

Former Shibir leader shot in Sylhet

JCD men blamed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Former president of Fenchuganj upazila unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir Ehsanur Rahman Iraq was shot by a group of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal men yesterday afternoon.

Ehsanur was admitted to a private clinic in the city and was operated upon to remove stray bullets.

Ehsanur, now chief of the Jamea Islamia, Fenchuganj (an institution run by Jamaat) was on his way home from the Moglabazar area in a motorbike. He came under attack near the Kushiara bridge at about 12: 30 pm.

Sylhet district JCD vice-president Abdul Ahad Khan Jamal allegedly opened fire and managed to flee the spot with his two aides.

A case was lodged with Fenchuganj Police station accusing Abdul Ahad Khan Jamal, Waheduzzaman Sufi and Zahed Hossain. Shibir claimed that all the three accused opened fire on Ehsanur.

Tension was prevailing between the activists of ruling party's student wing and the Jamaat backed Islami Chhatra Shibir for the last few weeks in Fenchuganj upazila after the Shibir men passed foul remarks about the prime minister at a rally.

The JCD men held rallies and brought out processions to protest the incident.

AGITATION AGAINST POWER CRISIS IN SATKHIRA, JESSORE

Lawyers besiege PDB office, farmers block road

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Lawyers yesterday besieged Power Development Board (PDB) office, damaged its furniture and window pans and assaulted the executive engineer protesting frequent load shedding and demanding smooth electricity supply.

The agitated lawyers who brought out a procession and held rally also threatened to burn down the office of the local PDB if the authorities failed to ensure smooth supply of electricity in the district within 72 hours.

A group of lawyers of Satkhira Bar Association led by its general secretary Advocate Shah Alam brought out the procession from the

court premises as the district is experiencing severe load shedding for the last 15 days.

Local people also joined the lawyers' procession and paraded the main streets of the town before laying a siege to the office of the PDB.

The processionists chanted slogans against the Resident Engineer (RE) of the local PDB holding him responsible for the severe load shedding. At one stage they attacked Executive Engineer Nabi Hossain and damaged the furniture and window pans of the office.

Later the lawyers held a rally at the main gate of the PDB office. It was addressed by, among others, Bar Association general secretary Shah Alam, lawyers Nurul Alam,

Mustafa Lutfullah and Abdul Jalil.

Blaming the authorities for failure, the speakers said that life of over 18 lakh people in the district has become virtually paralysed due to acute power crisis.

The irrigation of IRRI-boro cropland and production in the mills and factories in the district are being hampered due to power cuts, they said.

They alleged that the severe load shedding has been persisting in the district due to the local PDB officials' inefficiency and neglect and threatened to burn down the PDB office if the authorities failed to ensure smooth supply of electricity within 72 hours.

When contacted, Nabi Hossain confirmed the incident and

expressed his helplessness saying they have nothing to do to resolve the crisis. "We are not getting sufficient supply of power from the national grid," he said.

Our Jessore Correspondent adds: Hundreds of farmers and villagers of Islail and Kashimpur Union under Sadar upazila barricaded the Jessore-Magura Road at Monoharpur Bazar point from 10 am to 12 noon yesterday to press home their demand for uninterrupted supply of electricity.

Hundreds of vehicles from Khulna, Benapole, Chittagong, Bagerhat and Satkhira were stranded on both sides of Monoharpur Bazaar due to the barricade.



PHOTO: STAR

Evicted freedom fighter Azhar with wife and children in front of his demolished house.

Azhar freed country but his battle is yet to be over

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Azhar freed the country from the occupation forces but failed to free himself from the clutches of poverty.

He has now become a victim of fresh cruelty.

Though the successive government could not give him any permanent shelter, the district administration recently evicted him from his house in Gymnasium area. The hapless freedom fighter with five others of his family are now living under the open sky in Patuakhali town.

Azhar took part in the 1971 liberation war in Sontospur area under Mehendigonj upazila under Sector No. 9 led by Shahjahan Omar, currently State Minister for Law and Justice and

Parliamentary Affairs.

Azhar came back home after the war only to start a battle against poverty. He came to Patuakhali town to find work 25 years ago as he lost his homestead due to erosion by the Lata river.

