'Repression of journalists | Cancel PSCs with Niko on the rise'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The incidents of repression of journalists have marked a rise in the last six months, according to a survey report of Ain o Shalish Kendra (ASK).

A total of 93 journalists were attacked and harassed by the criminals who also issued death

One journalist was killed by the criminals and four others were injured in bomb blasts. Cases were also filed against 53 newsmen, said the report, which was prepared on the basis of reports published in 12 national dailies

The ruling party cadres also

attacked and threatened 13 journalists during the period.

According to the report released yesterday, the law enforcers killed a total of 234 people in the last six months across the country. Of them, 49 people were killed by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and 179 by police. The Rab and police jointly killed four people while Cobra and Chita, two other forces, killed two

Also, political violence across the country left 24 people dead and $2,\!681\,injured\,during\,the\,period.$

The report put the number of rape victims at 448. Of them, 79 women and children were killed

Besides, 72 women fell victim to acid attacks

The report also said 197 women

were tortured because of dowry and 124 of them were killed In another survey report, Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha said 231 women and girls faced

violence in the last month. A total of 14 women were raped and eight were murdered after rape. Also, 25 women were tortured

Two women fell victim to fatwa and four others were forced into prostitution, the report added.

They also demanded compensation from Niko for the victims and immediate steps to douse the fire at Tengratila gas field.

STAFF CORESPONDENT

sion from the country.

Different organisations yesterday

demanded cancellation of all pro-

duction sharing contracts (PSC)

Gonomukti O Jatiya Sampad

Rokkha Sammilita Andolan, a

platform of several left-leaning

parties to save country's national

resources, also demanded Niko's

trial for Tengratila blowout under the

At a press conference at

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD)

office in the city, the leaders of the

organisation demanded exemplary

punishment to corrupt ministers,

bureaucrats and other associates of

We visited Tengratila on June

27 and found severe damage of

properties and environment," said

Niko and suspension of its activities.

existing laws of the country.

with Niko and its immediate expul-

Sampad Rokkha Andolan demands

"The government has identified only 267 affected families, but we found more than thousand families who were affected seriously," they

BSD leader Khalequzzaman, Workers' Party General Secretary Saiful Haque, Shamsuzzaman Milon, Journalist Nazrul Islam Renu, and Abdullah Sarkar were present

Jatiya Mukti Council, another left-leaning organisation, also made similar demands including cancellation of all PSCs and expulsion of

In a joint statement, council President Badruddin Umar and General Secretary Fayzul Haqim demanded adequate compensation from Niko for the victims.

Like previous Awami League government, the present alliance government has also failed to get compensation from foreign multinational oil companies, they alleged.



Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Wu Dawei calls on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yester-

8 killed in road accidents

Eight people were killed in road crashes in Bogra, Chittagong and Gazipur in the last two days.

reports: Three passengers of an autorickshaw were killed when a speeding truck hit the three-wheeler at Bhogil Kalitala in Khahaloo upazila at around 10:00pm on Wednesday.

The dead were identified as Faroog, 18. Hazrat Ali, 55. and Mozaher Ali, 55, of Kahaloo upazila.

Another unidentified man was killed and 20 others injured when a Dhunat-bound minibus fell into a roadside ditch at Kablitala on

UNB adds: Three people, including two women, were killed and eight others injured in a road accident near the Seed Plantation Centre on Dhaka-Gazipur highway in Sadar upazila of Gazipur district yesterday.

Police said the accident took place in the morning when a Chandana-bound soil-laden truck collided with a tempo coming from the opposite direction, leaving Rashida Khatun, 32, dead on the spot and 10 people injured.

Later, injured Jamir Uddin, 45, died at Gazipur Sadar Hospital

injures on way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital

The other injured persons were admitted to Gazipur Sadar hospital. Drivers and helpers of both the vehicles managed to escape.

