



Sohrab Hossain's anniversary of death today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

The 8th death anniversary of former minister and Liberation War organiser Sohrab Hossain will be observed here today.

The Sohrab Hossain Smriti Sangsad has chalked out various programmes including discussion meeting, destitute feeding and Milad Mahfil to mark the day.

Sohrab Hossain was elected MNA (Member of National Assembly) twice-- in 1966 and 1970-- in erstwhile Pakistan. He was also elected as chairman of Magura Town Committee (now municipality).

He was president of Awami League (AL) in greater Jessore from 1966 to 1972. He was agriculture affairs secretary of AL central committee during the same period.

In 1973, he was elected MP (Member of Parliament) and was made relief and rehabilitation minister. He was then made livestock and fisheries minister and then held the portfolio of the ministry of public works.

Sohrab Hossain was born in 1921 at Bhaina village in Magura. He died on January 26, 1998.

AL LEADER MURDER Half-day hartal at Ullapara today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Awami League (AL) has called a half-day hartal at Ullapara today protesting killing of Ullapara upazila AL vice-president Saiful Islam, 40, Tuesday evening.

Saiful also chairman of Mohonpur Union Parishad (UP) was gunned down by the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) cadres on the Lahiri Mohonpur Railway Station platform while returning home from his office at around 6:30 pm, according to police. After murder, the killers left the spot chanting PBCP slogans.

Later, a procession was brought out in Ullapara bazaar in the afternoon. A meeting was also held near the party office which was chaired by its general secretary Saiful Islam Shaif.

Former home minister and party central leader Mohammad Nasim, MP, and district level party leaders visited the spot. They condemned the killing and demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the culprits.

THREAT IN JMB'S NAME 2 chargesheeted in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police on Monday submitted charge sheet under Section 4(1)5 of the Speedy Trial Act accusing two people including a lawyer in the case filed for sending letters to seven lawyers threatening to kill them. See letters were sent on January 12 in the name of JMB.

The charge sheet submitted to a Magistrate court was submitted against advocate BD Zaman and typist Hafizur Rahman of Satkhira court.

Outlaws killed 16 in Jhenidah last year

HOSSAIN SERAJ, back from Jhenidah

MAGURA : Janajuddho faction of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) killed at least 16 people in Jhenidah district last year.

The party claimed this in its bulletin -- 'Janajuddho Publication' --, a high police official in the district declining to be named told this correspondent. Police seized some of its copies this month, he said.

The victims included political leaders, public representatives, businessmen, 'police informers' and 'rivals' belonging to other underground parties.

Prominent among the victims are chairman of Harinakundu municipality and president of the Harinakundu upazila unit of BNP

Azizur Rahman Mondal, BNP leader Shahin of Koatchandpur upazila, two Union Parishad members in Shaikakupa upazila -- Abdul Rahman and Habibur Rahman --, Ruzdar, a top leader of Bplobi Communist Party (BCP), 'police informer' Abdul Aziz and Moshirur Rahman.

An alleged cadre of Jashad Gono Bahini (JGB), Hurmat Ali of Hingorpara village in Harinakundu was abducted from Rishkhal Bazaar and slaughtered by Janajuddho cadres on February 10 while Kamrul a businessman of Dhawra village in Shaikakupa upazila was killed the next day.

Jhantu of Folia village in Shaikakupa upazila was hacked to death in presence of his family members on the night of March 4.

Balok, an alleged cadre of JGB was hacked to death at Par-Dhakalpur village in Harinakundu

on April 3 while a member of Tribeni Union Parishad in Shaikakupa upazila Abdul Rahman was murdered on May 24.

Police informer Abdul Aziz was gunned down near Jhenidah Sadar upazila parishad office on June 17 and Azizul Haque alias Sagar, an alleged cadre of BCP, hailing from Natokundu village in the same upazila, was slaughtered on July 3 while another source of police Moshirur Rahman of Bogura village in Shaikakupa was hacked to death on July 7.

Tozuddin Mridha, a businessman of Debila village in Harinakundu was slaughtered on August 28.

One person named Sirajul Islam of village Sonadanga in Kaliganj upazila was beaten to death on September 13 and UP member of Shaikakupa upazila Habibur Rahman was strangled on

September 20 while Chand Ali Mian, a businessman of village Barishkhal in Harinakundu, was also strangled on the same night.

Harinakundu upazila BNP president and municipality chairman Azizur Rahman Mondal was gunned down on the night of October 19 when he was taking tea in front of the local police station.

Shahin, a BNP leader of Koatchandpur upazila was abducted from his Govindapur village home in the early hours of October 26 and later shot dead in nearby Baluhara area.

Ruzdar, a top leader of BCP of Charpara village in Shaikakupa upazila was shot dead at Beribini Bazaar on November 7.

Lutfur Rahman Lutu of village Muruthia in Koatchandpur was beaten to death on November 19.



Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil addressing a public meeting in Netrakona yesterday.

'Govt influencing EC to snatch people's right'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday said the alliance government has been conspiring against peoples' right since it took over power.

Now, they are out to snatch people's right to franchise by influencing the Election Commission.

