

SNAPS

Killing protested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura Members of the Magura Press Club staged a silent procession wearing black badge yesterday protesting the killing of Sangbad Staff Correspondent Manik Chandra Shaha.

After parading the main streets of the town they submitted two memoranda to Magura Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police.

Journalists of different national dailies took part in the procession.

1,000 warm clothes distributed

BSS, Chuadanga

A total of 1,000 pieces of warm clothes were distributed by a non-governmental organisation among the destitute of Chuadanga Pourashava area on Thursday.

The warm clothes were donated by the Nabaganga Khal Water Management Samabaya Samity here. Chuadanga Deputy Commissioner Syed Mahbub Hasan distributed the clothes among the cold-stricken people of the municipality area at a function held on the premises of Poura College here. A cold wave swept over Chuadanga district for about a fortnight in late December and early January.

Work on 24 Family Welfare Centres goes on

BSS, Barisal

Work on 24 Family Welfare Centers (FWCs) has been progressing fast in six southern districts under Barisal division.

According to an official source, the government sanctioned Tk 35 lakh for construction of each of the centre in Bhola district, one in Barguna district, two in Pirojpur district, six in Patuakhali district and two in Barisal district.

The work on the project will be completed within June. On completion of the project, about 20,000 people of the each of 24 unions of the districts would be benefited.



Awami League (AL) Secretary General Md Abdul Jalil MP, addressing a meeting at the triennial conference of Gopalganj AL at the district town on Wednesday.



PHOTO: STAR

Gopalganj AL's triennial confce held

No safety, security of people during Alliance rule: Jalil

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

There is no safety and security of people's life and property as the law and order has gone from bad to worse during the Four-party Alliance rule.

Awami League (AL) Secretary General Md Abdul Jalil MP, said this at the triennial conference of Gopalganj district AL at the municipality park as chief guest on Wednesday.

The government failed to establish the rule of law in the country, Jalil said. He said that people's misery multiplied due to price

spiral of essential commodities. Development work of the country is being hampered as ministers and leaders of the ruling alliance serve their own interest at the cost of people's welfare, he added.

Mohd Ali Khan Abu Mia presided over the conference. Among others, ex-minister Sk Fazlul Karim Selim, MP, member, AL Advisory committee Kazi Akramuddin, party's Joint Secretary Mukul Bose, AL Organising Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Lt Col (Retd) Faruque Khan, MP, Religious Affairs Secretary, Sk Mohd Abdullah and SM Kamal Hossain were present in the conference.

Sk Fazlul Karim Selim, MP inaugurated the conference as special guest and Md Abdul Jalil, MP, Faruque Khan, MP, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Mukul Bose, Kazi Akramuddin, Sk Md Abdullah, General Secretary, All European Awami League MO Ghani, S M Kamal and Kamrul Islam Raiz delivered their speeches.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury in his address said that about 70,000 miscreants were released from jail during the BNP-Jamaat rule while self-declared killers of the father of the nation Bangabandhu were honoured by providing services..

Sk Fazlul Karim Selim, MP, in his speech stated that the country was self-sufficient in food during five years AL regime while at present famine has been prevailing all over the country. Mills and factories were closed by the present government for which thousands of people lost jobs.

In the conference the existing President Mohd Ali Khan Abu Mia and Acting General Secretary Emdadul Hoque Chowdhury were declared unanimously Gopalganj district AL President and General Secretary for the next three years.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Three people were awarded life term imprisonment by a court here for killing a Diploma-in-Commerce student on Wednesday.

First Additional District and Sessions Judge Khondoker Emdaul Hasan convicted them for killing Nazmul Hossain Nazlu in a crowded court. The court also acquitted 10 persons due to lack of sufficient evidence.

The convicts are: Masud, son of Mokbl Hossain Akhand of

Kamalpur Shahpara village in Sariakandi upazila, Zakir Hossain, son of Sadek Ali of Pakuria village in the same upazila and Belal Hossain, son of Zoynal Uddin of Kadamtoli village in Gabtoli upazila, Bogra. However, Zakir Hossain has been absconding. His punishment would be executed from the day of his arrest.

