

Police camps demanded in Patuakhali shoals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Several hundred farmers from Bauful and Dashmina brought out a procession in Mirzagonj upazila headquarters yesterday demanding setting up of police camps in remote shoals and other steps to save their Aman crop from being looted by musclemen.

Local influentials engage armed musclemen to forcibly harvest paddy in many shoal areas during harvest season.

The farmers also submitted a memorandum to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) to press their demand.

The procession started from Subidkhal bazar and concluded in front of UNO's office where the rally was held. It was addressed by Nurul Islam, Abdus Sattar Gazi, Abdul Mannan Sharif and Milon Gazi.

Earlier on Friday, farmers' leaders from 11 shoal areas in Bauful and Dashmina at a press conference at Patuakhali Press Club urged the administration to set up temporary police camps in shoals to protect their crops during the harvest season.

The shoals are Char Shahjalal, Char Hadi and Char Bashbaria in Dashmina; Char Baret, Char Basudev Saha, Char Mominpur, Char Ray Saheb, Char Wadel, Char Blandi, Char Pakdal and Char Diara Kachua in Bauful upazila. The press conference was organised by Char Unnayan Parishad, a local organisation of farmers.

Its secretary Mokbul Hossain addressed the press conference.

ALLIANCE TICKET FROM B'BARIA-5

BJP leader's joining flares feud in BNP

SHEIKH SHAHIDUL ISLAM, B'baria

The intra-party feud in BNP in Brahmanbaria-5 (Nabinagar upazila) constituency has widened following former BJP lawmaker Kazi Anwar Hussain's joining the party and his submission of nomination paper.

His potential rival Takdir Hossain Jasim, upazila BNP secretary and central joint general secretary of its peasant front Krishak Dal, has also sought alliance nomination from the constituency.

Kazi Anwar Hussain was elected from Brahmanbaria-5 (Nabinagar upazila) in 1986, 1988 and 1991 with Jatiya Party (Ershad) ticket. He was a Presidium member of JP. In 2001 election, he was elected with ticket from BJP, a component of four-party alliance.

On December 2, Anwar Hussain along with about 5000 supporters joined BNP in presence of party chairperson Khaleda Zia at Hawa Bhaban.

After his joining, a BNP faction in Nabinagar led by upazila BNP president advocate MA Mannan has sided with Takdir Hossain Jasim, party sources claimed while talking to this correspondent. This faction is opposing Anwar Hussain, they said.

On the other hand, another faction led by Nabinagar upazila BNP secretary Mohammad Malai has sided with newcomer Kazi Anwar Hussain.

None from the faction led by Takdir Hossain Jasim was present



Kazi Anwar Hussain

at the Hawa Bhaban function, the party sources said.

Jasim's faction has been opposing Anwar Hussain since he left JP and joined BJP before the 2001 polls. After joining the 4-party alliance in 2001, Anwar Hussain formed a upazila committee of four-party alliance.

His rival Jasim also formed another alliance committee there. Jasim's faction of BNP also declared Anwar Hussain 'unwanted' in Nabinagar.

Some party activists loyal to upazila BNP president MA Mannan alleged that during his tenure as lawmaker, Anwar Hussain did not maintain contact with the local party leaders though he won the 2001 election as an alliance candidate.

"After Anwar's joining BNP, the conflict in four-party alliance has turned into an intra-party feud in BNP in Nabinagar", one of them said.



Takdir Hossain Jasim

Mannan's men are opposing Anwar Hussein and working for Takdir Hossain Jasim, they said.

Talking to this correspondent, Mannan said a large section of BNP leaders and activists do not like Anwar because he changed parties only for ticket to become a lawmaker.

On the other hand, party men loyal to upazila BNP secretary Muhammad Malai are working for newcomer Anwar Hussain, sources said, the rival groups are engaged in mudslinging.

While contacted over cell phone, Anwar Hussain admitted that Takdir Hossain Jasim, a 'strong leader of Nabinagar BNP', did not support him.

"BNP high command will decide who will be the fittest candidate from Brahmanbaria-5", Anwar said.

SOA LEADER MURDER Hartal called in Rangamati, Khagrachhari for today

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Somo Odhikar Andolon, an organisation of Bengalee settlers in Chittagong Hill Tracts, yesterday called a dawn to dusk hartal for today in Rangamati and Khagra-chhari district.

The programme was announced yesterday at rallies at the hill district towns to protest killing of Somo Odhikar Andolon leader Kina Mohan Chakma, our correspondents reported.

Kina Mohan was killed allegedly by unidentified criminals in Rangamati while going to attend an organisational meeting on Saturday. The body was found in a jungle near Parachhara Primary School Monday afternoon.

Somo Odhikar Andolon held the meeting in front of Rangamati Press Club.

Speakers blamed the leaders of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) for the killing.

They demanded immediate arrest of its chief Santu Larma and secretary Satyabir Dewan. They threatened a tougher agitation in near future if their demand is not met immediately.

Somo Adhikar Andolon vice president Shahid Chowdhury, secretary Jahangir Kamal and joint secretary Md Yunus addressed the meeting.

