



PHOTO: STAR

Gayebana Janaza held at Court Point in Sylhet (left), Brahmanbaria town during hartal yesterday (middle) and Bogra lawyers protest filing of case for attack on court (right).

# 45 hurt in Kushtia, Satkhira clashes

## Ivy Rahman's Gayebana Janaza attacked in Hizla: AL swoop on Railway Western Zone office: PM's photo torn down in B'baria during hartal

### STAR NATIONAL DESK

The hartal passed off amid stray incidents of violence in districts, leaving at least 40 people including a former state minister injured in Kushtia Tuesday evening and another 15 in Satkhirayesterday.

The congregation for Gayebana Janaza for Ivy Rahman was attacked in Hizja in Barisal.

In Rajshahi, Awami League (AL) activists attacked railway's Western Zone office yesterday morning for working during hartal hours.

In Brahmanbaria, AL activists attacked the district information office and the municipal office yesterday. The Prime Minister's photo was tore down and damaged at the information office.

**Our Barisal correspondent reports:** The Gayebana Janaza of Ivy Rahman arranged by Awami at about 12.30 P M at Harinath Pur in Hizla upazila came under attack allegedly by a group of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (J C D) activist in presence of B N P leaders. The activists also ransacked the union A L office there.

Jubo League workers barricaded the Barisal-Khulna highway in Shatpakia in Jhalokati district.

Barring some stray incidents of violence, hartal was observed by and large peacefully in the districts.

Private airlines GMG suspended its Dhaka-Barisal flight and all vehicles kept offroads.

BCL leaders and workers bought out a procession in the town wearing burial dresses at about 9 AM.

**Our Kushtia Correspondent reports:** Police charged batons and fired blank shots to disperse an Awami League procession in Daulatpur Tuesday evening, injuring at least 30 party activists including former state minister for food Korban Ali.

AL leaders claimed that police attacked their peaceful procession when it was crossing the Ppazila Parishad building.

Police and upazila officials said they asked the AL leaders not to lead the procession through the road in front of the Upazila Parishad office as a group of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists was preparing to bring out an anti-hartal procession.

But they ignored the request. Some angry AL activists pelted stones at police and upazila administration officials and also attacked the upazila education office.

Police and JCD activists chased the AL men, triggered a clash.

AL activists also manhandled the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and the Officer-in-Charge of Daulatpur thana.

Former state minister Korban Ali and

seven others -- Harez Uddin, Mujibur Master, Majnu, Nara Kha, Selim, Yuakub Ali and Murad -- were admitted to Daulatpur Upazila Health Complex.

Police arrested AL activist Yakub Ali and later filed a case against 55 AL leaders and activists.

**Our Staff Correspondent reports from Rajshahi:** Pro- hartal picketers attacked railway's Western Zone office at 11.30 am and ransacked several rooms for working during hartal.

Rajshahi virtually turned into a city of processions by AL, Jubo League and BCL. There was a chase and counter-chase between police and pickets in Binodhpur

**Our Satkhira Correspondent reports:** At least 15 people including Satkhira district Awami League convenor Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Sadar thana AL president SM Shawkat Hossain and party leaders Sheikh Nasim, Ahmed and Sheikh Shahid Uddin were injured in a clash with police near the AL office in the town during hartal yesterday.

Police said they swung into action when some processionists pelted stones at a police van and damaged its windshields.

AL and its front organisations brought out processions in the town and held a rally in front of the party office,

urging the people to launch a movement to dislodge the government.

The rally was addressed by, among others, Sheikh Abu Nasim, Abu Ahmed, Sheikh Sahiduddin, Mahmud Ali Suman and Abdul Mannan.

**Our Brahmanbaria Correspondent reports:** Angry Awami League processionists attacked the district information office, ransacked some rooms, tore down the photo of Prime Minister Khalada Zia and damaged it during hartal yesterday. They also swooped on the municipal office and ransacked some rooms, breaking tables and chairs.

Earlier on Tuesday evening, AL activists damaged a BNP office at Sarail.

All shops, schools remained closed till noon yesterday.

Unlike on Tuesday, train movement through Brahmanbaria was normal yesterday.

**Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports:** Train movement resumed Tuesday night after restoration of communication with Lalmonirhat control room that was snapped at 10 am on the day as pro-hartal elements locked the office.

But all trains ran behind schedule yesterday.

District Awami League at a meeting at the Shahead Minar during yesterday's hartal hours condoled the death of

Awami Mohila League chief Ivy Rahman.

Al and its front organisations brought out several processions in the town demanding resignation of the government and punishment to the culprits responsible for Saturday's grenade attack on the party rally in Dhaka.

**Our Netrakona Correspondent reports:** Activists of Awami League and its front organisations wearing black badges brought out several processions in the hartal-bound town yesterday.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of ruling BNP, also brought out anti-hartal processions and tried to open shops forcibly.

On Tuesday night, a group of JCD activists attacked at the house of Chandan Biswas, vice-president of Netrakona district Awami League at Satpain in the town with sharp weapons.

They beat the AL leader and ransacked the house, party sources claimed.