Nazlu, a diploma student of the National Training and Research Academy for Multilingual Shorthand (NTRAMS) and the convicts had a quarrel at Madhu Cinema Hall in Bogra town over purchase of tickets. At one stage

India constructs barbed wire fencing along Satkhira border areas

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

Work on barbed wire fencing, observation tower and pucca road along the bordering Ghojadanga area in India opposite Bhomra port in Satkhira goes on in full swing by the government of India in violation of international norms.

The Indian government started work on barbed wire fencing in the area on December 10 after lapse of three years.

Construction of the fencing started from Pillar No-2 in Satkhira district. The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) personnel are directly supervising the work.

The Indian government already completed fencing work along 507-kilometre out of 1,500-kilometre border with Bangladesh in the first phase from 1992 to '94.

During the period, the Indian government completed the fencing work along 30 out of 79-kilometre border in Satkhira with West Bengal in India.

In the second phase in 2000, the

BSF started work on the barbed wire fencing beyond 150 yards of Amudia and Kaijuri border area in Indian side opposite Taluigachha and Baikari areas in Satkhira.

At that time, the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) protested and resisted the Indian government's move to construct the barbed wire fencing work violating international norms.

At the same time, Indian citizens filed a case against the move of the Government of India. Hundreds of inhabitants live in their houses for long from where the barbed wire fencing is being constructed. As a result, the inhabitants can not utilise schools, markets, temples, mosques and cultivable lands went out of people's reach.

Following local people's case and resistance by the paramilitary BDR, the Indian authorities were compelled to stop the fencing work.

While visiting the Bhomra border area in Sadar upazila on

Friday last, this correspondent came to know from reliable sources that the Indian government started the barbed wire fencing work along Ghojadanga border in Bashirhat Sub-division, West Bengal in India opposite Bhomra border in Satkhira (Border pillar No-2).

According to a reliable source, a conference of the Inspector General of police of each state of India was held in New Delhi in November last year. In the meeting, it was decided for resumption of construction work of the barbed wire fencing along the West Bengal bordering areas on an emergency basis.

On contact, Major Ashraf, Second-in-Command of 12 Rifles Battalion confirmed the fencing work along the bordering areas of Satkhira.

He, however, said that the BSF has not yet started the fencing work along the bordering disputed Amudia and Kajuri areas where they started fencing in 2000.



PHOTO: STAR

India has completed the barbed wire fencing as seen in the picture along Ghojadanga area opposite Bhomra area in Satkhira district.

Eco park at Modhupur: Father issues nine for killing Piren

JAHANGIR ALAM, Back From Modhupur (tangail)

Netrakona: Nine persons including the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Tangail and the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Modhupur police station (PS) were sued for killing indigenous Garo youth Piren Snal on January 3.

Piren was killed in a gun fire by police and forest guards while protesting an Eco park project in Modhupur forest area.

Victim's father Najan Nokrok filed a murder case at Tangail magistrate court against nine people including DFO, Tangail Abu Hanif Patwary and OC of Modhupur PS Abu Jafer Alam on Wednesday.

Earlier two cases were filed with Modhupur Police Station on January 3. A case was filed by SI Idris Ali of Modhupur PS accusing 500 to 600 unknown Garo people including Piren Snal, Ulfal Nokrak, Jorj Nokrak, Shamol Sangma, Mridul, Pramason Sangma, Sompod Sangma, Jon Chirang, Arison and Primian Sangma.

SI Idris Ali claimed in his deposition that 500 to 600 unknown Garos led by the aforementioned persons broke the wall and attacked them with sharp weapons and injured them.

But Piren was killed on the spot and Ulfal is fighting for life at the hospital.

Another killing case was filed by Abu Jafer Alam, OC Modhupur PS. Abu Jafer said in his deposition that Piren was shot dead by the gun fire of forest guards. He mentioned the names of Forester Md Abdur Rob, Forest Guard Mostafizur Rahman, Forest Guard Golam Mostafa and Gardener Minhajuddin.

