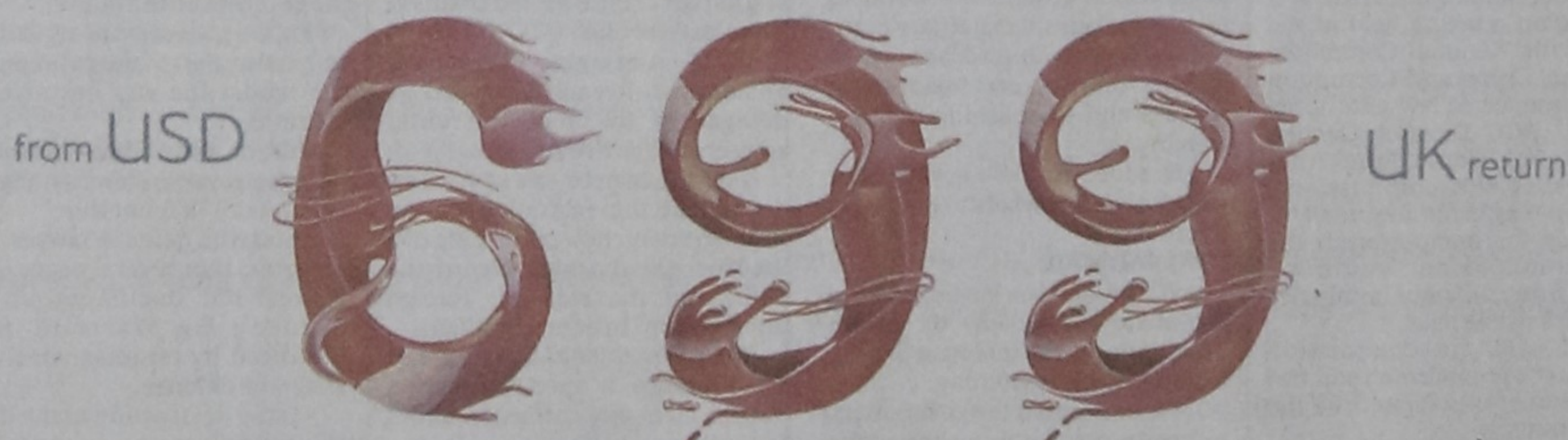
Following the leads gathered

from Zandal, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) the next morning arrested Gharami from Nalta bazar in Kaliganj upazila. The same day, upon receiving confessional statement from Gharami, the Rab recovered 44 grenades from a pond at Shimulia village in Debhata.

Rab sources said the grenades recovered from the Shimulia pond are identical to the ones used in the attack on the AL rally on August 21.

On February 15, Tariqul Islam, sub-inspector of Rab 6, filed the case with Debhata Police Station against Zandal and Gharami for possession of the grenades.

Inspector Lokman Hakin, the investigation officer of the case and also officer in charge of Debhata Police Station, submitted charge sheet before the Satkhira Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court against the two accused on March 17.



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