

## GRAFT CASE AGAINST KOKO Lawyers asked to submit certified copy of HC stay order on Aug 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday asked the counsels for Arafat Rahman Koko to submit the certified copy of the High Court's stay order on a corruption case against him on August 31.

The Special Court-6 on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan premises gave the order after they submitted a lawyer's certificate regarding the stay order to the trial court.

On August 13, the High Court stayed for three months the proceedings against Koko, younger son of detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, in the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on charges of amassing illegal wealth and concealing information in the wealth statement submitted to the commission.

On August 7, special court-7 framed charges against Koko in the case in the absence of the defendant's lawyer.

Later, the High Court transferred the case to the special court-6 from special court-7 as Koko's lawyers filed a writ petition showing 'no confidence' to the trial court.

ACC Deputy Director Abu Sayeed filed the case with Ramna Police Station on April 23, accusing that Koko made a fortune of Tk 2.23 crore through illegal means and concealed information about Tk 11.20 lakh worth of assets in his wealth statement.

Koko is now staying abroad for medical treatment.



Nearly all city roads became gridlocked yesterday, causing immense suffering to the commuters. The picture was taken at Bangla Motor in the city.

## 3RD CHARITY BALL ON THURSDAY 'Let's stand together to end acid violence'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) will hold a charity ball at Radisson Water Garden Hotel on Thursday to raise funds for acid victims.

The ASF has been trying to provide holistic support to the acid victims and the 3rd charity ball would certainly be helpful in this regard, ASF Executive Director Monira Rahman said at a press briefing yesterday.

"The ASF has been providing treatment and legal assistance to the acid victims. At the same time, it is working towards rehabilitating the acid survivors through providing educational expenses and creating job opportunities," she said.

The slogan of the charity ball is 'Let's stand together to end acid violence in Bangladesh'. The programme would also help raise awareness about acid violence in society, Monira added.

The key sponsor of the charity ball is ABN Group while Standard Chartered Bank, Janata Jute Mills and Saddle Jute Industries are the co-sponsors.

Radisson Water Garden Hotel, Fashion Designer Emdad Hoque and Kaniz Almas are partners of the event.

The programme features a fashion show by Emdad Hoque, music by Pentagon and DJ Prince, auction, raffle draw and buffet dinner. The price of the ticket is Tk 3000.

"We want to establish a socio-economic, legal and cultural system where acid violence would not take place and we would not need to collect funds for acid victims," Farzana Shakil said, adding that the criminals must be punished.

ASF Chairman Shawkat Hossain, Director of ABN Group of

Companies Syed Sadat Ahmed, Managing Director of Janata Jute Mills Nazmul Huq, Senior Manager (corporate affairs) of Standard Chartered Bank Sarwat Ahmed and Fashion Designer Emdad Hoque also spoke.

According to the 2008 ASF report, acid violence has been on the rise for the last few months and most victims are children. Some 92 people fell victim to acid violence during the period from January to July this year while the figure was 76 in 2007, the ASF record reveals.

Statistics collected in 2007 from 18 districts also revealed that some 781 acid violence cases, out of 1090, were disposed of and the conviction rate is only 11.40 percent.

## BNP's worldwide protest to free Khaleda Sept 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

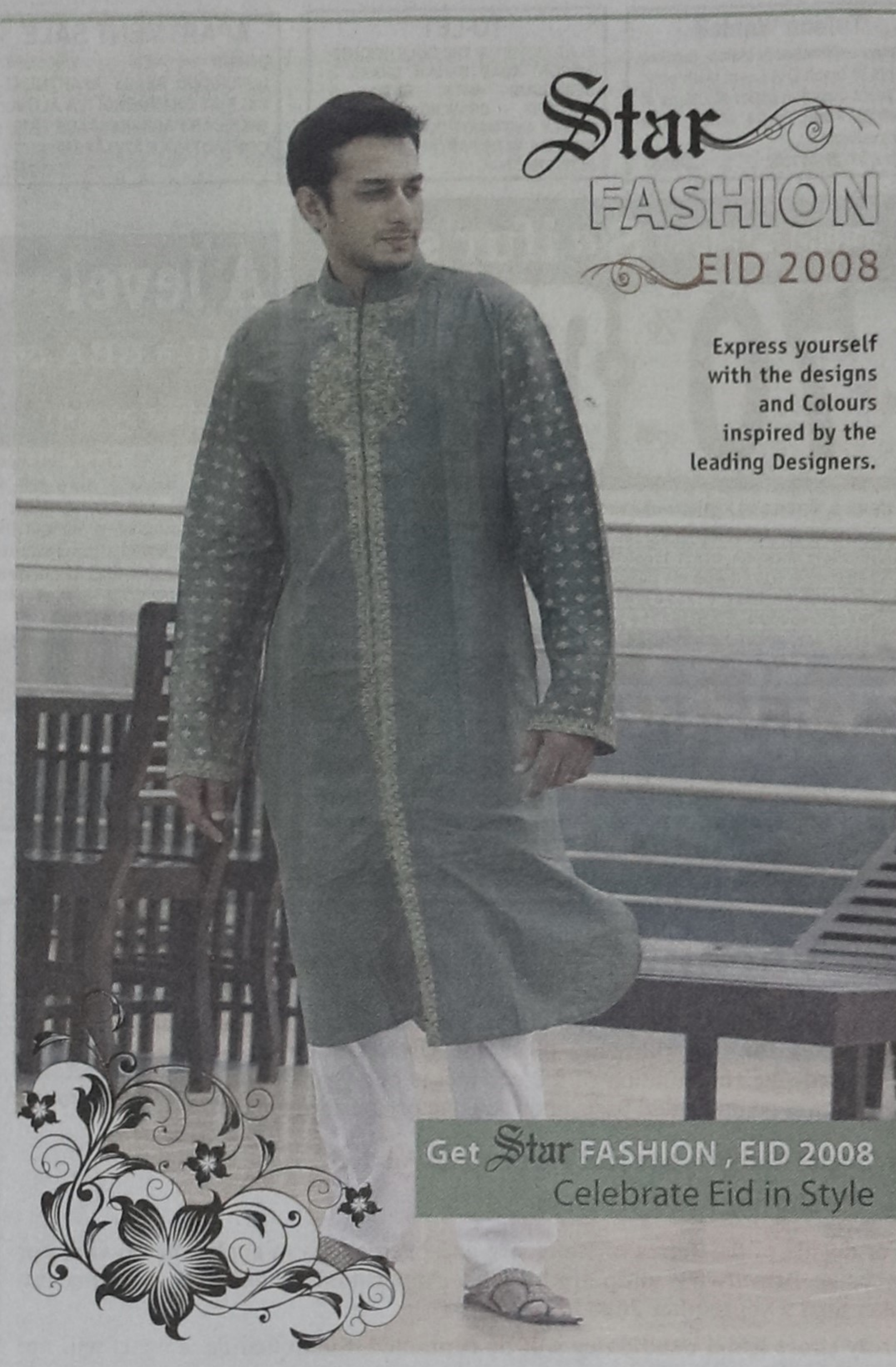
BNP would stage demonstrations across the world on its founding anniversary on September 1 demanding release of its Chairperson Khaleda Zia and treatment of her son Tarique Rahman abroad.

They would also submit a memorandum to the international community demanding the same. The decision was taken at a teleconference of the foreign chapter of the party, reports New York-based news agency American News Agency (ANA).

Chief Coordinator of International Affairs of BNP Central Committee Abdul Latif yesterday told ANA that they would continue the programme even if September 1 is the first day of Ramadan.

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