

Killing of journalist Balu condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political and socio-cultural organisations yesterday condemned the killing of Humayun Kabir Balu, editor of Khulna-based vernacular daily, the Janmabhumii and president of Khulna Press club.

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam condoled the death of Balu.

In a message, the information minister paid tributes to late Kabir for his contributions to the journalism and demanded arrest and exemplary punishment to the killers.

Shamsul Islam said the country could never make up the loss suffered at his death. He expressed deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for peace of the departed soul.

BNP leader and Forest and Environment Minister Tariqul Islam condemned the killing of Balu and expressed his sympathy to the bereaved family.

Human rights organisation 'Adhikar' and Ain O Shalish Kendra (ASK) demanded arrest and exemplary punishment to the killers of Balu.

'Adhikar' with deep concern said that life of journalists is in danger especially in south-western region in the country. Attack on journalist, restriction during performance their professional duty and murders are common.

ASK says that the government is not taking any steps to stop violence against the journalists though they are attacked again and again.

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal

(JSD) Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), Dhaka University Journalists Association (DUJA), MASS-line Media Centre (MMC), Center for Women Journalists, Bangladesh condemned of the killing of journalist Humayun Kabir Balu.

Our correspondent from Satkhira reports, Satkhira Journalists Association held a rally and brought out procession in the town yesterday to protest the killing of Balu.

The speakers at the rally condemned the killing and demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the killers.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami Shwechchhasebak League stages a demonstration at Muktangan yesterday protesting the killing of journalist Humayun Kabir Balu .

Guideline to be formulated for fund for disabled students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk yesterday said a guideline would be formulated on proper utilisation of fund allocated for the education of the disabled students.

"I will also see to other demands of the disabled students in consultation with the social welfare ministry," said the minister at a scholarship giving function at BIRDEM auditorium.

Bangladesh Organisation for Disabled Advancement (BODA) organised the function to give scholarship to the disabled students.

"The physically challenged can never be the burden of the society, rather by dint of proper education and training they can prosper to the fullest of their potentials," Dr Farruk said.

All people including the disabled have equal socio-economic and political rights in all countries of the world, but it is sadly noticed that people in our country have a kind of negligence to them, he said.

The minister urged all to look at the disabled as normal persons.

Ishak Bhuiyan, managing director of National Disabled Development Foundation, said it is not fair that many schools refuse to give admission to the disabled students.

He urged the government to issue an order so that no school could refuse admission of the physically challenged.

Bhuiyan also called on the government to give stipend to the disabled for higher studies as their education is more expensive than the normal students.

BODA Chairman Md Syedul Haq Sayeed said there are one crore 40 lakh disabled people in the country that represents 10 percent of the total population.

Trader chopped to death at Hathazari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Unidentified miscreants chopped a trader to death at Chowdhuryhat under Hathazari upazila on Saturday night.

Hathazari police recovered the body of Gopal Das, 37, a grocery shop owner, yesterday morning and sent it to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) morgue for autopsy.

They said Gopal might have been murdered sometime on Saturday midnight at his shop at Banikpara.

The assailants took away Tk 15,000 from the cash and a mobile set, police added.

Gopal's father Parimal Das lodged a case in this connection.

Mukul's death condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different individuals and organisations yesterday condoled the death of eminent journalist and writer M RAkhtar Mukul.

They said the nation will always remember the glorious contribution of Mukul who inspired the freedom fighters and countrymen during the War of Liberation by his oratory popularly known as 'Charam-patra' on Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, the radio station of the then government in exile.

Prof SMA Faiz, vice-chancellor of Dhaka University and Barrister M Amir-ul Islam, vice-chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council, in separate statement, mourned the death of the noted journalist.

Communist Party of Bangladesh and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal paid tributes to Mukul by placing wreaths on the coffin of the eminent writer at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday morning.

Workers Party of Bangladesh, Awami Jubo League, Ain O Salish Kendro, Sonar Bangla Parishad, Bangladesh Rabindrasangeet Shilpi Sangstha, Bangladesh Gonotantrik Ainjibi Samity, Muktijoddha Oikya Parishad, Panjeri Publications Ltd, Theatre and Bangladesh Chalachitra League also condoled the death.

"If these people do not get education or training, the country will be deprived of their service which is a great loss to the nation," he added.

Sayeed said the BODA might arrange monthly stipend for disabled students if government extends necessary cooperation in this respect.

BODA Executive Director M

Khalilur Rahman called upon the disabled to follow the example of Helen Keller who was blind but enlightened herself with the light of knowledge.

BODA gave stipend to 95 disabled students who are studying in university, college and school. Each student got Tk 1200.