At first he opened a bicycle repairing shop in new market area and rented a small house, built on the government land, for Tk 200 a month. He passed his 15 years in the house before being evicted by the district administration.

Later on he made a shed in Gymnasium area. He was again evicted from the place in 2001. He built another shed in D-type area and the district administration again evicted him from the place about three weeks ago.

Two sons of Azhar-- Titu, 15, and Mamun, 12,-- are working at a motor workshop in the town for a morsel of food. Shakib is reading in class three and his only daughter Marium is just one and a half years old.

The government is paying Tk 500 to Azhar as monthly honorium as freedom fighter. Azhar and his family was living hand to mouth with his little earning. Following eviction, he has now lost the shop, the main source of income.

"I submitted a prayer to Deputy Commissioner (DC) on December 15, 2005 for a piece of khas land to build a permanent shelter for my family but in vain" a disappointed Azhar told this correspondent.

Rivals stage showdown in Jaldhaka

One group demands Kabir's release, the other his punishment

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Nilphamari

Jaldhaka upazila town yesterday turned into a battlefield as programmes and counter programmes were launched by two rival groups, one demanding the quick release of the undertrial upazila unit president of BNP Anwarul Kabir Chowdhury and the other for his quick trial and punishment.

A truck procession by the pro-Kabir group proceeding towards the district town from Jaldhaka to besiege the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office yesterday, was obstructed by police

near the town on Nilphamari-Jaldhaka highway.

Kabir, also the municipal chairman of Jaldhaka, is now in custody and is being tried on charge of raping a young girl eight months ago.

Earlier 'Kabir Mukti Parishad', a pro-BNP social body declared an agitation programme including plan to besiege the DC office of Nilphamari demanding release of their leader.

The supporters of Kabir began to gather on the Upazila Parishad premises from yesterday morning on foot and by trucks.

On the other hand, hundreds

admitted to upazila health complex. When the situation was turning towards a bloody clash, a big contingent of police under a magistrate obstructed the truck convoy carrying pro-Kabir people. The convenor of 'Kabir Mukti Parishad,' Shahjahan Kabir Lenin later handed over a memorandum to magistrate Tarikul Islam to hand it over to the DC. In the memorandum they demanded immediate release of Kabir Chowdhury.

The convenor of anti-Kabir group, Selimur Rahman, in a statement, said that the programmes taken by pro-Kabir men is nothing but a bid to exert pressure on the poor rape victim and the witnesses to hinder the course of law.

At 10.45 am, a truckload of pro-Kabir people from Koimari union on its way to upazila parishad reached the zero point area. The truck was obstructed by the rival group.

Clashes erupted and five people received injuries. Of them, Abdul Kader of Bogulaguri village was

SATKHIRA SERIAL BLASTS

Cases sent to CID to remove faults in charge sheets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The trial court has again sent the bomb blast cases to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) last week asking it to submit fresh charge sheets rectifying the faults in them.

The assistant superintendent of police of CID Munshi Atiqur Rahman was made the Investigation Officer (IO) in the August 17 series blast cases in the district.

He submitted five separate charge sheets before the magistrate's court on October 18 last year accusing 17 JMB activists including JMB kingpin Abdur Rahman, his younger brother Aatur Rahman Sunny and JMB chief Siddiquil Islam alias Bangla Bhai under section 3.4 and 6 of the Explosive Substance Act.

The relevant magistrate transferred the five cases to the District and Session Judges' Court for trial on the same day.

The trial court while scrutinising the charge sheets, detected some faults and sent those to IO on January 26 asking him to submit fresh charge sheets after examining the evidences by explosive experts.

On March 2, the IO submitted five supplementary charge sheets against 19 JMB leaders and cadres adding two more accused in the cases. They are Rakib Hasan and Ismail Hossain of Jamalpur.

The District and Sessions Judge also the trial judge of the cases after examining charge sheets and relevant case documents again detected some faults in the charge sheets and sent those to the IO asking him to submit charge sheets rectifying those faults on March 23.

According to court sources, the faulty investigation for the second time has raised questions about the role of the IO in the cases.

12X3

6X2

12X3