

# Stop murder, repression on journalists

## Processionists chant slogans, hold rally in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

Journalist in Rajshahi under the banner of 'Human Rights

Journalist Council' yesterday held a rally and brought out a procession in the city protesting murder and harassment of journalists in the country.

The processionists paraded the city streets carrying banners and chanting slogans demanding trial of the killers and security of journalists.

The rally held at Shaheb Bazer zero point was also attended by human rights activists, members of the civil society and representatives of professional groups. It was presided over by Jahangir Alam Akas, Rajshahi Bureau Chief of Daily Sangbad.

Speakers at the meeting said there has been no respite in attacks on journalists in different areas of the country despite protests and government assurances of trial of culprits.

Journalists do not belong to any political party or group. They serve the nation and the people but are attacked when any report goes against the interest of any vested group, he said.

Murders of veteran journalists Shamsur Rahman, Manik Shah and Humayun Kabir Balu, have not been tried despite assurances by the government on several occasions, they said.

There has been no let in in the attacks. The Metropolitan Press

Club (MPC) in the city was attacked during Pahela Baishakh celebrations in which senior staff reporter of local Bangla daily Natun Probbat Ziaul Haque Zia was injured.

The Itafak's correspondent Prof Mojammal Haque was also assaulted by BDR personnel, they said.

The speakers demanded withdrawal of cases filed by Rajshahi police against daily Janakhantho photojournalist Salim Jahangir. Rajshahi Union of Journalist (RUJ) General Secretary and daily Sangram Rajshahi Correspondent Sarder Abdur Rahman criticised the police administration, alleging that the attackers on the press club are not nabbed though they are often seen roaming around Boalia police station.

Rajshahi Press Club Vice-President Anwarul Alam Fatik said the attacks are a threat to the entire journalist community and demanded punishment of the culprits and government steps to check recurrence of such incidents.

Jahangir Alam Akas said attack on journalists increased in recent days, which has also tarnished the country's image abroad.

The rally was addressed by among others, Metropolitan Press Club Vice-president Kazi Gaias and Nurul Haque, Managing Editor of local daily Sunshine, Rajshahi Photojournalist

Association Acting General Secretary Asadul Islam, Bangladesh Sangbadik Sangstha member Paritosh Chowdhury Aditho and Newspaper Employees Association General Secretary Abul Basher.



Defying a ban, fishermen netting fries with current nets in Kalindi river, destroying fish resources indiscriminately.

PHOTO: STAR

## Illegal netting of fries adds to fish depletion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Violating a government ban, hundreds of fishermen are netting shrimp fries with current nets in rivers in Sathkira district, close to the Sundarbans.

Use of current net is also banned. But scores of fishermen, joined by their wives and children are seen catching the fries in Kalindi, Chunkuri, Kholpetua, Chunkari, Mother, Dyer Gang,

Margang, Mir Gang and Ichhamati rivers every day.

Huge quantities of fries of other fishes, netted along with shrimp fries, are just destroyed, greatly hampering fish production.

During a visit to the areas, local people told this correspondent that the illegal netting of fries with current nets is going on but neither the local administration nor the Fisheries Department has taken any step to stop it.

Some fishermen said they sell a shrimp fry at Tk one and a lobster fry at Tk 2 to Tk 2.5. The demand and price of naturally produced fries collected from rivers are higher than those produced in hatcheries.

On contact, an official of the Fisheries Department seeking anonymity said though netting of fries with current nets is illegal and a punishable, they are not taking any action because the fishermen are very poor and unemployed and they

are maintaining their families with the meagre income from sale of fries.

He however said, if netting of fish fries can be topped during March-July, fish production will double. Some sources also claimed that shrimp fries collected from rivers are also being smuggled to India. Organised gangs of smugglers are engaged in smuggling the fries, they said.



PHOTO: STAR Journalists parading Rajshahi city streets yesterday protesting murder and attacks on newsmen in the country.

## Death threat to journalist condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Khulna Press Club has strongly condemned the death threat to Janakantha journalist Couranga Nandy, given on Wednesday allegedly by Nannu, Assistant Private Secretary (APS) to Whip Ashraf Hossain. The death threat followed a news on BNP's intra-party rivalry involving Whip Ashraf Hossain and city Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman, published in the daily on Tuesday.

In a statement Khulna Press Club President Shaikh Abu Hasan on Thursday, said such threat to a journalist is also an attack on freedom of press and against democratic norms and practice.

Members of Khulna Press Club demand an impartial probe into the incident and punishment of APS Nannu for this, he said.

## Youth shot dead, 50 injured as villagers clash in Sunamganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A young man was shot dead and 50 people were injured as rival groups clashed at Chhoara Nogdipur village in Derai upazila in Sunamganj district Friday evening.

Four of the injured have been admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital in critical conditions.

Fifteen others were admitted to Derai Upazila Health complex.

Police said the groups led by Moklis Miah and Angur

Miah had a long-standing rivalry in the village.

On Friday in the afternoon,

children of the families had an exchange of words while playing at a primary school playground in the village.

This drew people from both groups, who clashed using lethal weapons and firearms, police said quoting local people.

Nine shots were fired during the clash, they said.

One Ruhel, 22, belonging to Moklis Miah's group, was shot dead during the clash.

Both the groups filed cases with Derai thana. No one was arrested till filing of the report.

