

# Protests mount in dists

Thousands mourn as AL leader's body reaches Muladi

## STAR NATIONAL DESK

Protests against Saturday's carnage at Awami League meeting in Dhaka continued in districts yesterday.

People in large numbers joined processions and rallies organised by Awami League and other opposition parties demanding an end to such violence and punishment of the persons responsible for it.

One hundred and 87 teachers of Rajshahi University in a joint statement demanded a judicial probe into the incident and said that the attack was designed to kill opposition leader Sheikh Hasina.

Manusher Odhikar Rakha Andolon (movement to protect people's rights) in a statement condemned the incident and demanded an international probe. So-called Islamic fanatics might be involved in the violence, it claimed.

The University Teachers' Association, Progressive Teachers' Society, Mukti Juddha Sangsad, Bangabandhu Parishad, the district and the RU units of Uddi, CPB, Workers Party, Liberation War Doctors' Council, Rajshahi Editors Forum and many other organisations in statements condemned the incident.

Pro BNP-Jamat teachers of RU also brought out a procession protesting the carnage and held a rally on the campus in the morning.

RUChatra League also brought out a protest procession and held a rally on the campus.

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: Awami Ajinjib Parishad brought out a procession in the town yesterday protesting Saturday's grenade attack on party chief Sheikh Hasina's rally in Dhaka.

The processionists chanted various anti-government slogans and held a rally in front of the Bar Association building.

It was addressed by, among others, advocates SM Haider, Gazi Lutfor Rahman, Prasad Sarkar, Nawshir Ali. They condemned the "assassination attempt" on the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and demanded immediate arrest of the culprits.

Assamati thana Awami League also brought out a procession at the upazila headquarters protesting the attack.

Hundreds of people led by AL leaders joined the procession and chanted anti-government slogans.

It was followed by a mourning procession that paraded the upazila streets.

The body was then sent to his native Ramarpur village, where the body was buried at the family graveyard after the second Janaza at Jharkhali.

Mushtak Ahmed left behind a four-year-old daughter besides his wife, mother, three sisters and seven brothers.

Meanwhile the body of Chhatra League leader Mammun Mridha, 24, killed in Saturday's carnage in front of Awami League office was taken to his ancestral home at Poschim Alipur village in Doshmina upazila in Patuakhali at about 8am yesterday. The body was buried at the family graveyard after Janaza twice.



A mourning procession with the body of AL leader Mustak Ahmed Centu in Muladi yesterday (top). A journalists' procession in Mymensingh town (bottom left) and a lawyers' meeting in Bogra (bottom right) in protest against Saturday's carnage in front of Awami League office in Dhaka.

# Jessore jute mill facing closure

Over Tk 15 cr liability: No funds for jute purchase

## A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

The Jessore Jute Industries (JJI), the biggest jute mill in the country after now-defunct Adamjee Mills, is facing closure due to manifold problems.

The mill authorities can not pay salary and wages to employees and labourers for seven weeks, buy jute in the current peak harvest season and pay electric bills. Even spares can not be purchased for lack of funds, mill sources told this correspondent on Sunday.

The BJMC (Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation) mill near Noapara industrial town requires 30 tonnes (840 maunds) of raw jute to fulfill its daily production target. A total of two lakh 90 thousand maunds is required for fiscal 2004-05. But only 18,000 maunds were purchased till August 15 and only 1,060 maunds are in stock which can keep the mill running for only two to three days.

Traders did not supply jute this year as the mill authorities could not clear last year's arrears dues, amounting to Tk four crore 27 lakh 30,000.

The mill is also incurring Tk 13,000 loss per ton on sale of products. The production cost is around Tk 50,000 but the sale price is Tk 37,000 only. Earlier, exports from the mill were shipped through Mongla port. The carrying cost was around Tk 1,000 for five tonnes. It is now between Tk 12,000 and Tk 15,000 for shipment through Chittagong port.

The mill's CBA and three

employees' unions are pressing hard for payment of dues to officials, employees and labourers.

But 1500 tonnes of exportable products including 431 bales of hessian worth Tk 60 for Iran, 664 bales of jute sacking valued at Tk 65 lakh for Syria, 3983 bales of sacking worth Tk 3 crore 50 lakh for Sudan and 925 bales of sacking worth Tk 70 lakh for Iraq is stockpiled at the mill.

Losses, couples with non-export of products have resulted in acute financial crisis.

Production is often hampered for want of spares, lubricants and other inputs, which can not be purchased for want of funds, they said.

The Power Development Board (PDB) may snap electricity connection any moment for non-payment of Tk 5 crore 72 lakh 45,000 bills for May and June, they said.

A large number of employees retrenched through 'golden handshake' have not been paid their dues amounting to Tk 5 crore 83 lakh 27,000 while pressure is mounting for payment of Tk 30 lakh as VAT, land development tax and municipal tax and another Tk 20 lakh as carrying cost, insurance premium and telephone bills, they said.