In Chittagong, the 60-year-old principal of Chittagong Mahila Samity Girls' High School and College, who was injured in a road accident at Comilla few days ago, died at Centre Point Hospital yester-

Prinicipal Ferdous Chowdhury sustained serious injuries in the road accident on her way back to Chittagong from Dhaka.



Police surround Bangladesh Awami Jubo League General Secretary Mirza Azam MP and two other Awami League leaders at Bangabandhu Avenue during hartal hours yesterday.

Obituary

Advocate Md Badiuzzaman, a senior lawyer, died of cardiac arrest and old-age complications at National Heart Foundation Hospital in Mirpur in the capital yesterday. He was 82.

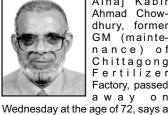
Advocate Badiuzzaman hailed from Baunara village in Baliakandi upazila in Raibari.

He was a social worker. renowned philanthropist and honorary treasurer of Bangladesh Society for Blinds (BNSB).

He is survived by his wife, his only son MD Roushanuzzaman, executive editor of UNB and Dhaka Courier, three daughters and a host of grandchildren and friends and

His Namaj-e-Janaza will be held at sector-7 Jame Mosque in Uttara after Juma prayers today.

Kabir Ahmad Chowdhury



Ahmad Chowdhury, former GM (maintenance) of Chittagong Fertilizer Factory, passed

press release He was also a poet and writer. Three of his books were published during his lifetime

He is survived by his wife, three sons, two daughters and a number of grandchildren.

His gulkhwani will be held at House # 15, Road # 4, Sector # 4, Uttara today

Relatives, friends and wellwishers are requested to attend the gulkhwani

Saleha Khatun

Bss, Dhaka

Saleha Khatun, mother of K M Kutubuddin, a news editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), died at her Badarpur village home in Mehendiganj upazila in Barisal district on Wednesday morning at the age of 75.

Saleha Khatun had been suffering from cancer, family sources

She left behind her four sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her

death. She was buried at her family graveyard at Badarpur village

DHÂKA O D A Y

Roundtable

A roundtable on 'Reforms of Election Commission and election system' organised by Rajnoitik Sangskriti Andolon, will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.00pm.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Sangsade Katha Bala Jai' by Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain will be held with Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar as chief quest. Venue: VIP Lounge of the National Press Club, Time: 10.30am.

Bishwa Sahitya Kendra

A prize giving ceremony, organised by Bishwa Sahitya Kendra under its book reading programme, will be held. Venue: Isfendiar Zahid Hasan Auditorium, Bangla Motor. Time:

Award giving ceremony

The distribution ceremony of Rafiqul Islam Banking Award- 04 will be held with Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui as chief guest. Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 4.00pm.

White Band Day

To observe the White Band Day, People's Forum on MDGs organises a rally and cultural function. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 4.00pm.

Discussion

Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh will hold a discussion titled 'Collapse of Spectrum Garments

Building at Savar.' Venue: IDEB Auditorium, Kakrail. Time: 4.30pm. JP meting

A meeting of Jatiya Party city unit will be

held. Venue: 27/8/A Topkhana Road.

Time: 5.00pm. Prize giving

ceremony The report card and prize giving ceremony of the International Education Centre will be held. Venue: Uttara Club. Time: 10.00am.

Jewelry exhibition

A daylong Jewelry exhibition titled

'Treasure of Java' will be held. Venue:

Gallery Chitrak, Road-4, House-21, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.30am to8.00pm.

Cultural function

Dhaka Centre of Amader Adda organises a cultural function. Venue: Maula Buksh Sardar Memorial Trust, Farashganj. Time: 10.00am.

Film show

Muldhara. a forum of writers, journalists and artists, will screen two films titled 'D The Company' and Desparado.' Venue: Zakia Alam Auditorium, House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Roundtable

Bangladesh Jatiya Samabay Union organises a roundtable titled 'Microfinance is our business! Cooperating out of poverty' with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: 9/D Motijheel. Time: 10.00am.

