

Chunnu murder 19 get life-terms in Habiganj

HABIGANJ, Aug 15: A district court today sentenced 19 people to life term for murdering Sirajul Islam Chowdhury alias Chunnu, chairman of Mirashi union parishad, reports UNB.

Chairman of now defunct Chunarughat upazila Masud Chowdhury (50) and chairman of Chunarughat union parishad Moslemuddin (60) were among all the 19 accused found guilty and convicted by the Additional District Judge Abdul Mannan.

According to the prosecution, Sirajul Islam was returning home on motor cycle from Rajbarbar in the evening of October 13, 1987 when one of the accused shot him down. The victim was then dragged to the bank of river Khowat and was stabbed and beheaded by the accused persons.

Masud Chowdhury and Moslemuddin were also fined Tk 50,000 each.

Eleven others sentenced to life term and a fine of Tk 10,000 each are Farooq Chowdhury, Abdul Malek, Monohar Ali, Ali Hyder, Khorshed Ali, Akkel Ali, Abdus Samad, Noor Mia, Najot Mia, Abul Hashim and Kashem Ali.

Six persons awarded similar sentence in absentia are Nurunnabi, Siddiq Ali, Iman Ali, Abdul Qayyum Chowdhury, Mizanur Rahman and Abdul Malek.

Special Public Prosecutor Taus Mia Mahalder appeared for the prosecution while Advocate Nurul Amin appeared for the accused.

Girl commits suicide

By Staff Correspondent

A young girl reportedly committed suicide at a residence at Sultanganj under Mohammadpur Police Station in the city Saturday afternoon.

The victim, Purnima Rani Sarkar, was a student of Class VI of Rayer Bazar Taliganj High School. She was 14.

Family sources said Purnima was mentally depressed following her mother's death and father's second marriage.

They also said that they found Purnima hanging in her room at around 3 pm yesterday.

Mohammadpur police said the victim's father, Gauranga Chandra Sarkar, informed them about the incident.

Mourning day

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Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina accompanied by party central leaders and a large number of workers garlanded Bangabandhu's portrait at Dhanmondi soon after the hartal hours.

She was followed by the leaders of front organisations of AL and leaders of other political parties and different professional groups and socio-cultural organisations.

Sheikh Hasina then inaugurated an art exhibition and a blood donation programme in the Bangabandhu Bhaban premises.

Chhatra League unit of the Dhaka University Institute of Arts organised the programmes.

Later, the AL leaders went to the Banani graveyard where they offered Foteha and munaajat for the salvation of the departed souls of those of the August 15 victims buried there.

Sheikh Hasina also visited the grave of Col Jamil, the military secretary to Bangabandhu.

AL leaders attended the Qurankhwan and milad mahfils organised in the city wards and mosques and distributed food among the poor.

After the Ar prayers, a milad mahfil was held at the Bangabandhu Bhaban. Besides, day-long Qurankhwan was held there and at the Banani graveyard.

All the units of the Awami League, its front organisations, different socio-cultural bodies including the Bangabandhu Parishad and Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikyaote chalked out elaborate programmes in observance of the 'mourning day'.

Several processions were also brought in the city where the processions demanded repeal of the Indemnity Act to hold the trial of Bangabandhu's killers.

Bangabandhu Parishad which ended a three-day programme yesterday garlanded Sheikh Mujib's portrait at the Bangabandhu Bhaban which was overcrowded with followers and admirers of the great leader throughout the day.

The Bangabandhu Shilpee Gosthi fed destitutes at the Nawabpur central office in the city and Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikyaote organised a discussion meeting followed by a cultural function in the city. Other organisations that chalked out programmes on the day were the Bangabandhu Smriti Sangrakkhan Parishad, Jatya Janata Party, JSD (Mohiuddin) and all the wings of the AL.

One hurt during hartal in Tungipara

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Aug 15: The death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was observed throughout the district today amid stray incidents of violence during the hartal hours.

At Tungipara, the day was marked through the holding of Quran Khwan, milad mahfils and distribution of food among destitutes at the Mazaar of Bangabandhu.