## 10 RU students hurt in clash with villagers

RU CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 Rajshahi University (RU) students were injured, one of them seriously, in a clash with villagers at Binodpur Bazaar Friday night.

The injured students are Tashiqul Islam Tashik, Bipul Biswas, Shubra, Rajin, Asraf Hossain Raju, Shahin, Biplob, Faisal and Mahmud.

Faisal, 2nd year student of Applied Physics and Bipul of Accounting Department were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Sources said the clashed broke out after a group of Litchi traders beat up Faisal and his two friends Tasik and Bipul on Friday night as they protested when the traders were shouting near their boarding house in Binodpur area near the university. The traders were led by Abdus Salm, Shourab and Kabir.

As the news spread, several hundred students from RU dormitories and private boarding houses nearby rushed to Binodpur and swooped on the trader's houses.

As clashes broke out villagers joined the traders and beat up students. Amid clashes and chase and counter-chase, the students ransacked some shops and houses.

Police brought the situation under control at around 1.00am.

Additional police have been deployed in the area and at Binodpur market to avert further clashes.

Police arrested Lichu trader Abdus Slam.

When contacted RU Proctor Prof Shamsul Alam said he has asked police to arrest Litchi traders who beat students.

## VIDEO FOOTAGE OF FAKE 'MINORITY TORTURE' IN BARISAL

### All for political asylum abroad?

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal Kotwali police have arrested two persons for making video footage of fake minority torture.

The arrests were made 19 days after making the footage when the incident became known to local people and the administration. The whole incident created a sensation among people in Barisal city.

The arrested persons are Sanjoy Ghosh, 28 and Mizanur Rahman Khokan, 29, two businessmen of Chawak and Bazaar Road areas in the city. Sanjoy is from a rich family in the city.

Some sources claimed that the footage was sent to a person in France, who is seeking political asylum there.

Police said Sanjoy Ghosh and Mizanur Rahman Khokan along with some others had gone to the house of Sanjoy's uncle Advocate Ashok Ghosh at Raipura village in Chandpura union in Barisal Sadar upazila on April 22.

There they staged fake sequences of minority torture by 'Islamic fundamentalists' in a field near a community clinic and at Buniadi High School and took video snaps and still photographs.

Their activities and mock minority torture drew attention of local people, who informed police, the Barisal City Corporation (BCC) Mayor and some officials. Meanwhile the matter became known to intelligence personnel also.

But police moved late and went to the spot to investigate the matter on May 6 after a news on the incident was published in local newspapers.

Mizanur Rahman, Officer-in-Charge of Barisal Kotwali police station, in a press briefing on May 11 admitted going to the spot on May 6 along with Vishnu Gosh, another uncle of Sanjoy, for investigating the

matter.

Police arrested Sanjoy and Mizan after intelligence agencies investigated the incident. The two were placed on remand on May 11, which will end today.

Eyewitnesses to the mock minority torture included former Union Parishad member Khokan Chandra Bepari, Shahidul Islam, Delwar Hossain, Tapan Howlader, Khalil Howlader and Bappi Khan, a student of class eight at Charmonai High School. They testified before police under Section 161, police said.

They told police that Sanjib, Niranjan, Palsh, Khokan, Mamu and some others participated in mock

sequences of minority torture.

The sources claimed that the video footage and still photographs were sent to Sumon Ghosh in France. Sumon Ghosh, nephew of Khokan Gosh and Vishnu Gosh, is seeking political asylum there, they claimed.

Sanjoy and Mizan are being interrogated, police said. Sanjoy's father Khokan Ghosh, uncles Vishnu Ghosh and Ashok Ghosh and other family members went into hiding after the incident, police added.

A police team led by Sader Circle ASP Mizanur Rahman visited the spot yesterday.

## Recounting of CCC ward vote demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A candidate who contested for a women's reserved seat in Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) election here has demanded recounting of votes in all centres under ward No 14 on Friday alleging manipulation in the polls result.

In a press conference held at Chittagong Press Club, Nargis Alam Chowdhury claimed that she had been leading in wards 15 and 21. She alleged that all of her polling agents were driven out from the centres under Ward No 14.

Three other candidates-- Jannat Ara Monju, Jahanara Begum and Hasna Malek-- were present.

3x3

4x3

## BARISAL BOARD HSC EXAMS

### 3rd, 4th class employees in vigilance teams

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Inclusion of five third class and five fourth class employees and two CBA

leaders in 12 vigilance teams of Barisal Education Board to visit HSC examination centers has created resentment among teachers and invigilators.

Board sources said, 52 vigilance teams have been organised to visit different HSC examination centers this year. Forty of them comprise teachers and 12 comprise board officials and other staff, the sources said.

Clerical staff and Board's CBA leaders Shahidul Islam and Md Neamul, five 3rd class and five 4th class

employees have been included in the 12 teams.

The sources said there was competition among Board employees to be in vigilance teams as each member gets Tk 80 to 200 as honorarium per day according to his position.

Last year, around Tk 50,000 was spent for vigilance teams.

When contacted, Barisal Board Chairman Principal Anwarul Huq admitted inclusion of lower class non-teaching staff in the teams and said board officials are entitled to take their personal staff during any visit.

Formation of vigilance teams is absolutely under his jurisdiction and no body can ask for explanation, he said.

8x3