

JAIL KILLING DAY OBSERVED IN DISTRICTS

'Remain vigilant against anti-liberation forces'

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Jail Killing Day was observed in various districts in a befitting manner yesterday.

Rallies were held under the auspices of Awami League (AL) led 14-party Combine in Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Khagrachhari and Chandpur to mark the 30th anniversary of the killing.

Our Rajshahi University (RU) correspondent reports: In Rajshahi, the rally was held at the Awami League (AL) office.

Speakers called upon the countrymen to remain vigilant against the anti-liberation forces because they said the evil forces are still active to destroy country's stability through anarchy and subversive activities.

They termed jail killing as part of a conspiracy of anti-liberation forces to grab state power unconstitutionally.

After grabbing state power, they

enacted laws to save the killers, speakers said.

They also asked president and chief advisor to prove his neutrality, otherwise they threatened a greater agitation if their demands are not met within the deadline.

They demanded arrest and punishment to outgoing Rajshahi lawmakers and ministers Mizanur Rahman Minu, Nadim Mostafa, Barrister Aminul Haque and Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu whom they termed corrupt, black money holders and patrons of militants.

NAP co-coordinator Mustafizur Rahman Khan was in the chair.

Among others, former RU VC Prof Saïdur Rahman Khan, Workers Party politburo member Fazley Hassan Badsha, AL city president Masusul Haq Dulu, secretary Khairuzaman Liton, AL leader Jinatunnesa Talukder and Dr Syed Shafiqul Alam addressed.

Earlier, AL leaders placed wreath at

the grave of AHM Quamruzzaman Hena, one of the four national leaders. National and party flags were hoisted at the AL office.

Our Khagrachhari Correspondent reports: District Awami League demanded punishment to killers of the national leaders, Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M Mansur Ali and AQM Quamruzza-man, who led the country's liberation war in 1971.

AL demanded this at a rally held at the party office at Pankhaiyapara yesterday afternoon. The meeting was chaired by AL district president Zatintra Lal Tripura.

Speakers lamented saying the family members of the slain leaders are still being deprived of justice.

Earlier, thousands of party activists, wearing black badges, paraded the streets of the hill town in a mourning procession. Processionists chanted slogans against the killers.

Among others, AL secretary Zahedul Alam, Mohila Awami League president Kalindhi Chakma, Sramik League president Kamal Uddin Patowary, BCL district committee president Mongshipru Chowdhury Apu, Secretary Didarul Alam addressed.

They also demanded arrest and punishment to the BNP activists who attacked their party men, ransacked and torched their houses and business establishments recently.

At least 150 AL leaders and activists were attacked in the district.

Our Mymensingh Correspondent reports: Speakers at a similar rally held at the Awami League office demanded punishment to the killers of the national leaders.

Fourteen-party Combine led by Awami League (AL) organised the rally where 14-party Combine convenor Principal Motiur Rahman chaired.

Earlier, Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam Smiriti Parishad brought out a mourning procession in the district town in the morning. Wreaths were placed at portrait of the late leader at his college road residence.

A Chandpur correspondent reports: Jail killing Day was observed at Chandpur and all its seven upazilas today under the auspices of 14 party alliances with due honour.

Chandpur unit of 14 party-Combine organised a mass rally at Shapla intersection in the afternoon.

AL leader Shamsul Huq Bhuiyan was in the chair.

Among others, 14-party leaders Advocate Fazlul Huq Sarker, Abu Nayeem Dulal Patwary, Nasir uddin Bhuiyan, Maulana A Latif and Advocate Selim Akbar addressed.

Speakers called upon people to rally round 14-party Combine and empower its leaders defeating corrupt 4-party Alliance leaders through ballot in the coming Jatiya Sangsad election.

Similar programmes were also held in other districts to mark the occasion.

TALA BNP PRESIDENT MURDER

Former party lawmaker blamed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Family members of slain Tala BNP President ABM Altaf Hossain yesterday accused Satkhira BNP convenor and former lawmaker Habibur Islam Habib as the mastermind of the murder.

They accused this a press conference held at the deceased's house at Bharsa village in Tala.

Slain leader's wife Rehana Khanam read out a written statement at the conference. She said her husband was killed by a group of miscreants following a rift in the party at the instigation of Habib, she said.

She alleged the godfathers are still active to save the killers who are threatening the victim's family to withdraw the case. She said the matter was already informed to the superintendent of police (SP), Fazlur Rahman.

Family member of the slain BNP leader urged the Investigation Officer (IO) of the case, Inspector Tarapada Das of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to complete the investigation and submit charge-sheet against the real killers as early as possible for speedy trial of the case.

On contact, Habib refuted the allegation brought against him.

Tala BNP President ABM Altaf Hossain was killed at Patkelghata in Tala upazila on May 4 in 2004.

