

MAHBUB MURDER
Wife wants trial of culprits in speedy tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wife of slain Mahbubur Rahman demanded transfer of the case to a speedy trial tribunal and death penalty to the persons responsible for the killing of her husband.

Mahbub's wife Shanaz Akhter made the demands at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) yesterday.

Mahbubur Rahman, manager of the business of his uncle Zainul Abedin, was chopped to death on March 26 this year in a clash following a feud of two schoolboys at Galimpur School ground under Nawabganj upazila in Dhaka district.

Shanaz said the killers are threatening to abduct her school-going girl if the case is not withdrawn.

Shanaz said one of the three arrested accused is now freed on bail.

Tanzila Akhter and Sonia Akhter, daughters of slain Mahbub, and relatives were present at the press conference.



Shikhhak Karmachari Oikya Jote stages a rally in front of the Fine Arts Institute near Shahbagh intersection in the city yesterday as police obstructed them with barbed wire fence.

Non-govt high school, college teachers warn of agitation

Demand 100pc salary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and employees of non-government high schools and colleges yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Speaker of the parliament demanding immediate realization of their six-point education agenda, including 100 per cent salary from the government exchequer.

"Around 98 per cent of total secondary and higher secondary education depends on the non-government schools and colleges, but teachers and employees of these schools and colleges receive only 15 per cent of the professional facilities," said Prof M Shariful Islam, president of the Shikhhak Karmachari Oikya Jote, a platform of non-government teachers and employees, at a rally at the Teacher

Student Centre (TSC) on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

Jote Secretary General Muhammad Jahangir Khan said that they have placed the six-point education agenda for removing all kinds of discrimination in the education sector and improving the quality of education.

They also issued an ultimatum to the government saying that they will observe a sit-in programme in the capital on July 4, if their demands are not met by June 30.

Their demands also include house rent, festival allowance, increment, health allowance and other facilities.

Bangladesh Principal Parishad President Prof Majharul Hannan, Bangladesh Teachers Association Secretary General Alhaj Nazrul Islam, Bangladesh College

Teachers Association President Prof Ishak Hossain, Jatiya Teachers Association Federation Treasurer Harun-ur-Rahid, Bangladesh Teachers Association President Prof Rafika Afroj and Bangladesh Shikha Protisthan Karmachari Union President AKM Anisul Haq addressed the rally among others.

Following the rally, several hundred teachers and employees brought out a procession and marched towards the Jatiya Sangsad but police obstructed them with barbed wire fence in front of the Fine Arts Institute near Shahbagh intersection, where they immediately held another rally.

Later, an 11-member team led by Prof M Shariful Islam went to parliament to submit the memorandum to the Speaker and the legislators.

Concern over move to stop HTNF activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous leaders and human rights activists yesterday expressed deep concern over the government's move to stop the activities of the Hill Tracts NGO Forum (HTNF), the main representative body of the local NGOs of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

At a meeting at the auditorium of Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) in the city, they said a number of government departments recently sought to suspend the activities of the HTNF that represent 87 NGOs working in the CHT.

They said indigenous people have every right to development, environment and live with dignity and human rights and so the NGOs working in the hill tracts must be allowed to continue their work.

ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Huda, Bangladesh Economic Association General Secretary Abul Barakat, Dr Faustina Pereira of Ain O Salish Kendra, DU teachers Dr Sadaka Halim and Dr Amina Mohsin attended the meeting. Chakma Circle Chief Raja Devashish Roy presided.

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SAFMA dialogue begins tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA) will hold a dialogue titled 'Rising Above the Divide' in Dhaka on June 24 and 25.

Editors from India and the host country will take part in the dialogue to be held at Hotel Sonargaon.

First Saarc secretary general Abul Hasan and former foreign secretary Farooq Sobhan will present two keynote papers on the role of media in confidence-building measure in resolving bilateral irritants between the two countries.

Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star, will give a presentation on media cooperation between the two countries in improving the bilateral relations. Reazuddin Ahmed, president of SAFMA Bangladesh chapter, will chair the session.

SAFMA Bangladesh chapter will also hold its national conference at the Brac Centre Inn at 9:30 am on June 24. Some 190 journalists from Dhaka and outside will join the conference.

The theme of this year's conference is 'Freedom of the Press and Access to Information'.

Former chief justice and Chairman of the Law Commission Justice Mostafa Kamal will be present at the opening session as the chief guest while SAFMA Secretary General Imtiaz Alam will attend the closing session as special guest.

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