



PHOTO: STAR

Anjuman Mufidul Islam took out an ambulance procession in the city yesterday in observance of its centennial celebration.

Suspected militant arrested in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police picked up a man suspecting his involvement with Islamic militancy from city's Mirpur area yesterday.

Police picked up Imam Uddin Mohammad Toha bin Habib from his house at 248/2, second colony on Major Road based on the information from Special Branch (SB) that he had floated an Islamic platform named 'Amra Sattyabadee' and carried out activities from his house.

Later, he was handed over to Ramna Police Station where SB officials were quizzing him till 7:00pm to confirm whether he had any link with the recently banned militant organisation Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh and Jama'atul Mujahedin, a police official said seeking anonymity.

Imam Uddin's elder brother Dr Bahauddin Mohammad Yusuf, managing director of Imam Group and vice-president of Al Arafah Islami Bank Limited, however, told the police that his brother was mentally challenged.

"Imam was very brilliant but he had a nervous breakdown and since then I have been taking care of his family," a police source quoted Yusuf as saying.

Police also said Imam's father Mohammad Habibur Rahman who hails from Haimchar in Chandpur district was the principal of a madrasah at Sharsina.

ASF programmes on Int'l Women's Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF), in collaboration with other co-sponsors, has taken up an elaborate programme to observe the International Women's Day in a befitting manner.

This was announced by ASF Executive Director Munira Rahman at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Munira said, "Bringing out a men's rally on the day is one of the main campaigns of our foundation. The active participation of men in the rally in 2002 inspired the government to enact a law to prevent acid violence."

"This year, we have chalked out a two-day programme to be participated by the government and non-government organisations, civil societies, doctors' associations, legal professionals, cultural bodies and mass media. The programmes include drama, cultural function and rally," she added.

Munira said the programmes are aimed to help implement the laws related to prevention of acid violence and ensure their equal rights in the society.

As part of the programmes, a cultural function will be held in front of the Teachers Students Centre of Dhaka University at 4:30pm today.

Amen's rally under the theme 'Men promise no more acid throwing: justice and good governance can stop acid violence' will be taken out from the Central Shaheed Minar tomorrow. It will be inaugurated by Poet Shamsur Rahman at 2:30pm.

At the end of the rally at the National Press Club, a declaration would be read out. It will be followed by a one-minute speech by each of the 15 speakers including Dr S M A Faiz,

vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, Boshir, an acid survivor, Dr Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, executive director of Brac, A F Hassan Arif, attorney general, Abdul Awal Mintu, president of FBCCI, Reaz Uddin Ahmed, president of National Press Club, and Habibul Bashar, captain of Bangladesh Cricket Team.

Brac, Care Bangladesh, Hunger Project Bangladesh, Girl Child Advocacy Forum and Expression Ltd are the main co-sponsors of the events. The media partners are Channel I, ATN Bangla, New Age, The Independent, The Daily Star, Sangbad and Bhorer Kagoj.

Brac University partnership with US university

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac University (BU) has recently developed a partnership with George Washington University (GWU) of USA to focus on the academic areas of Education and Development Studies, said a BU press release.

The US State Department will fund the three-year partnership project which has been designed to contribute BU capacity development in different areas as well as help GWU build on its commitment to leadership in international education, international development studies, research and public outreach.

The partnership also provides opportunity to recruit outstanding Bangladeshi students for teaching assistantships and other financial aids in the US universities.

Death anniversary

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Abdul Hamid, a freedom fighter and police officer, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be arranged at his residence at 1/6 East Basabo in the city in the morning.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of M Ahsanul Haque, former chairman of Agrani Bank, will be held at the Officers' Club at Bailey Road in the city after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Sraddha

Sraddha of Shree Chand Kumar, former additional secretary of financial ministry, will be held at his residence at 73, New Paltan in the city tomorrow.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to join the programme, a press release said.

Chand Kumar died on February 21.

He left behind his wife, one son and two daughters.

Extempore speech competition

The Oriental Bank Limited organised an 'Extempore Speech Competition 2005' at the British Council auditorium in the city recently to mark the International Mother Language Day, says a press release.

CM Koyes Sami, managing director of the bank, presided over the function.

Students from different city schools took part in the competition. Sara Mahmud, wife of Shaheed Altaf Mahmud, gave away prizes among the winners.

Tk 13 lakh of Integra Group looted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Armed muggers snatched Tk 13 lakh injuring a divisional in-charge and a peon of a cellular phone distributing firm here in the port city yesterday.

According to sources, by a CNG-run autorickshaw Tanvir Hossain Iman, divisional in-charge of Integra Group, and office peon Akhil were going to deposit the money to the local branch of HSBC Bank at Agrabad from their local distribution office Integra Communications opposite the Fire Service Station.

As both the openings of road dividers at Choumuhani and Dewanhat intersections were blocked with barbed wire fence, they had to go through the Tigerpass intersection, sources said.