Tree Fair

The inaugural ceremony of a tree fair. organised by Dhaka City Corporation, will be held with Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam as chief guest. Venue: Dhupkhola Ground.

Memorial discussion

Nazrul Institute will hold a discussion to mark the 43rd death anniversary of Kazi Promila Nazrul, wife of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Venue: Kabi Bhaban, House-330/B, Road- 28, Dhanmondi. Time: 11.00am.

Presentation

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust will present a report on its survey on 'Gender, knowledge, networking and human rights intervention in Bangladesh Project.' Venue: Biam Auditorium, New Eskaton, Time: 2.00pm.

Reception

Bangladesh Sports Writers Association will accord a reception to two sports writers to mark the World Sports Journalists Day. Venue: National Sports Council Conference Room. Time:

Govt to upgrade Fazil, Kamil degrees

Osman Farruk tells Jatiya Sangsad

The government is actively considering to give Fazil and Kamil degrees of madrasa education the equal status to graduation and master degrees respectively of the general education, Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk told Parliament yesterday.

Osman Farruk told lawmaker Mohammad Giasuddin (Narayanganj-4) in a written reply that the government has plans to make the madrasa education modern and time befitting. He said to modernise madrasa education, a curriculum had already been prepared which is now under process of mplementation.

Replying to another question from M Shaheed Uddin Chowdhury Anny (Laxmipur-3), Dr Osman Faruk said the government had suspended the salaries of teachers and employees of those schools and madrasas from where the pass percentage in SSC and Dakhil examinations in 2002, 2003, 2004 were between zero and 10.

Besides, the government salary of the teachers and employees of the schools, school and colleges

suspended for recording zero percent pass in public examinations in two consecutive years (2003 and

He said the government salary of

the teachers and employees had been suspended in those colleges where no student could pass in Responding to Professor Shahidul Islam (Kushtia-2), he said there are around 9,000 Quami

madrasas in the country now and the madrasas are being controlled by 'Refakul Madarisil Arabia' (Bangladesh Quami Madrasa Education Dr Faruk said that the government would consider controlling the Quami madrasas, if necessary.

Answering to MA Hashem (Noakhali-2), the Education Minister said the government had no plan to distribute textbook in higher secondary level at free of cost.

The government after taking the office has so far supplied 14,265 computers to different educational institutions of seven education boards, the Minister said while responding to Abu Syed M Shahadat Hossain (Jessore-2).

4267 people killed in six months

Says BHRB report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 4, 267 people were killed and 24, 363 injured since January 1 to June 29 this year, said a report of the Bureau of Human Rights Bangladesh (BHRB).

According to the report, 210 people were killed and 17 injured in 227 crossfire incidents.

Two journalists were murdered, 31 injured and 41 threatened with death during the period.

The total number of rape victim was recorded at 355. Of them, 67 were child, 191 young girl and 97 women. Two were raped by police while 177 gangraped causing death

Some 2,404 people were killed and 7, 894 injured in rail, road, air and waterway accidents.

Natural disasters also caused death to 1,055 and injured 838

throughout the country. Besides, campus violence, abduction, acid throwing, mass beating, and police beating in jail custody also caused murder and injuries to a number of people.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Bar Council has reported 1, 349 murder during this period.

Of them, 193 died in crossfire, three in bomb explosion, 39 died after rape, 83 died for dowry and 47 by their husbands. Besides, 27 people were killed

for political reason while 244 com-A total of 197 people were the

victims of bomb blast, 22 domestic violence, nine fatwa and 39 dowry.

Cancel decision to rename DU hall: AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday protested the decision of the Dhaka University Senate to rename the proposed Begum Sufia Kamal Hall as Begum Khaleda Zia Hall with a call to cancel its decision.

A meeting of the party's sub-committee for education and human resource development at AL's Dhanmondi office said the university authorities earlier decided to name a female dormitory after the name of poet Begum Sufia Kamal and it was awaiting for approval of the senate.