But local Garos told that police fired shots aiming at the procession and Piren was killed by the gun fire of police. It was also learnt that police rushed the spot without permission of the authorities concerned.

On contact, OC, Modhupur told The Daily Star that police went to the forest area at a request of a contractor, Najan Nokrak. He said in his deposition

Transport strike in Gaibandha from Wednesday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Owners and transport workers in Gaibandha have threatened an indefinite strike from Wednesday if their three-point demands are not met by Tuesday.

Gaibandha Motor Malik Samity and Gaibandha Motro-Truck Labour Union threatened this at a joint press conference here on Friday.

The transport owners association's General Secretary Jaharul Islam Swapan in written statement told that being a leader of Four-party Alliance a leaseholder of BRTC operates bus service here as per sweet will violating existing rules and regulations.

A combined meeting of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) and Central Bus Malik-Sramik Oikya Parishad on August 20 last year decided to operate all BRTC buses from bus terminals where there is no depot of the state-run BRTC to restore its network in all districts. All Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Police Supers (SPs) were also informed to implement the resolution.

But the local BRTC commission agent did not carry out the order. Even Gaibandha DC and SP did not take initiatives to implement it.

Transport leaders complained non-cooperation from the district administration. They sought administration's cooperation to extend private bus service network at Kurigram, Thakurgaon, Naogaon and Joypurhat from Giabandha.

Despite bad road condition at Shaghata, Sunderganj, Sadullapur and Ghoraghat from Gaibandha, the bus owners introduced bus services in those remote areas for the greater interest of people even at risk of road mishap, transport leaders said. The damaged roads are yet to be repaired despite frequent appeals from them.

Under the circumstances, the transport leaders are compelled to take the strike programme for people's interest, they further said.

Zillur Rahman, President, Motor Malik Samity, Lal Mia Sarker, President, Gaibandha Motor-Truck Sramik Union and Samar Chakki, Advisor, Motor-Malik Samity attended the press conference.

12 journalists killed in southwestern dists since '94

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Twelve journalists including three editors were killed in different districts of south-western zone of the country since 1994.

The editors are Saiful Alam Mukul of Dainik Runner of Jessore, Mir Elias Hossain Dilip of Birdarpan of Jhenaidah and SM Alauddin of Dainik Patradut of Satkhira.

Only seven accused of two murder cases have been convicted out of which four are suffering life term imprisonment.

A murder case has been stayed by the High Court, while nine other cases still hangs in balance.

Four victims of murders are from Khulna, four from Jessore, two from Jhenaidah, one from Satkhira and another from Chuadanga.

Editor Saiful Alam Mukul of Dainik Runner of Jessore was gunned down on August 30 in 1998. A case was filed on the following day with Jessore Kotwali thana. A charge-sheet was submitted on April 23 in 1999 against 22 accused. The case is still under trial. The CID investigated the case.

Editor Mir Elias Hossain Dilip of Jhenaidah Dainik Birdarpan was killed on January 15 in 2000. This case still hangs in balance as the chargesheet is yet to be submitted.

Editor SM Alauddin of Satkhira Dainik Patradut was killed on June 19 in 1996. The CID submitted

chargesheet against 10 FIR-named accused. Six out of 10 chargesheeted accused are on bail, two are in jail, while two others are absconding. Trial of this case has been stayed by an order of the High Court in 1999.

Besides, three editors, Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury a reporter of Jessore Dainik Sphulinga was killed in 1994. Three chargesheeted accused of this case have been convicted.

Faruque Hossain, crime reporter of Jessore Dainik Runner was killed in 1995. Four accused have been given life term imprisonment in the murder case.

Shamsur Rahman, Jessore bureau Chief of Dainik Janakantha was killed on July 16 in 2000. The case is still under investigation of the CID. For this reason trial is yet to be started. A chargesheet was submitted during the earltime government. But an extended chargesheet has been submitted by the present government without consent of the complainant. The complainant submitted a petition to court rejecting the extended chargesheet.

Rezaul Karim Reza, general secretary of Jhenaidah press club was killed on July 16 in 1998.

