

# Star reporters bag prizes

Gaza struggle and clinic expose wins MPI and A. Samad Ismail awards

**KUALA LUMPUR:** For relating her experience in Gaza and the plight of the people trapped there without aid, *The Star* journalist Shahanaaz Habib won the MPI Best International Journalism Award.

She and a group of journalists crossed the Rafah checkpoint on the Egypt-Gaza border into the occupied territory where she interviewed people who lived in dire conditions.

Executive Director and Group Chief Editor Datuk Seri Wong Chun Wai received the award on her behalf from Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Shahanaaz, who is currently in Bangkok to cover the Thai Red Shirt protests, received RM15,000 and a certificate at the MPI-Petronas Journalism Awards held here last night.

Meanwhile, *The Star's* Lim Wey Wen bagged the A. Samad Ismail Young Journalist Award.

Lim went undercover for a few months to write an expose about clinics which claimed that live cell analysis microscope techniques could be used to diagnose diseases.

"I'm just very happy. It hasn't sunk in that I've won. I really don't know what I'll do with the cash. But I would like to thank my editors," she said. She received a RM15,000 cash prize.



**Rewarded:** Muhyiddin presenting Lim with the A.Samad Ismail Young Journalist Award during the 2010 MPI night yesterday. Looking on are Datuk Shamsul Azhar Abbas (left) and the Malaysian Press Institute CEO Datuk Chamil Wariya (right).

The Kajai award was given to Melati Mohd Arif from Bernama who wrote about global warming at Genting Highland resort.

She received RM30,000 in cash, a gold medal and a certificate.

In his speech, Muhyiddin said the Malaysian media has an important role in shaping the mindset and world view on the country.

"Help minimise hatred, discord and prejudice. Maximise constructive discussions, dialogue and harmony.

"Minimise a media that is proud, insensitive, inaccurate, overly biased and sensational. Please help the Government maximise what is good for our country," he said.

He said reporters and the media were viewed as partners by the Government in building the country.

"Although criticism is welcomed and the criticism might hurt sometimes, I hope the media in this country does not abandon its role in keeping harmony and peace in the country," he said.

## May 4 hearing for Anwar's sodomy charge appeal

**PUTRAJAYA:** Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's appeal against a decision to retain the sodomy charge against him will be heard by the Federal Court on May 4.

Anwar's counsel S.N. Nair told reporters that he was informed of the hearing date by the Federal Court registry by fax yesterday.

The Permatang Pauh MP lost his appeal at the Court of Appeal which ruled on Feb 17 that he had failed to show that the prosecution against him was oppressive to warrant the charge being struck out.

Anwar, 63, had sought to quash the sodomy charge on the basis of the findings of a medical report by three doctors that there were "no conclusive clinical findings suggestive of penetration to the anus/rectum".

The High Court dismissed the application on Dec 1 last year.

The PKR adviser is on trial for allegedly sodomising his former aide, Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan, 25, at Desa Damansara Condominium in Bukit Damansara, Kuala Lumpur on June 26, 2008, an offence which carries a maximum 20 years' jail and whipping if convicted.

The defence is scheduled to cross-examine Mohd Saiful when the trial resumes on May 10. — Bernama



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