

Outlaw killed in 'crossfire'

STAR REPORT

A Furba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) M-L faction leader and an alleged arms trader was killed in 'crossfire' during shootouts between their cohorts and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Khulna and in Pabna yesterday.

Operations Commander of PBCP M-L faction Mohammad Zahid Rony, 30, also known as Partha Saha, was killed around 3:00am at Sonadanga truck terminal in Khulna city during an encounter between his accomplices and Rab, our staff correspondent in Khulna reports.

Rony was arrested on Sunday at KDA Approach Road in Sonadanga Police Station area, according to a Rab press release.

During quizzing, Rony confessed to Rab about his involvement in the Rab patrol-van attack in last April at Sonadanga and several murders committed in the area. The press release further added that Rony used his fake name Partha Saha to extort money by asking people to send money to his cellphone account.

The release claimed a Rab team took Rony to the truck terminal area to recover hidden arms and arrest his cohorts. But as the team reached the spot, Rony's accomplices opened fire on them and hurled bombs at them.

Rab retaliated and Rony was bullet-hit when he tried to escape Rab custody. He died on the spot.

Joyal Abedin, an alleged arms trader, was killed during an 'encounter' between Rab and his cohorts in Ishwardi upazila in

Pabna early yesterday, our correspondent in Pabna reports.

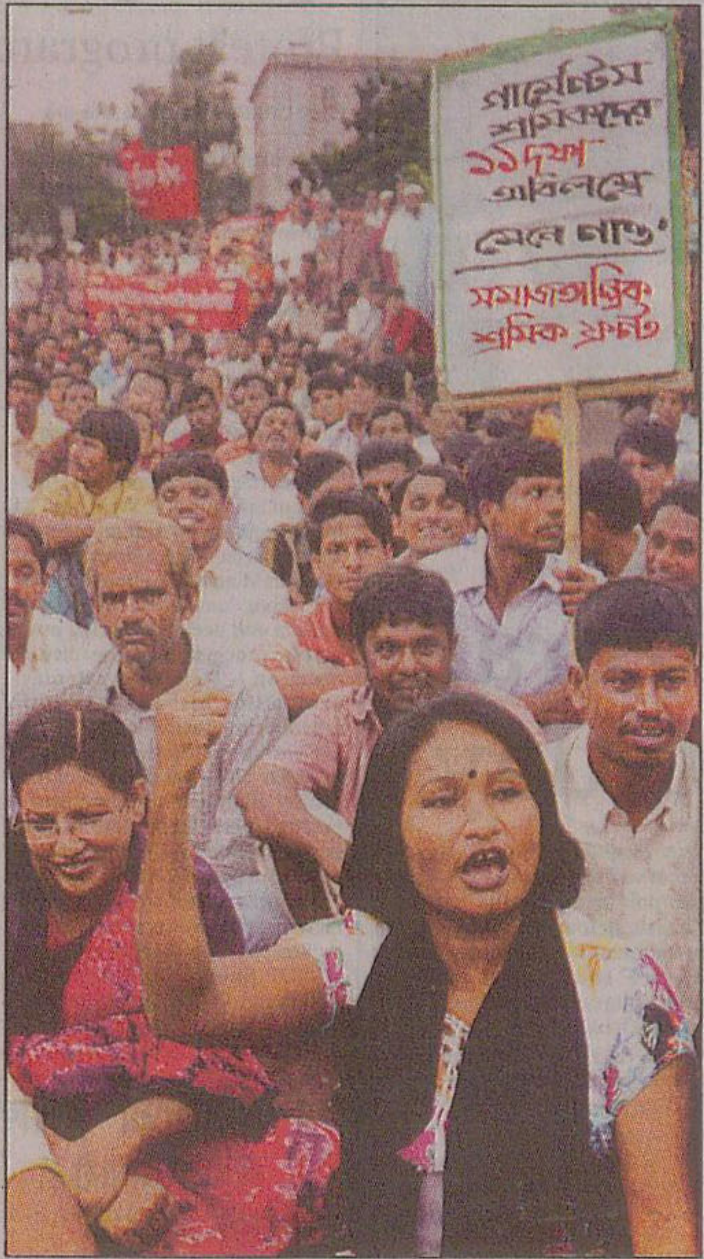
Rab sources said the elite crime busting force raided Laxmipasha Rice Mill of Muladuli union in Ishwardi upazila around 3:00am following a tip off.

Joyal's accomplices opened fire on Rab after Rab cordoned off the mill. The release said Rab was forced to retaliate.