BNP leader killed in Jhenidah

Bss, Jhenidah

A local BNP leader was shot and hacked to death by unknown miscreants at Fatepur under Harinakunda upazila last night.

The victim was identified as Abdur Rahim alias Montu, 53, son of late Shamsuddin of Sura village under Harinakunda upazila.

Police and locals said Montu was attacked at 11 pm last night by armed miscreants when he was sitting in front of a grocery at Fatepur village.

Later, police recovered the body from the spot.

One Mizan, on behalf of the outlawed Purbabanglar Communist Party (ML-Janajuddha), confessed over phone to involvement of his party in the killing.



Bogra farmers started harvesting new paddy 10 days ahead of the Bengali month of Agrahyan. The picture was taken yesterday.

36 Bangladeshis killed by BSF in S-W region in five months

AMANUR AMAN, back From Meherpur border

At least 36 Bangladeshi citizens were killed and 60 others injured by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at different border points in south-western (S-W) region in last five months.

BSF abducted at least 20 Bangladeshis during a period from June 4 to November 3. Fifteen of them are still in different Indian jails as BSF did not hand over them to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR).

According to information received from BDR, police and newspaper reports, BSF killed 32 Bangladeshis in the border points from January 1 to

June 3.

This figure is higher than any other period in the border points in last several years, sources said.

Twelve Bangladeshis were killed in Benapole border while 5 others in Satkhira, 5 in Kushtia, 4 in Chuadanga, 6 in Jhenidah and 5 in Jessore.

The latest incident of BSF killing occurred at Ghiba border of Sharsha upazila in Jessore on Wednesday. BDR said, BSF gunned down Bangladeshi cattle trader Shimul Hossain, 30, and injured another cattle trader Sahidul Islam.

The latest incident of abduction happened on October 23. BSF picked up two Bangladeshis from

Kushtia and Meherpur borders. Both are still in Indian jail.

BDR said, the tragic incidents happened although an accord was reached at a high level Indo-Bangladesh Border Conference held at Kushtia on June 4-5. High officials of both the countries attended the conference. The then Deputy Commissioner of Kushtia Jamal A Naser Choudhury and the Administrator of Nadia district Rajesh A Pande represented the respective countries. Both sides agreed to take "effective measures" to keep border peaceful. A series of flag meetings were also held at different border points during the period.



A mourning procession was brought out in Rajshahi city yesterday to mark the Jail Killing Day. Awami League led 14-party Combine took out the procession.

GANOKENDRA SUCCESS STORY
A journey from destitution to economic stability

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Here is a success story of rural poor women of Daripara, a neglected village at Uttar Shilmandi in Narsingdi district who are breaking away from tradition while making tremendous change in the society.

Earlier, working outside home was discouraged by the communities, but these audacious women became self-reliant by dint of their strength of character, initiative and determination.

Nahar, 26, became a destitute when her husband left her for a new wife 8 eight years ago. She took up the job of domestic help. She could not maintain her three-member family with the meagre income.

But, things turned around when she was enrolled with Chanderhat Ganokendra, a people's centre. Aimed to uplift the disadvantaged and destitute women, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) established it on December 18, 1997.

Nahar took non-formal education and necessary training on income generating activities at the Ganokendra. Utilising the training, she bought wool from market and began to make sweaters. She took orders and sold those in the neighbourhood. Soon, good times returned. Now, economic prosperity brought her social recognition while two of her children are growing up with education.

Like Nahar, 39 other rural women took training there on human rights, gender equity, primary health and nutrition, numeracy and income generating activities in collaboration with various government and non-governmental organisations.

All are now employed and maintaining their families earning on average between Tk 200-250 per week, said DAM Programme Division coordinator Md Shahidul Islam.

From its inception, Chanderhat Ganokendra was funded by DAM. Ultimately, it became self-reliant through its own resources, Islam said.

Now, it has emerged as a comprehensive development approach and is rendering linkage services of different government (GO) and non-government organisations (NGOs), he added.

Chanderhat has become the heart of the entire community catering to the individual needs as well as community needs.

Such type of model is being emulated in other countries of South Asia.

Its activities are being supervised by an executive committee elected from among its members, 60 per cent of whom are women.

The activities include helping children to get themselves admitted to schools, resisting school dropouts, improving the standard of literacy, setting up sanitary latrines, prevention of child marriage and dowry, rendering health care to poor villagers, establishing satellite clinic and nutrition centre, organising people's drama, essay competition, poetry recital, debate, rally, bringing out wall magazines, helping to keep birth and marriage registration, as well as motivating people to improve social atmosphere.

National and international days are also observed regularly under the auspices of Chanderhat.



Chanderhat Ganokendra members are seen engaged in income generating activities at Daripara village in Uttar Shilmandi, Narsingdi.

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