Police arrested ten AL activists from different place of the town Tuesday night.

AL also held a Gaybana Janaza for Ivy Rahman in front of the town yesterday.

All shops, offices and educational institute remained closed during the

hartal.

**Our Rangpur Correspondent reports:** Rangpur turned into a town of processions as leaders and activists of Awami League and its front organisations, together with like-minded parties poured on streets, chanting various slogans demanding the government's resignation.

They brought out processions and held rallies during the hartal hours. Similar programmes were also organised at different upazilas. But no major untoward incident was reported.

The district Ayinjobi Samiti (lawyers' association) also held a protest rally at the Court Square in the morning.

**Our Gopalganj Correspondent reports:** Awami league held a Gayebana Zanaza for Mohila Awami League leader Ivy Rahman and a condolence meeting in front of district AL office yesterday.

Speaker at the meeting bitterly criticised the government for sheltering fundamentalists, accusing them of doing violence in the country to destroy the spirit of the Liberation War.

Earlier, AL, Jubo League, Mohila League, Chhatra League and lawyers brought out processions in the town demanding resignation of the government. No untoward incident was reported.

# Help govt probe the attack

## Barisal Mayor tells rally

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal City Corporation (BCC) Mayor Majibar Rahaman Sarwar MP yesterday called upon opposition Awami League to help the government probe Saturday's dastardly grenade attack on its rally and nab the culprits.

"Criticism and non-cooperation will not be of any use. This will rather breed more anarchy in the country", he said while addressing a public meeting in front of Aswani Kumar Hall in the town Tuesday afternoon.

The Four-Party alliance organised the meeting to protest "terrorism and anarchy across the country".

Mayor Sarwar said, "We condemned the heinous attack on the

main opposition rally. We want to eradicate terrorism. All should cooperate in the effort".

The Alliance government came to power with people's mandate and people will resist them who are creating anarchy, he added. Mayor pointed out that the party in power will not create anarchy in the country by blasting bombs grenades in the opposition rally.

The rally was also addressed by city Jamaat-Islami Ameer Moazzem Hossain Helal, Islami Oikya Jote President Abdul Kasem Md. Sahajahan and other local leaders of the Jote.

A procession was brought in the city out after the rally.



PHOTO: STAR

BCC Mayor Majibar Rahaman Sarwar MP addressing a public meeting in Barisal city on Tuesday.

## ATTACK ON BOGRA COURT

# Case filed against 12

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Court Sub-Inspector (CSI) Nazrul Islam filled a case with Sadar thana Tuesday night against 12 people including Bogra Bar Association Secretary AHM Golam Rabbani Khan Roman for alleged involvement in ransacking of a First Class Magistrate's court during hartal earlier on the day.

Police said that, a group of Awami League back lawyers led by Roman attacked the Magistrate court on Tuesday while Magistrate Ahamed Ulla was trying a case.

In the case the CSI alleged that the incident took place at 11-30 am in presence of five witness including two policemen who were on duty there.

The attackers broke chair and a table and ransacked the court, he alleged in the complaint.

A meeting of lawyers held on Judge Court premises at yesterday protested failing of the case.

Meanwhile a half-day hartal was observed in the district peacefully. Most shops were closed and all vehicles were off the roads.

It was reported earlier that some pro-Awami League lawyers led by Roman on Tuesday had requested Magistrate Ahamed Ulla to postpone the court in view of the hartal. As the

magistrate was preparing to postpone the court, another group of lawyers burst into the room and ransacked it.

## Court boycott by Manikganj lawyers

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Protesting appointment of High Court judges on political ground, lawyers here boycotted court on Wednesday.

A procession was brought out from the court premises at 10:30 am which ended at Manikganj Press Club. A rally followed the procession.

Manikganj District Bar Association President Md Meher Uddin, also a leader of Awami Ainjibi Parishad presided over the rally while Bar Association Secretary Kholilur Rahman, senior lawyers Golam Mohiuddin, Abdus Salam, Abdul Majid, Sakhawat Hossain, Abul Kashem, Dipok Ghosh addressed the rally.

The government appointed 19 additional judges creating controversy because lawyers termed them 'not qualified enough'.

## SNAPS

### Concern over threat to Prothom Alo

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Local journalists on Tuesday protested continued threat to leading Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

They paraded the city streets in a procession which began from Rajshahi Metropolitan Press Club. They also held a rally at Shaheb Bazar zero point.

They expressed their concern over fanatics' demand for cancellation of publication of the daily. Ten journalists of Godagari upazila also condemned threat on Prothom Alo.

Rajshahi city Awami League President Mahbub Zaman and General Secretary AHM Khairuzzaman in a statement demanded punishment to the zealots.

### Acid attack on milch cow!

#### OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Believe it or not, a milch cow came under acid attack of culprits at Jatrapur village in Ashuganj upazila on Friday. The cow belongs to Hossain Mia. In a critical condition, the cow was shifted to Ashuganj Veterinary Hospital for treatment. Hossain suspected the incident might be a sequel to a past enmity over land dispute.