He was addressing a public meeting organised by Netrakona Sadar upazila Awami League, held at Mukterpara playground in the town.

It was presided over by Netrakona Sadar AL President Bazul Kader and addressed by,

among others, AL Organising Secretary Sabar Hossen Chowdhury MP, Publicity Secretary Asadujaman Nur MP, ex-MP Fazlur Rahman Khan, ex-MP Jalaluddin Tahukder, Netrakona District AL President Shamsujjaha, General Secretary Ashraf Ali Khan Kasru, Netrakona Krishok League President Kashob Ranjon Sarkar and Juba League leader Omar Faruque.

Jalil said, the people are in a movement against the alliance government to protect their democratic right to vote the party they want in a free and fair elections. But this government does not want

this.

The 14-party opposition alliance led by Awami League will resist any election without reforms to the caretaker system and the Election Commission, Jalil said. He said the people have no confidence on the ruling parties as they have made life miserable by sheltering terrorists and Islamist militants and allowing price spiral. This government has also politicised the administration and are now using it to retain power.

He said the demands initially raised Awami League have now become demands of the people.

'Those who vote me also give me note'

Jaldhaka Jamaat MP refutes to term it extortion by party

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

"Those who vote me also give me note".

This frank and terse reply was given by Jamaat lawmaker from Jaldhaka Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury when newsmen asked him about alleged extortion by party men for its January 28 'showdown', planned apparently in a bid to disprove allegations of sheltering Islamist militants and boost morale of its rank and file.

"We do not take money from people outside the party", he told newsmen yesterday.

His party is now widely criticised by people in Jaldhaka after many of the militants caught here and in other areas in the country for exploding bombs and other acts of militancy admitted their links with Jamaat-e-Islami, a partner in the ruling coalition.

With the next election in view, Jamaat's January 28 programme

includes a party workers' conference followed by a public meeting to be held at Jaldhaka High School ground.

Jamaat leader and Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Majahid will be the chief guest at the conference, to be attended by, among others, party central leaders ATM Azharul Islam and Golam Robhani.

To make the programme a success, all-out campaigns through processions, roadside rallies and miking were started about seven days ago. Workers of Jamaat and its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir have launched drives to collect people including women and arrange funds for this.

'Contributions' have been fixed for each party man according to position. Each delegate will contribute Tk 20, sources said. Its activists have started extortion in most areas in Jaldhaka upazila, particularly trading centres and markets as part of a fund-raising drive, locals alleged.

Madrasa teachers and employees of government and non-government organisations supporting Jamaat have been asked to contribute one month's salary, some sources claimed.

Already, about 20,000 invitation cards has been distributed. At least 25,000 packets of 'Biryani' will be supplied during the conference, party sources said.

Besides security arrangement by the district administration, about 5,000 party workers will be engaged as volunteers at the venue. Over 20 movie cameras will be engaged by the party.

Some merchants and traders in Jaldhaka seeking anonymity told this correspondent that they have to contribute for the programme. Declining to be named, one trader admitted giving Tk 5000 and a grocer said he also gave Tk 500.

RU teachers discuss fresh programme

RU CORRESPONDENT

The three-day work abstention programme, called by Rajshahi University Teachers Association (Ruta) in protest against the attack on some teachers in January 21 by the 'controversially appointed' employees ended yesterday.

The Ruta Executive Committee sat for a meeting at 8:30 pm to discuss fresh agitation programmes to press punishment of the attackers and cancellation of the 'controversial appointments'.

The meeting continued when the report was filed at about 9:30 pm. Prior to the meeting, Ruta Executive Committee member Rabiul Islam told the Daily Star, "We will continue our movement for cancellation of the appointments of 546 'controversial' employees, who attacked teachers on January 21".

Earlier on the day, Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mazanur Rahman Minu MP, accompanied by some local BNP leaders met Ruta members and the Vice-Chancellor separately and regretted the January 21 attack and assured of that legal action.



JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu addressing a public meeting at Patkelghata football ground in Tala upazila of Satkhira yesterday.

Topple this govt, save country from fanatics Inu tells Satkhira public meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haque Inu at a public meeting yesterday urged the people to unite to oust the BNP-Jamat alliance government to save the country and its people from the clutches of fanatic and undemocratic forces.

In its four years' rule, the alliance government has pushed the country to the brink of destruction by widespread corruption, politicisation of the administration and the judiciary and sheltering Islamist militants, Inu told the meeting organised by Satkhira district JSD. It was held at Patkelghata football ground in Tala upazila.

Fanatic and militant forces under shelter of the government are carrying out bomb blasts and killing progressive political leaders, civil society members, judges, teachers, and intellectuals, putting security of

people's life at stake. Inu claimed that Jamat-e-Islami and its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir are behind the blasts but the government did not take any action against them.

JSD is a component of the 14-party opposition alliance that has spearheaded a movement for resignation of the government for its alleged failure and sheltering Islamist militants.

The JSD leader reiterated that opposition parties will not take part in the next parliamentary election until the demands for reforms to the caretaker system and the Election Commission and resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) are fulfilled.

The CEC has already proved his bias towards the ruling alliance, he claimed. "No election in the country will be held under the present EC", Inu said.

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