

Police raid
BNP leader
Ashim's home,
pick up four

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police picked up four people after raiding BNP leader Nasir Uddin Ashim's house in the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday.

Ashim alleged that a team from Dhanmondi Police Station arrived at the house on Dhanmondi 1 around 6:00pm and tore the banners, festoons, posters and leaflets.

They picked up two Sramik Dal leaders, the caretaker of the building and a driver, Ashim told The Daily Star.

The house belonged to Ashim's late father-in-law Abdul Mannan, a former BNP minister.

"I talked to the Dhanmondi Police Station's OC and wanted to know the reason behind the raid as the BNP is not a banned or militant organisation," said Ashim, the international affairs secretary of BNP.

Contacted, Ekram Ali

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the inaugural session of the two-day seminar on International Women Peace and Security yesterday. Armed Forces Division, the foreign ministry and Bangladesh Police organised the event at Army Multipurpose Complex in Dhaka Cantonment.

MILITANTS ESCAPE
A 6-year-old case
now in limelight

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A terrorism case filed years back against some Ansar Al Islam operatives has come to the fore again after the November 20 snatching of two death-row convicts from police custody.

The case filed with Mohammadpur Police Station on February 21, 2016 was an "eye-opener" for the counterterrorism officials who got an idea of the outfit's operational wing, trainers and trainees throughout the investigation.

Around 20 people were named in the charge sheet submitted to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court on July 8, 2021, and all of them were found to have taken part in several targeted killings as members of the outfit's operational wing.

The charge sheet exposed the training centre of Ansar Al Islam and its three batches. Militants were trained on improvised explosive devices (IEDs) for two months at the centre, set up at a house located in Mohammadpur, investigators found.

According to the charge sheet, Syed Ziaul Hoque alias Major (sacked) Zia was the key person behind the training centre. He used to run it along with two outfit leaders -- Shaheen Alam and Shahalam alias Salauddeen.

Shaheen and Shahalam are in jail, but Zia is on the run. Zia, the mastermind of six targeted killings of bloggers and freethinkers, was also behind the plan to whisk away two convicted militants from police custody on November 20, officials said on condition of anonymity.

Of the two escaped militants, Moinul Hasan Shamim took training in the second batch and Abu Siddiq Sohel in the third batch at Zia's Mohammadpur training centre.

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Will not obstruct
BNP's peaceful rally
Says Obaidul Quader

STAR REPORT

Awami League will not obstruct BNP's December 10 rally, but it "will not just stand by" if BNP activists come with sticks in hand, said AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday.

Quader made the remarks while addressing the triennial councils of Dinajpur and Jamalpur AL units as chief guest.

"Do not provoke, do not engage in clashes. The Awami League activists have not left the field; they will carefully observe the situation," said Quader while speaking at the Dinajpur conference, held at Gor-e-Shahid Boro Math.

"If there is any chaos, Awami League leaders and activists along with people of the country will oppose you [BNP]," he said.

Regarding BNP's December 10 rally, to be held in Dhaka, Quader said, "We have never asked transport leaders to disrupt BNP rallies through transport strikes. I would like to reiterate... that no strike can be called centring the BNP rally on December 10."

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Increase budget to ensure
their social inclusion

Speakers tell discussion on persons with disabilities

Speakers at the discussion titled "Promoting Social Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities", in the capital's Brac Centre yesterday. Disabled Rehabilitation and Research Association organised the event.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should increase the budget allocation for persons with disabilities to ensure their rights and social inclusion, said discussants at a programme yesterday.

Disabled Rehabilitation and Research Association (DRRA) organised the event, titled "Promoting Social Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities", in the capital's Brac Centre.

Speaker said public infrastructure, transports, offices, hospitals, and even educational institutes are not disabled-friendly. The national budget allocation for persons with disabilities was only 0.33 percent and 0.37 percent respectively, while the total budget increased each year, they said.

They said need-based allocation by different ministries is needed for persons with disabilities.

"During natural disasters, we are at risk in the coastal areas. It is difficult for us to find cyclone shelters. The government should allocate funds to the development of specialised shelters for persons with disabilities," said Habibur Rahman, a person with physical disabilities and resident of Satkhira's Shyamnagar village.

Meher Afroz Chumki, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee of the Women and Child Affairs Ministry, said, "We have to keep in mind that creating job opportunities for persons with disabilities is not charity. It is the constitutional right of every person with a disability to have a decent job. The present government is increasing such opportunities in every sector."