A student of G T High School in Tungipara was seriously injured when pickets threw bricks after the students refused to join the programme. Arifuzzaman, a student of Class X, was admitted to a local private clinic.

Pickets also attacked and ransacked the Jaffayatbadi Chhatra Dal and Jubo Dal offices in Tungipara during the hartal hours. Police baton charged a group of pickets when they tried to block employees of the Khastiani Thana Parishad from attending office.

Earlier, Kader Siddiqui visited the mazaar of Bangabandhu in the morning and also distributed food among the destitutes in the area.

A meeting was held at the mazaar premises by the Tungipara Thana Awami League unit in the evening. Presided over by Thana AL unit president Laik Ali Biswas, the meeting was also addressed, among others, by K M Jahangir MP, Siddiqur Rahman, Mukul Bose and Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah.

The district Mujib Sena unit also held a mourning meet at the local press club.

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Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao addressing a crowd of 15,000 from behind bullet-proof glass at Delhi's Red Fort during Independence Day celebration yesterday. Rao warned that Delhi would retain control of Kashmir at any cost (Story on Page 5) — AFP photo

CMC classes start, KMC opens today

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 15: The classes of Khulna Medical College will begin tomorrow with 45 students including 13 females.

In the first year classes four subjects Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry and Community Medicine will be taught.

Eleven lecturers have already joined the Medical College while three appointed professors are yet to report to duty.

Our Comilla Correspondent adds: Classes of the newly established Comilla Medical College began today.

The Medical College was opened in the now defunct Medical Assistant Training School with 48 students including 13 females.

A principal, 3 assistant professors and 10 lecturers have so far joined the Medical College.

Zardari attends NA session

ISLAMABAD, Aug 15: The jailed husband of Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto arrived here today from the southern city of Karachi under police escort to represent his constituency in the National Assembly, reports AFP.

Asif Ali Zardari, who has been in jail for more than 21 months in connection with his ongoing trial by special courts on kidnapping and murder charges, attended the proceedings of the House along with his wife.

Meanwhile Pakistan's opposition marked the country's 46th independence celebrations with a large anti-government rally, where former premier Benazir Bhutto called for new elections, reports said today.

Addressing thousands at a public meeting in Lahore that continued beyond midnight Friday, Bhutto accused Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of mismanagement, corruption and collusion with secessionists.

But Bhutto did not make widely expected references to planned mass resignations by opposition members of parliament, a threat she and her colleagues have made previously.

Sporadic clashes mark hartal

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Injured in police action when she tried to save one of the party activists from arrest for stoning a BRTC bus. AL leader Shahera Khatun and Shahjahan Khan MP were present at the spot.

More than 200 party workers later staged a sit-in blocking police vehicles and another BRTC bus at around 9-15 am. The siege was withdrawn after 25 minutes when the police vehicles moved off in the opposite direction.

In Malibag a newspaper transport was damaged by unidentified attackers in the guise of pickets. The attackers also blasted several cocktails.

Two AL supporters were picked up from near the Joykali Mandir for stoning a minibus that was carrying policemen. They were later released at the request of the AL leaders, witnesses said.

A pro-hartal procession reportedly came under attack by unidentified assailants in the Tejgaon area.

At around 11 am a group of BNP supporters came out with motorcycles and rickshaws in the Hatkhola area but disappeared before any untoward incident took place.

Paramilitary BDR forces were deployed in some of the city areas during hartal hours.

Our DU Correspondent adds: A group of unruly youths set a motorbike ablaze near the TSC on the Dhaka University campus. The motorcycle was taken from the Shahbag crossing.

Our Staff Correspondent in Chittagong reports: A complete

Troops, militants clash in Kashmir: 16 killed

SRINAGAR, Aug 15: Indian soldiers fatally shot 16 people Saturday to contain an upsurge in secessionist violence in the disputed Jammu-Kashmir state, where Muslim guerrillas are battling for independence, police sources and witnesses said, reports AP.

The clashes coincided with India celebrating its independence from colonial Britain 45 years ago.