When contacted, the mills Finance Director Kamal Hossain said this is because of "discriminatory treatment to jute mills in Khulna zone". He declined to elaborate.

The mill's CBA and three

# Brahmaputra may swell again

Breach in Sango Dam in Tibet: 43 million cubic metres of water rolling down, says message from Chinese govt

## BSS, Kurigram

Local administrations in the Brahmaputra basin districts have taken precautionary measures to face a possible flash flood within next few days in the Brahmaputra and its tributaries.

The government of China informed downstream countries India and Bangladesh that the giant Sango Dam near the origin of the Brahmaputra in Tibet was damaged and over 43 million cubic metres of water are rolling down, posing a threat to north-eastern Indian states and Bangladesh, officials said here on Sunday.

The waters may flow to Arunachal and Assam states of India in a few days and subsequently in Kurigram, Gaibandha and a Jamalpur districts in Bangladesh, the officials said.

The Kurigram district administration on Sunday also asked officials to take steps, specially in Nageswari, Ulipur, Chilmari, Rowmari and Rajibpur upazilas, to face the possible threat.

Kurigram District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer (DRRO) Abdul Majid told BSS that the Brahmaputra may swell by two metres and cross the danger level if the forecast comes true.

Officials concerned to take precautionary measures.

The Brahmaputra may rise by at least two metres within the next few days if the situation at the Sango Dam point can not be controlled.

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## Titas Commuter did not leave B'baria

Burnt Subarna kept at Akhaura

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A minor boy has been missing from the Sonadanga home of Aparajeyo Bangladesh, an NGO working for welfare of disadvantaged children, since July 21.

The missing boy is Rubel Shaikh, 9, only son of Alkas Shaikh in Gobarchaka, Sonadanga here.

Alkas alleged that his son had been sold to child traffickers by the authorities of the home. He could not find his son when he went to see him there on August 15. He further alleged that he had been insulted by the Project Manager of the home, Sikder Haduzzaman for protesting the incident.

A General Diary (GD) was filed with Sonadanga Thana on August 16.

On contact, Sikder Haduzzaman told

The Daily Star he is not supposed to prevent any inmate from leaving the home.

### Training on remote sensing

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A 10-day training course titled "International Training Programme on Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing" opened at the conference room of Khulna University in collaboration with ERDAS India Private Ltd and ESRI, South Asia, Singapore.

About 30 trainees from various government and private organisations participated.

## Police-pirates clash in Sundarbans: 5 cops hurt

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The Titas Commuter, which shuttles between Brahmanbaria and Dhaka, did not leave the station. The train had started with Dhaka-bound passengers but was pulled back before it crossed the station compound.

When contacted, Station Master Shoib Akhter said the train was pulled back following a directive from Dhaka.

Other trains however moved through the station normally.

The 12 burnt compartments of Subarna Express were taken to Akhaura railway junction and kept there.

Attendance at schools in the town was thin yesterday. Many guardians were seen escorting their boys and girls to schools.

The injured are Sub-Inspector Shahjahan, constables Shahidul and Shahidul Islam of Shyamnagar Thana while the identity of other injured persons are yet to be known.

## Threat to 'blow up' Jhalakathi court, DC and SP offices

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Two self styled so-called Islamic extremist organisations have sent letters threatening to "blow up" the Jhalakathi court building and offices of the DC and the SP by August 30 to retaliate the "killing" of Sarbarha leader Parimal Sikder by police.

Sources in the administration said, Deputy Commissioner Md. Shawkat Nabi, Police Superintendent Md. Mahfuzul Islam and District and Sessions Judge Md. Asgar Ali received the separate letters sent in the name of Zihad-e-Janata on Thursday.

In separate letters, another organisation named Muzahedin-e-Islam also threatened to kill Public Prosecutor advocate Haider Hussein, Assistant Public Prosecutor advocate Manzur.

Sources in the administration said, Deputy Commissioner Md. Shawkat Nabi, Police Superintendent Md. Mahfuzul Islam and District and Sessions Judge Md. Asgar Ali received the separate letters sent in the name of Zihad-e-Janata on Thursday.

In the letters, the two so-called extremist bodies expressed annoyance over the incidents before and after the Jhalakathi pourasabha election held on May 9 and the overall political situation and vowed to take "revenge", the sources said.

The letter sent to Prof. Mannan advised him to write in favor of Islam only. "Otherwise, no body will be able to save you", it said.

Police patrol and surveillance have been increased in Jhalakathi town after receipt of the letters, administration sources said.

3X2



The International Day of Aborigines was observed in Joypurhat recently. To mark the day, Sanjukta Adibasi Khet Majur-o-Sramik Federation organised a rally of aborigines at the Zila Parishad auditorium.



4X2