"If we can bring these people into the economy as productive members of the workforce, we will be able to achieve a double digit growth," she said as a special guest.

Addressing the meeting, journalist Sohrab Hassan said the government should ensure education and employment for persons with disabilities. Besides, the salary of teachers with disabilities should be increased, he added.

He also stressed disability-friendly educational infrastructure.

"To reduce corruption in this sector, the government should also ensure strict monitoring," he said.

Planning Minister Muhammad Abdul Mannan said the government will build a cyclone centre that persons with disability can use. "The government is improving the quality of their life by providing various allowances."

"Government allocation is insufficient for their needs. But we have increased opportunities for them," he said while addressing as the chief guest.

Presiding over the event, Farida Yesmin, executive director of DRRA, said, "Proper budget allocation is vital but we need proper monitoring so that persons with disabilities get an appropriate share of the allocated budget."

She also emphasised the role of the private sectors in this regard.

National Foundation for Development of the Disabled Persons Managing Director Ruhul Amin Khan and General Secretary of Mahila Awami League Shabnam Jahan Sheela also spoke at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

India seeks
stronger ties
with Bangladesh

Says President Murmu

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian President Droupadi Murmu yesterday hoped that relations between Bangladesh and India would reach new heights in the time to come as both have robust bilateral political ties.

Recalling her two separate interactions with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, first in New Delhi in September and then in London in October, Murmu said India-Bangladesh relations are guided by the spirit and values of the 1971 Liberation War.

She was speaking after receiving the credentials from Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Md Mustafizur Rahman at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

Murmu said India-Bangladesh relations have developed in an unprecedented way covering new areas of cooperation in the last eight years under the leadership of Narendra Modi and Sheikh Hasina. She hoped this momentum would be sustained and taken further forward in the days to come.

BNP to announce
plans to oust govt
on December 10

Says Khandaker Mosharraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will announce a set of programmes during its December 10 rally to ensure that the government steps down, said BNP Standing Committee Member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday.

He made the remarks while addressing a roundtable titled "Strengthening Democracy in Bangladesh and the Role of International Community", held at Jatiya Press Club.

Mosharraf said, "The government will see a mass uprising and united movement. It will be ousted from power soon."

He said BNP has already observed eight successful, peaceful divisional movements to "save the people of Bangladesh and protect the country from Awami League's misrule".

Referring to BNP activists who joined its rallies defying

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SC extends stay
on Mohila Dal
leader Sonia's bail


STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday extended its chamber judge's order that stayed a High Court bail for Sonia Akhter Smriti, founder president of Rajbari Blood Donors and a member of the district Mohila Dal, in a case filed for making derogatory remark on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a Facebook post.

The apex court passed the order while hearing of a petition filed by the state challenging the HC order that on October 3 granted ad-interim bail to Sonia.

A five-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Hasan Fozz Siddique also kept the state's petition stand over (waiting for hearing) till January 15 next year.

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Dengue death toll **247**

Total number of patients **56,496**

1,929 still undergoing treatment

Number of recovered patients **53,954**

366 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

PRAYER
TIMING

NOVEMBER 29

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5-10	12-45	3-45	5-19	7-00
JAMAAT 5-45	1-15	4-00	5-22	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



SSC examinees share moments of joy with their peers and teachers after the results got published yesterday. The photos were taken in Sylhet's Blue Bird High School and College, Tangail's Mirzapur Cadet College and Dhaka's Milestone College.



PHOTO: STAR, COLLECTED

7.1m displaced by
climate change
this year: WHO

UNB, Dhaka

Over 7.1 million Bangladeshis were displaced by climate change in 2022, a number that could reach 13.3 million by 2050, according to the World Health Organization.

To support countries and territories to build professional competence and capacity to adequately address refugee and migrant health issues, the WHO is organising the third edition of its annual Global School on Refugee and Migrant Health in Dhaka with a focus on capacity-building.

Over five days, from November 28 to December 2, policymakers, UN partner agencies, academia, members of civil society, and stakeholders at the Global School will exchange knowledge and experiences to address key elements of capacity-building.

The e-learning hybrid event, hosted by the health ministry, will be streamed globally.

Since 1978, Bangladesh witnessed three major influxes of forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals, totalling more than 1 million people each with unique medical needs and housed in one of the

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