Muslim guerrillas, clashed with the troops at four places in Srinagar, capital of Jammu-Kashmir state and centre of the secessionist campaign, a police official said.

Eight people, including five militants and three civilians, were killed in police gunfire in Srinagar, a city of 800,000 people. India has stationed 100,000 troops to contain the movement in the strategic state, which borders with Pakistan and China, with whom India has uneasy relations.

In New Delhi, Prime Minister PV Narasimha said that talks with Pakistan had failed to end Islamabad's support for Muslim separatists in Kashmir, which he called a non-negotiable part of India.

"No force on earth can alienate it (Kashmir) from us," Rao said, in an Independence Day address to the nation in New Delhi, India's right to Kashmir, he said, "is the bottom line."

In Srinagar, two rockets exploded outside a stadium where the governor was reviewing troops at the Independence Day parade. Two people were injured, officials said.

The explosions, fired from 500 meters (yards) away, went unnoticed in the parade grounds.

Soldiers shot and killed three militants in the town of Bandipura, 65 kilometers (40 miles) northeast of Srinagar on Saturday. The guerrillas were shot during a combined operation in the area, said witnesses, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Near the town of Tral, 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of Srinagar, a group of militants attacked a paramilitary Border Security Force patrol, injuring two soldiers. The armymen returned the fire, killing five militants, said witnesses, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

Diarrhoea claims 10 in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 15: Diarrhoea has broken out in the district in an epidemic form. At the Sirajganj Sadar Hospital, patients are lying on the floor due to scarcity of beds.

The worst affected areas are Sirajganj sadar, Belkuchi, Raiganj and Tarash thanas.

At least 10 people died of the disease in the last three days. However, the civil surgeon's office has confirmed four deaths.

Resist fifth columnists: Freedom Party

Freedom Party chairman Col. (Retd) Sayed Farooq Rahman yesterday called on the people to resist 'fifth columnists who are dragging the country into a civil war', reports UNB.

Col. Farooq was speaking at a discussion meeting organised by his party to observe its programme of 'freedom day' on August 15. He urged the BNP government to curb the activities of Awami league which he branded as the 'fifth columnists' working to turn Bangladesh into a vassal state of a neighbouring country.

He alleged that Awami activists were trying to destabilize the country by creating anarchy. Faruk said that the BNP government should never compromise with the Awami league.

Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna adds: Half-day hartal was observed here peacefully. All shops, private offices, banks, insurance companies, business organisations and autonomous bodies remained closed during the hartal hours. Vehicular traffic including rickshaw went off of the road. Coach services to and from Khulna also remained suspended.

Student organisation of Awami League brought out processions in the city. Pickets were active at different points of the city but no untoward incident happened.

Our Correspondent in Gazipur says: The half-day hartal was observed peacefully in Tongi and other industrial areas of the district.

Mills and factories in the district operated partially with a less than normal attendance of workers.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent says: Train movements remained suspended for hours together as a half-day hartal was observed otherwise peacefully in the district.

Our Bogra Correspondent reports: The half-day hartal was observed peacefully in the district.

All modes of vehicles remained off the streets while trains did not operate.

Our Rajbari Correspondent reports: Two people were injured in a clash between pickets and anti-hartal activists in Pangsha upazila during hartal hours.

Police used tear gas to disperse the clashing mob. Train and bus movement remained suspended.

At Goalando, the Aricha-Daultadia ferry service remained suspended during the hartal hours.

Our Correspondent in Sylhet adds: A complete half-day hartal was observed in Sylhet Saturday.

All kinds of vehicles stayed off the streets during hartal hours.

However, rail communications were almost normal.

Bitan flights were also normal except the first one to Dhaka which was suspended due to the shortage of passengers, Biman sources said.

UNB from Jamalpur adds: A six-hour hartal was peacefully observed in the town and thana headquarters.

Educational institutions, banks and business establishments were shut down during the hartal.

A report from Lalmonirhat says: Barring some stray incidents, the six-hour hartal called by Awami League was observed peacefully in the district.

Report from Sirajganj adds: The half-day hartal was partially observed here with few stray incidents at different points of the town.