Joyal received serious bullet injuries during the shootout. Rab rushed him to Pabna General Hospital where he died in the morning.

A locally made gun and a few bullets were recovered from the spot though none of the Joyal's cohorts could be arrested.

Joyal was accused in at least 11 criminal cases including two murder cases, Rab sources said.



Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (Skop) stages a demonstration at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday demanding full implementation of the agreement with the government.

KILLING OF KHULNA WORKER Skop protest Sept 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (Skop), a platform of workers and employees, will hold demonstrations in Dhaka and other district head quarters on September 16 to protest the recent killing of a worker in Khulna industrial area.

The programme was announced from a rally at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday.

Addressing the rally Skop leaders said fresh agitation programmes will be announced on September 21 to press home their demands that include fixation of minimum wage for garment workers at Tk3000 per month.

They vowed to continue their agitation to realise their other demands including declaration of minimum wage and its implementation, amendment of labour laws, stopping of privatisation, full implementation of tripartite agreement in the garment sector and other agreement with the workers.

The Skop leaders termed the government as the government of the industrialists as it is dilly-dallying in implementing the agreement with the garment workers and owners.

General Secretary of Sramik League Roy Romesh Chandra said the government must ensure the workers' right to trade unionism in workplaces as it is their constitutional rights.

Jatiya Sramik League President Abdul Matin Master presided over the programme while Muhammad Nurul Islam, Mufti Khan, Advocate Mahbubur Rahman Ismail, Ashikul Alam, Shaifur Rahman Majumdar, Zakir Hossain, and Shahidul Alam also spoke on the occasion.

Bodies of 2 fishermen recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Bodies of two fishermen were recovered from a river in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

On information from an unknown caller, Ukha police found the bodies in a river at 10:30am.

Police said there were many marks of injury on the bodies. They sent them to Cox's Bazar General Hospital for autopsy and filed an unnatural death case with Ukha Police Station.



Sammilita Sangskritik Jote forms a human chain at Shahbag in the city yesterday demanding resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner to ensure free and fair elections.

Retrenchment order on R&H employees protested

RU CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of employees of Bangladesh Roads and Highways (R&H) department yesterday went on an eight-hour work abstention and staged a demonstration at the main gate of the office in protest against retrenchment order of 7,500 employees of the union.

Earlier they brought out a rally from Laxmipur that paraded main streets of Rajpara Police Station areas.

The rally was addressed by trade union leaders Akbar Ali, Humayun Kabir, Saiful Islam Talukder and Khosh Mohammad with employees union President Shahjahan Ali in the chair.

Jute workers enforce blockade in Ctg today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Jute mill workers will enforce a daylong blockade programme on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Sitakunda today when the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is scheduled to visit Chittagong.

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury has promised all out support and cooperation to make the blockade a success.

The jute mill workers, organised under the banner of All Party Workers-Employees and Jute Mill Action Committee, announced the blockade programme in presence of the mayor at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club yesterday afternoon.

The jute mill workers are enforcing the blockade demanding reopening and payment of outstanding salaries of the workers of eleven shutdown private jute mills in Chittagong, sufficient allocation of fund for procuring jute for making the state-owned mills fully operational and payment of arrear weekly wages of the workers of these mills.

The committee has decided to enforce the blockade putting up

barricades at the same area on Dhaka-Chittagong highway tomorrow (today) since no steps were taken till now for the assured payment of the outstanding wages of the workers," said the convenor of the committee ATM Nizam Uddin at the press conference.

Mayor Mohiuddin said a plot was being hatched to shutdown the jute mills.

He said the workers have no options other than observing blockade programme to stop the conspiracy and have the payment of their outstanding salaries.

Any conspiracy to foil the blockade would be meted out with a befitting reply, cautioned the mayor.

"If time permits, I myself would be beside the jute mill workers during dawn-to-dusk blockade," he said.

Committee Convenor ATM Nizam Uddin read out a written statement at the conference where former Awami League MP from Sitakunda ABM Abul Kashem Master was also present.

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Reunion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A reunion of the SSC batch 1971-72 of Narayanganj High School will be held on the school premises and at Narayanganj Club Community Centre on September 16.

The daylong programme includes discussion meeting, reminiscing memories of old days, lunch, dinner and cultural functions, says a press release.

The first session of the reunion will be held from 9:00am to 1:00pm on the school premises while the second session at the community centre from 1:00pm to 10:30pm.

The batch mates have been requested to register their names at 9:00am at the school before joining the reunion.

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America-Bangladesh Friendship Forum forms a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday to commemorate the victims who died in 9/11 terrorist attack in the United States in 2001.

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