However, PCJSS publicity secretary Mongal Kumar Chakma refuted the allegations saying their organisation does not believe in killing and abduction.



PHOTO: STAR

Mymensingh cinema blast victim Shaheen making view cards at the Community Centre for Handicapped in the town.

They did little, paid only lip service in last 4 years

Laments Shaheen, 20, disabled by Mymensingh cinema blasts

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Twenty year-old Shaheen, with two legs amputated, makes view cards to scratch a living for four dependents-- his mother, a younger brother and two minor sisters.

He lives on with all his hopes shattered by the horrific cinema blasts in Mymensingh town on December 7, 2002, that killed 21 people and injured over 100, leaving 13 disabled.

Shaheen is among the few lucky ones trained by a local NGO-- Community Center for Handicapped (CCH)--to earn barely around Tk 1200 a month.

"I am lucky to get the chance. Some others (blast victims) are in worst condition", he told this correspondent at his CCH workplace in the town. A few other disabled people (not victims of the blast) also work there.

"I have no future. I don't know what I will do in future", he said casting a vacant look.

Shaheen was among the injured in the blasts that rocked Ajanta, Chhayabani, Aloka and Purobi cinema halls in the evening of December 7. Shaheen was an employee at Ajanta cinema.

After treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, CCH helped him with a pair of artificial legs for free and trained him to make view cards.

He is the son of Mongal Sheikh of Akua area in the district town, who lives separately with his second wife.

The view cards Shaheen and his colleagues make at CCH have however good demand, he said. His earnings depend on his work.

After the incident, many government and non-government organisations and political parties gave assurances to support the victims to help them lead normal life but little has been done, Shaheen said.

CCH did a lot to rehabilitate me, he said. He expressed his gratitude to his trainer, Bappi, another disabled youth working with CCH.

A card sells at Tk 36 to 40. These are made of locally procured items like fine paper, straw, stalks of different agricultural products and oyster shells.

Meanwhile different socio-cultural, political and professional organisations and NGOs have taken up various programmes to commemorate the tragedy tomorrow.

The local unit of Bangladesh

Human Rights Commission (BHRC), will form a human chain at Firoj-Jahangir Square in the town and hold a discussion meeting.

"Every year programmes are held marking the tragedy but that is all", another blast victim Fazal lamented.

Four cases were filed with a magistrate court here after the incident. Police arrested about 100 people including 31 Awami League leaders and activists. The AL men included its central leader Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Mymensingh district president Motiur Rahman. All of them later got bail from courts.

The masterminds behind the blasts became known when two top leaders of Islamist militant organisation Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB)--Aaur Rahman Sunny and Mamun--, arrested earlier this year, gave confessional statements that JMB was involved in the incidents.

The cases are still under trial with a magistrate court, said advocate Ermdadul Haque Millat. Police are yet to arrest any of the culprits involved in the blasts.



PHOTO: STAR

A BNP procession in Sylhet city yesterday demanding punishment of killers of JCD activist Faiz Ahmed Anu (left) and Awami League activists marching streets in Durgapur upazila town in Rajshahi for trial of murder of Chhatra League leader Babu.

Prime accused in Pangsha cop murder held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Jhenidah police have arrested the prime accused in the murder of Sun-inspector Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Pangsha thana in Rajbari district.

Being tipped-off, a team from Sailkupa police station in Jhenidah raided the house of one Bharu Mondol at Majdia in Sailkupa upazila Sunday night and arrested Badsha Alam alias Dulal.

Dulal hails from Bagdul village in Pangsha.

Mizanur Rahman was killed in a gunfight with a gang on March 23, 2004 when a police team led by him raided a Patta village to arrest some criminals.

Rajbari police said Dulal is also accused in different cases including five for murder filed with different police stations in Rajbari and Kushtia.

270 BNP, JP men join AL in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

About 270 leaders and activists of Jatiya Party (JP-Ershad), its labour front Shramik Party and BNP's labour front Jatiyatabadi Shramik Dal joined Awami League in Kalaroa yesterday and the day before.

Former Kalaroa upazila JP general secretary Ali Hossain Shelly led about 120 party men to join AL at a simple function held on Kalaroa AL office premises.

Kalaroa AL convenor Sajedur Rahman Khan Chowdhury welcomed the newcomers to the party and urged them to work for the party in coming election.

Local AL leaders former lawmaker BM Nazrul Islam, Monwara

Farooque, Moslemuddin, Firoz Ahmed also attended the function.

Over 150 leaders and activists of Shramik Dal and Shramik Party led by Abdullah Sardar and Shamim Al Mintu respectively joined AL's labour front Sramik League at a meeting held in Mill Gate area in the town Tuesday evening.

Satkhira AL general secretary Nazrul Islam welcomed the new comers to the party. Among others, Abdullah Sardar and Shamim Al Mintu addressed the meeting.

He said the Awami League led 14-party alliance is fighting for holding a free, fair and credible election in the country.

5X3

9X3

9X2