Mohammad Bazlur Rahman, crime reporter of Dainik Din Badal of Chuadanga was killed on June 12 in 1998.

Nahor Ali, crim ereporter of Dainik Anirvan of Khulna was severely injured in armed attack on April 19 in 2001. He died at a local clinic on April 22. A chargesheet was submitted against 16 accused on February 17, 2002. Five of the chargesheeted accused are in jail while others are still at large. The case is still under trial.

Shukur of Dainik Anirban, Khulna was killed in 2001. Investigation of this case is still going on.

Shaikh Haroon-ar-Rashid, crime reporter of Dainik Purbanchal, Khulna was killed on March 2, 2002. Investigation of this case is still going on.

The latest victim is Manik Saha, Khulna-based staff correspondent of Dainik Sangbad. He was killed in a bomb attack at 1-15 pm on January 15 this year near Khulna Press Club.

Man killed in B'baria clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

One person was killed by rivals at Sunatla village in Nasirnagar upazila on Wednesday.

The victim named Abul Hussain, 30, was chopped to death by his rival group following past enmity.

According to police sources, Irin, 13, daughter of Kutub Mia of Sunatala village was abducted from her house at around 11pm on November 30 by a group of miscreants lead by Alamgir Mia and Abul Hussain.

The girl is yet to be rescued. Irin's relatives numbering 20 to 25 armed with lethal weapons attacked Abul Hussain at his house and killed him.

Mental torture of money lender compels woman to commit suicide?

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A housewife committed suicide here after being unable to bear mental torture inflicted by her money lender on Wednesday night.

The victim was identified as Hasna Begum, 35, wife of Shahidul Islam, a labour leader of Nilphamari food godown (LSD).

Family sources said Hasna committed suicide taking pesticide because of unbearable mental torture inflicted to her by a money lender to whom she owe money.

The victim died soon after her admission in the hospital in a critical condition.

Her body was recovered from the Sadar hospital at night on the fateful day.

Post-mortem of the dead was performed on Thursday.

Killing slated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Gaibandha Press Club members at a meeting condemned the brutal killing of Khulna-based Dainik Sangbad Staffer Manik Chanda Shaha and demanded exemplary punishment to killers.

Presided over by Gobinda Lal Das, President the club the condolence meeting was addressed, among others, by Mofizul Huq Tara of Dainik Sangbad, Abu Jafer Sabu of Janakantha, KM Rezaul Hoq of The Daily Star, Abdur Rahman Swapn of Inqilab, Siddique Alam of Manab Jamin, Shahabul Shaheen Tota of Prothom Alo, Abdul Manan Chowdhury of Bangla Bazar Patrika and Abdul Kayum of Bhorer Kagoj.

Speakers expressed their grave concern at frequent attacks on journalists communities and expressed solidarity with the programme taken by Khulna journalists in this regard.

BNP to stand by distressed: Tarek

Warm clothes distributed among cold-affected people in 3 Nilphamari UZs



PHOTO: 5

BNP Joint Secretary General Tarek Rahman distributing warm clothes among the cold-stricken people of Nilphamari Sadar at the district Shilpakala Academy auditorium on Wednesday night.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

BNP Joint Secretary General Tarek Rahman said that his party would always stand by the distressed.

Tarek was addressing the cold-affected people in the district while distributing warm clothes among the distressed at Dimla, Domar and Sadar upazilas (UZs) on Wednesday. He was on a four-day tour to the northern districts to see for himself the misery of cold-affected people.

During his address he criticised the role of opposition party saying when thousands of people suffer in severe cold, the opposition party, instead of coming forward to help them, remains busy in making propaganda against the ruling party. He told that with limited resources we try to stand by the cold-stricken people. He pointed out that those who did politics with people's miseries went missing.



Noted physicians engaged in selfless services at Sahera Hasan Memorial Hospital at Chandnair, Garpara in Manikganj pose for photograph with invited guests at a reception and get together organised at the hospital recently.



PHOTO: STAR

Rotary Club organised a colourful procession in Barisal city on Thursday to mark the 12th National Immunisation Day.