Rickshaws were out in the streets and some buses were also seen plying during the hartal hours.

Hat-bazar also operated normally. Transaction in bank were normal.

In Pabna the hartal was successful and observed peacefully in the town.

Ceasefire in Georgia

SUKHUMI (Georgia), Aug 15: Georgian government officials and leaders of the break-away Black Sea region of Abkhazia agreed today to end fighting in the former Soviet Republic.

"We have decided to separate the rival forces immediately. This decision will give us the chance to go on with further talks. It is a first step, Abkhazian Interior Minister Alexander Ankvab told Reuters.

He was speaking after returning from peace talks in the regional capital Sukhumi. Machingonev battles continued regardless of efforts to implement the truce.

Both sides said they were trying to get their gunmen to respect a ceasefire, but apparently could not control them during the day, fighting broke out every half hour or so and then died away after 10 minutes as politicians sought to bring the fighters under control.

Abkhazian television said sporadic fighting was taking place along the main road from Sukhumi to Georgia proper. It was fiercest at Ochamchira where a bridge was blown up.

Khaleda

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speaks at the UNGA, official sources said.

"We are making our preparations. Whoever goes, our job will be the same," an official said, speaking on the speculation.

Last year Begum Zia cancelled her UN visit at the last moment to make herself available at home to witness the transition to parliamentary democracy.

This year, there are suggestions from some official quarters that the Prime Minister not undertake the visit unless she is able to meet a good number of world leaders at the UN.

They point out to the possibility of many world leaders' not attending the UNGA this year as they had already met only recently, in June, during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Moreover, President Bush will not be available for a meeting because of his preoccupation with the US elections.

World leaders attending the UNGA usually use the occasion for bilateral talks and exchange of views on regional and international issues as part of the global PR activity.

Those who speak against the visit argue that the likely absence of many world leaders has diminished its importance from the public relations point of view.

Another factor that may contribute to the PM's not visiting New York is her tour of Jakarta Aug. 31 to Sept. 6 where she meets the Non-Aligned leaders.

She will also be busy at home during the next two months receiving Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa in the first week of October, overseeing her party's by-election campaign for two parliament seats from Rajbari and Mymensingh and presiding over the preparations for the SAARC summit scheduled for December in Dhaka.

The Midnight File

British warship may reach Kuwait tomorrow

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 15: The British warship HMS Edinburgh was expected in the Kuwaiti port of Shuwaib on Monday ahead of joint manoeuvres, a British diplomat said here today. A contingent of 33 royal marines on board will also help train units of the palace guard and the Kuwait navy, he said, reports AFP.

Afghan govt expels Hekmatyar

KABUL, Aug 15: Afghanistan's Islamic government has ordered the expulsion of renegade fundamentalist leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar as punishment for a relentless week-long rocket attack on the capital, diplomats said Saturday. In a meeting Friday with foreign diplomats, President Burhanuddin Rabbani said Hekmatyar's representative, Ustad Abdul Saboor Farid, was no longer prime minister in the 3-month-old interim government, sources said, reports AP.

Eastern Bank

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All the liabilities of the BCCI will also be lying with Eastern Bank.

The depositors will not get any interests on their deposits from July 6, 1991 till the date to be decided by the BI notification. However, they will get interest from the date of the notification.

The scheme further says the employees of Eastern Bank will be absorbed by the Eastern Bank with the same terms and conditions as before. Any employee can apply for his or her release from job within one month of the restructuring of BCCI and he or she will get three months basic salary and other admissible termination benefits.

The scheme says that there will be a readjustment of the salary of the employees within three months from the time the scheme comes into effect.

The bank will have an 11-member board of directors. The first 7-member board of directors of the Bank will be appointed by the government with a serving term of six months.

Defaulters

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general interest.

The Suggestion further said that those borrowers against whom cases have been filed could settle their disputes by paying 15 per cent of their loan money and the cost of case-filing.

The banks were supposed to inform the borrowers about the exemption decision within the next 45 days and the total money, minus the exempted sum, had to be paid during this time.

