



Huji kingpin Mufti Hannan hanged

The notorious Afghan war veteran led a militant outfit that carried out 13 bomb and grenade attacks killing over 100; executed finally along with 2 aides for 2004 attack

SHARIFUL ISLAM and SHAKHAWAT LITON

Mufti Abdul Hannan, one of the country's most dreaded militants, was involved in plotting and carrying out all the terror attacks by Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami Bangladesh.

The Huji chief was responsible for the killing of more than a hundred people in 13 militant attacks between 1999 and 2005.

The families of the victims can now heave a sigh of relief as the notorious militant walked the gallows last night along with his two cohorts -- Sharif Shahedul Alam Bipul and Delwar Hossain alias Ripon -- for carrying out a grenade attack on the then British high commissioner Anwar Choudhury in Sylhet on May 21, 2004.

Anwar, the prime target of the attack at Hazrat Shahjalal Shrine, was wounded, and two bystanders and a policeman were killed.

Hannan was also a death-row convict in the case over the 2001 Ramna Batamul blast at a Pahela Baishakh programme.

"Hannan and Sharif were hanged at Kashimpur High Security Prison [in Gazipur] and Delwar at Sylhet Central Jail at 10:00pm," Brig Gen Syed Iftekhar Uddin, inspector general of prisons, told The Daily Star.

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THE HUJI CHIEF

- Arrested in October 2005
- Involved in at least 13 bomb blasts, including the ones in Ramna Batamul in 2001 and on the Awami League rally in 2004 in the capital
- Involved in killing of over 100 people and injuring 700 others
- Faced 26 cases
- Sentenced to death in Ramna Batamul blast case as well

2004 ATTACK

- 3 including a policeman killed, 70 injured in the grenade attack at Hazrat Shahjalal Shrine on May 21
- The then British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury was among the injured

TRIAL PROCEEDINGS

- Two cases were filed following the blast
- A Sylhet court sentenced three Huji leaders, including Hannan, to death on December 23, 2008
- High Court upheld death penalty on December 7 last year



PM returned empty-handed

Says Khaleda; accuses Hasina of striking 'anti-state deals' with India, using religion for political gain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Describing the prime minister's recent India visit as a "total failure", BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said the PM returned home "empty-handed".

If voted to power, the BNP would review all the "anti-state" deals and MoUs signed with India to protect the country's interests, she said.

"People regard the tour as an ultimate failure and also as one to give all and take nothing. The prime minister returned home empty-handed as she was only given some assurances."

The BNP chief was addressing a press conference at her Gulshan office.

"People once again noticed that India's defence, political and geo-political dominance over Bangladesh would grow due to signing of treaties and MoUs in different areas, including security assistance and cyber crime, arms purchase, line of credit, assistance in nuclear project, import of diesel and power and increasing connectivity," Khaleda read from a written statement.

She observed that all the deals and MoUs were signed by "giving priority to India's interests and proposals".

Pointing to the PM's two meetings, one each before and after her India tour, with Islamic clerics, the BNP chief alleged that Sheikh Hasina held those meetings "to exploit

INDIA VISIT
Hasina bins
Khaleda's
allegations

UNB, Dhaka

Taking a swipe at the BNP chief for coming up with "false" and "confusing" information about her recent India tour, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said no one would be able to show Khaleda Zia anything if she kept her eyes closed.

"We've brought what we need from them [India] after maintaining friendly relations," she said while giving her introductory speech at the Awami League Central Working Committee meeting at her official residence, the Gono Bhaban.

The PM said Bangladesh would procure electricity, gas, LNG (Liquefied natural gas) and diesel from India.

Under the third line of credit, she said, India would provide Bangladesh with \$4.5 billion at an interest rate of only one percent.

Earlier in the day, Khaleda Zia, at a press conference at her Gulshan office, described Hasina's

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Relief for critical heart patients

Govt to make it mandatory for hospitals to charge just price of coronary stents

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Heart patients in need of angioplasty and stents can have a sigh of relief as the government has moved to fix the uncontrolled prices of stents that had been worrying patients and their families for years.

Patients now do not know which stent costs how much in Bangladesh and many opt for going to India for their implant needs as it is a lot cheaper there.

Private hospitals are selling stents sometimes for double the actual price.

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Govt moves to revise Ganges barrage project

Existing project in Rajbari abandoned

UNB, Dhaka

Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud has said the proposed Ganges barrage project in Rajbari's Pangsha has been abandoned.

"A high-powered committee would be formed to revise the project and find alternative options for the best use of water," he told reporters after holding a meeting

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CULTURAL TRADITION UNDER ATTACK

A child and a man look at a portion of a wall painting smeared with some kind of burnt lubricant by unidentified miscreants. Students of Institute of Fine Arts of Chittagong University created the painting as part of Pahela Baishakh festivities on the campus. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS





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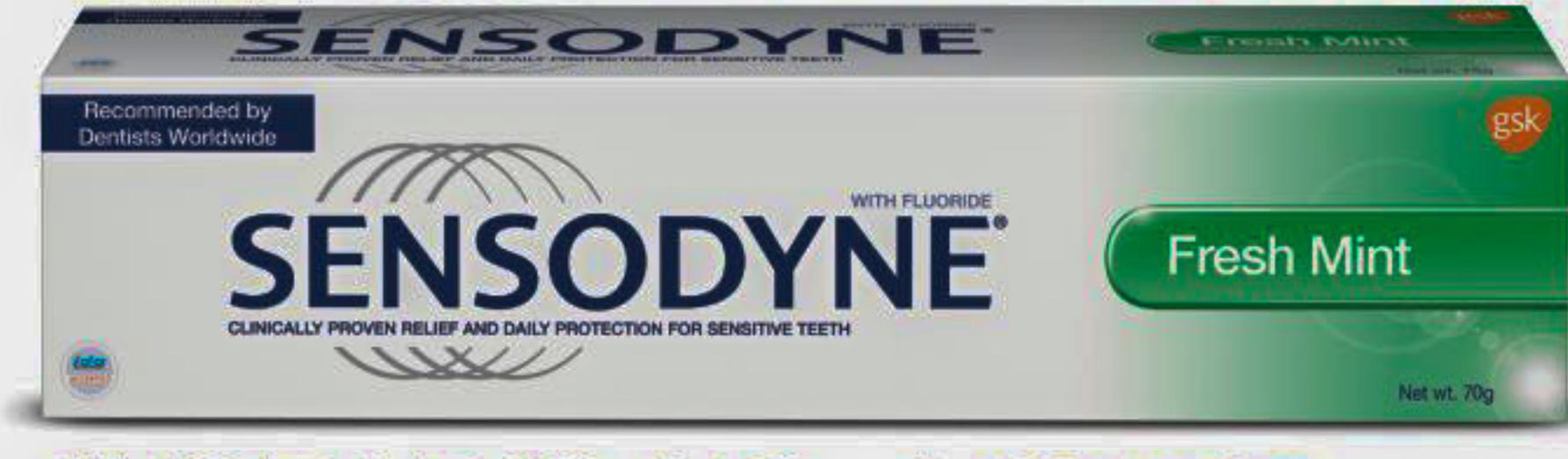
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