### KCC vehicles damag: FIR lodged

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Executive Engineer (Mechanical) Abdul Aziz on Monday filed a FIR with Sonadanga police in connection with the damage of 19 vehicles at the KCC garage by a group of unruly people on Sunday. But none was named in the FIR.

### Arakans abduct tribal UP member

#### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

The members of Democratic Party of Arakan (DPA) abducted a tribal Union Parishad (UP) member from his house at Barathali Para in Ruma, Bandarban recently. The victim is Jacob Tripura.

In a message, the abductors asked Jacob's brother Bahula Tripura to pay them Tk two lakh within next Friday, otherwise they threatened to kill him.

Bahula told journalists on Tuesday that Jacob had been kept in some places along Mijora border in India.



PHOTO: STAR

A woman taking a book from Parvin Begum, manager of Char Unnayan Kendra, at the NGO's small tin-shed office.

# Small effort, great job

## NGO shows light to illiterate, destitute women in remote Patuakhali shoals

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Thirty year-old Monwara was illiterate. She can read and write now and contributes at least Tk 800 to her family of three with two children. Her husband is a poor fisherman.

She like Aysha, Amena, Khadeja and Kulsum, all aged between 25 and 30, have now a changed view of life. They dream of education for their children and better life.

This correspondent was awed while talking to women members of the Char Unnayan Kendra (shoal development centre) at its small but tidy office cum library at Char Wadel in remote Najirpur union in Bauphal upazila.

They are aware of the International Mother Language Day (February 21 Sheheed Dibash), International Women's Day, Human Rights Day, Victory Day and Independence Day.

They have also adopted family planning. All have sanitary latrines and tubewells at home are aware of common waterborne diseases.

The Char Unnayan Kendra launched the programme in the area in November, 2002. It organised distressed women, made them literate and trained them in various income gener-

ating activities.

Their number is 70 now. None is a destitute.

They earned for their families. Monwara is the team leader.

"I was illiterate and my husband earned a small amount daily from fishing in a hired boat, which was not enough for buying even rice", Monwara said.

One day she came to the NGO office. They gave her one month's training on poultry raising and Tk 4000 loan. She now earns at least Tk 800 from her small farm.

Income of some of the women is up to Tk 4000 from poultry, they said.

Parvin Begum, manager of the NGO, said, "First we taught them reading, writing and calculating at the office and then gave them training on various trades".

Women can borrow books from the small library for a week.

Khadeja said her husband did not care for her opinion about their family earlier because she was illiterate. Now he taken her views into consideration because she is no more illiterate and also earns for the family.

Same is with most other women members of the NGO.

They all gather at the office on Friday and discuss among their problems and possibilities.

They also view TV at the office and are aware of what is happening in the outside world.

## Patuakhali AL office ransacked by 'BNP activists'

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Patuakhali District Awami League (AL) office and its President ex-lawmaker Shahjahan Mia's house were ransacked allegedly by BNP activists on Tuesday.

Chanting slogans in favour of BNP, about 50 to 60 attackers swooped on the two buildings and broke all the furniture, according to eye-witnesses.

Earlier on the day, seven shops were ransacked by Awami League workers while they brought out a procession during hartal hours in the town.

A tense situation was prevailing in the area after the incident. Additional police forces have been deployment in the area.

## Threat to 'blow up' Rajshahi Prothom Alo office

### Journalist escapes bomb attack

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An unidentified man has threatened over telephone to blow up the Rajshahi office of Bangla daily Prothom Alo, creating panic among journalists and the city dwellers.

The man identifying himself as a "believer in truth and justice" called Prothom Alo's Rajshahi Corres-pondent Anu Mustafa over telephone at around 1 am on August 21.

He asked him to close the Rajshahi bureau and threatened to blow it off "soon" for noncompliance.

The man also threatened Anu Mustafa with death.

A general diary was filed with Boalia police station in this regard.

Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner Zahirul Islam Talukhdar when contacted later assured that security measure would be taken.

Rajshahi Press Club, Rajshahi Metropolitan Press Club and different socio-cultural organisations in separate statements expressed their deep concern over the incident and demanded proper security measures for journalists.

Meanwhile, FH Khokon, Paba upazila correspondent of Prothom Alo, narrowly escaped a bomb attack on him on Rajshahi University on Tuesday night.

Some unidentified men threw a cocktail on him at around 11pm while he was returning home near the RU campus. It missed the target as he jumped and ran away.

He went to Motihar police station to file a general diary, but police declined to record it, the victim said.

Journalists in RU and Rajshahi city brought out processions and held rallies yesterday expressing their concern over the incident.

## BNP leader bullet-hit in Patuakhali

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A BNP leader in Bauphal upazila sustained serious injuries after being hit by bullet of unidentified miscreants on Sunday.

The injured person is Nirmal Kumar Datta, 30, also a businessman.

He came under attack while he was returning home from his business establishment at night, according to police sources.

He was rushed to Bauphal Upazila Health Complex in a critical condition. Later, he was sent to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (BSMCH).

A case filed with Bauphal Thana.

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