Sources said that most of the borrowers who could not avail the opportunity were from Rupali Bank, Uttara Bank and Pubali Bank.

However, Rupali Bank has recently formed a committee to examine the applications of borrowers. Sources said that a number of borrowers could get the opportunity after the report of the committee.

US warship

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Security Council's decision on Thursday.

"We will only participate in the London conference (on Yugoslavia) if our conditions are met," Pante added, insisting that a delegation representing Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) be present at the August 26-28 international conference alongside delegation representing Serbia and Montenegro.

Lord Carrington, the European mediator on Yugoslavia, played down today the failure of the latest round of peace talks in Brussels when presidents of the other former Yugoslav republics refused to sit at the same table as Pante when he said he was representing the "new" Yugoslavia.

Fighting between Croatian and Serbian forces in Herzegovina broke out again today in the region of Trebinje where a Croatian offensive is underway, Tanjug said.

AP from Sarajevo adds: AUN aid convoy headed for the besieged city of Goradze on Saturday, testing Serbian willingness to bend after the UN Security Council voted to back humanitarian shipments to Bosnia with force.

Eight trucks carrying 46 tons of food, protected by three armored personnel carriers manned by Ukrainian troops, left the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo early in the morning, said UN spokesman Adnan Add-clay.

A convoy last attempted to go to Goradze, 30 miles (48 kilometers) east of Sarajevo, 10 days before. It turned back when it ran into a Serbian minefield and Serb militias in the area refused to show it the way through.

Goradze, like Sarajevo, has been under siege by Bosnian Serb forces but has received hardly any relief shipments in comparison with Sarajevo.

The Serb forces are fighting Bosnian Croats and Muslims and have captured two-thirds of Bosnia-Herzegovina since the republic voted for independence in February.

Bosnia

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adopted two resolutions on the latest situation in the Bosnia-Herzegovina imbroglio.

Any military action would take place "in coordination with the United Nations" but would not involve the UN peacekeepers in the Sarajevo Airport, said the Resolution 770 adopted with a margin of 12 votes in favour - none against and three abstaining.

The Resolution 771 on "ethnic cleansing" was adopted as the Serb forces in Bosnia have been accused of clearing the Muslims and Croats out of towns and villages overrun by the Serbs.

The town people are reportedly either killed, taken prisoner or become refugees.

New movement

From Page 1 Col 2

Paltu, the rally was addressed, among others, by Abdur Razzak MP, Amir Hossain Amu and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya.

Abdur Razzak called upon the people to politically resist both the killers and collaborators of the war of independence and the killers of Bangabandhu.

He said that spontaneous support to yesterday's hartal proved that people wanted the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"Today's hartal proves that the people want an end to the politics of coup and killing," he said, "it also proves that the people want rule of law in the country."

Razzak resented the present government's allegiance to the 'self-confessed' killers of Bangabandhu and said that anti-democratic forces would grab power unless the Indemnity Ordinance was repealed.

Amir Hossain Amu said that the new movement which started with yesterday's hartal would not stop till the repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance.

He demanded media coverage on the life and works of Sheikh Mujib. "People want to see Mujib on TV," he said.

Mofazzal Hossain Paltu said the 'successful' hartal showed that Sheikh Mujib could not be blotted out from the minds of the country's people.

He condemned the harassment of the party workers across the country and the police assault on AL leader Begum Matia Chowdhury MP.

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Chhatra Maitree claimed its two workers were assaulted by the activists of JCD in the hall premises.

Earlier, the two groups chased each other after activists of Chhatra Maitree allegedly threw out the bed of a JCD supporter at 11 pm. Leaders of the feuding groups tried in vain to settle the issue at a meeting.

The agitating JCD activists later chased out the Maitree supporters from the hall.

The incident also created agitation between supporters of the two groups in Madarbox Hall, Habibur Rahman Hall and Mannujun Hall.

In Mannujun Hall, a girl student, Mita, received minor injury in the skirmishes while 25 rooms of Suhrawardy Hall, Madarbox Hall, Habibur Rahman Hall were ransacked.

Many students left the halls for fear of further untoward incidents.