When the autorickshaw slowed down in order to come round a U-turn at Tigerpass intersection, two muggers got on it forcibly and held the victims at dagger's point.

The autorickshaw instantly took the road that ran through Polo ground instead of the one that leads to Agrabad and brought the victims to a quiet spot near CRB.

The muggers took the money stabbing Tanvir Hossain seriously as he tried to resist, and fled by the same autorickshaw.

Akhil was also stabbed when he went to save his boss, sources said.

Tanvir was taken to a city clinic where he was undergoing an operation, said Abdul Kayum Taslim, deputy manager of Integra Communications. The driver of the autorickshaw might be involved in the mugging, he said.

Stop unplanned sand lifting

Speakers tell rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday urged the authorities concerned to stop lifting of sands from different rivers and canals in an unplanned way.

They also demanded immediate dredging of rivers to ensure their navigability.

The rally was organised by Jono Uddog and Green Force at Shahbagh crossings in the city.

The speakers said some vested quarters are lifting sands in an unplanned way causing landslides at different places including Basila, Narsingdi and Gazipur.

These have made thousands of people homeless and threatened the environment, they added.

The speakers called for a

coordination between the land and water resources ministries to retrieve the rivers and canals from the encroachers.

Presided over by Sharifuzzaman Sharif, the rally was addressed by Ahsan Habib Lavlu, Kamrul Alam Shabuj, Alamgir Kabir, Sushanto Sarker, Rashed Rabbi, Jahangir Hossain, Fahima Akhtar, and Jashim Uddin.

5 killed, 17 injured in road accident

UNB, Sirajganj

Five people were killed and 17 injured, five of them seriously, when a truck knocked down another truck into a roadside ditch at Nakla on the Jamuna Bridge West Link Road early yesterday.

The dead were identified as Bhulu Mondol, Fakir Mondol, Osman Ali, Dulal Hossain and helper of the truck Selim Miah.

Police said the Bogra-bound truck was coming from Dhaka with day-labourers on board. The driver stopped the vehicle on the spot at about 6.00am to drop a few passengers. "Suddenly another truck sped in and hit it from behind."

Police recovered the bodies. Of the injured, 12 were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

BOMB ATTACK CASE

Submission of charge sheet deferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Submission of charge sheet of journalist Dip Azad bomb attack case has been deferred as the investigation officer (IO) Sub-inspector (SI) Rafiqul Islam left for Dhaka Saturday night with docket at the call of the monitoring cell of the home ministry.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Khulna thana Iqbal Hossain also accompanied the IO.

Both the officers of Khulna thana yesterday appeared before the monitoring cell where investigation of the case was reviewed at length.

The charge sheet is likely to be submitted on Tuesday, said a source of Khulna Metropolitan Police.

Five persons -- former Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Mofazzel Hossain, Jubo League leader Khairuzzaman alias Talbabu, and outlaws Hasan, Shadhin and Miraj -- have been shown as accused in the case. All the accused are in Khulna District Jail now.

The former ASP has been named as the mastermind of the bomb attack on Dip Azad by four other accused in their statements made under Section 164 CrPC in the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Atique Haque.



PHOTO: STAR

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addresses a discussion at the Institution of Engineers auditorium in the city yesterday on the occasion of the historic March 7. Bangladesh Awami League organised the meeting.

Meet summer water crisis

Bhuiyan asks Wasa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan directed the Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) to repair the faulty deep tube-wells and set up new ones if necessary to meet the water crisis in the upcoming summer.

Speaking at a meeting held yesterday at a conference centre of the ministry to review overall activities of Dhaka Wasa, Bhuiyan also directed the officials to intensify

the drive of disconnecting illegal connections.

He said the government would take punitive actions against the project director and other officials concerned if they fail to launch the bottled water project of Wasa within July. He asked the officials concerned to evict land grabbers from Wasaland.

LGRD State Minister Ziaul Haque Zia and Wasa Managing Director ANH Akhter Hossain also attended the meeting.

GRAFT CASE AGAINST QUADER HC stays proceedings

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday stayed the proceedings of the graft case against former State Minister Obaidul Quader pending in the lower court.

The court also issued rule upon the government to show cause in four weeks why the graft case against Quader should not be quashed. The orders came upon Quader's petition moved by advocate Jahangir Hossain Selim.

Now defunct Bureau of Anti-corruption prosecuted Quader accusing him of buying a jeep for the Sports Council at an abnormal price abusing power when he was state minister for the Ministry of Youth and Sports during the AL rule.



PHOTO: STAR

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan speaks at a rally at Muktangan in the city yesterday protesting 'anarchic politics'. Bangladesh Nationalist Party organised the rally.



Winners of the Extempore Speech Competition 2005 pose with Oriental Bank Chairman Masum Ahmed Chowdhury, Managing Director CM Koyes Sami and the judges of the competition.