"Violating all norms, the senate on Tuesday took a decision to rename the hall after the incumbent Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. This is for the first time in the history of Dhaka University that a hall is being named after a living person," said a resolution of the meet-

Hasina donated a piece of land adjacent to the Curzon Hall for constructing a dormitory for female students. Later, a committee was formed to select a name for the hall and it was unanimously decided to name the hall

It said former prime minister Sheikh

after Begum Sufia Kamal, the staterelease The meeting also expressed concern over the deteriorating situation in educational institutions due to politicisation, corruption and violence

being resorted by the ruling party's

Chaired by former DU vice-chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, the meeting was attended by Nurul Islam Nahid, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Harun-ur-Rashid, Shahe Alam and Bahadur Bapari.

DU exams postponed

DU CORRESPONDENT

All examinations of Dhaka University scheduled for July 2 and 3 have been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. Fresh dates for the postponed

exams will be announced soon. The schedules for other examinations will remain unchanged.

Death anniversary Today is the 12th death anniversary of Sheikh Faizullah (Hiro Bhai), a retired divisional engineer of Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board, says a press

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani will be held at the house of his daughter at Baitul Aman Housing Society at Adabar after Juma pravers today.

Speedy tribunals sentence 311 to death so far A total of 221 people have been

Nine speedy trail tribunals have awarded 311 people capital punishment in different sensational murder cases during the last 33 months since their formation in October, Official sources in the Law

Ministry yesterday said the speedy trial tribunals disposed of about 650 sensational cases, including Buet student Sony murder case, college student Bushra and school student Trisha rape and murder cases. A total of 655 convicts for capital

punishment are now huddling in 53 condemned cells of various prisons in the country.

ATTACK BY JMJB MEN

Rajshahi journo

on the run STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Continued threats by the cadres of Bangla Bhai's Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) forced a local journalist to leave his home at Bagmara yesterday.

Islam, a correspondent of the daily tinued to issue threats to him. While the attackers were roaming freely police recorded a case against the "I am feeling extremely insecure

as the situation is changing so rapidly," Shafiq said on his cell phone while heading for Rajshahi from Bagmara last night. Moshiur Rahman Pitar, a JMJB adherent, lodged a case alleging

that Shafiq, also general secretary

of Bagmara press club, and

Mahfizur Rahman, president of the club, attacked his house and injured the family members. He also threatened Shafiq on his cell phone and asked him not to visit Bhabaniganj in Bagmara for cover-

ing any report. Shafiq received critical injuries when a group of four JMJB men, equipped with sharp weapons, attacked him on his way to the press club on Tuesday for helping other journalists write reports against the

Shafiq filed a case with Bagmara police station, but no-one was arrested in this connection.

Bagmara officer-in-charge Motiar Rahman told reporters that the case filed against Shafiq was found 'false' during the primary investigation. "The case was filed only to save the attackers. We are looking for Pitar and his accomplices." he added.

Meanwhile, a Rapid Action Battalion team visited the scene.

Mutilated body of garment worker recovered STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered mutilated body of a garment worker from Shafiqul Islam, 23, an employee

of Nippon Sweater Factory at Tongi

Ershadnagar, had been missing since last three days, said his rela-Fellow workers in the factory found the body in the storeroom located on the third floor of the

building after smelling bad odour

coming from there in the morn-On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital

(DMCH) morgue for autopsy. Islam was killed couple of days back and the body was mutilated, said morgue sources.

Police picked up two employees

Jamil and Sabbir in this connection.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said that the present government sentenced to death by different has brought an epoch-making progress in the judicial system by setting up the speedy trial tribunals. "The sensational cases, includ-

ing Buet student Sony murder case and Trisha murder case are being disposed of within a very short death reference of Bangabandhu period in the speedy trial tribunals. murder case in which 12 accused The government has achieved a tremendous success through establishing the tribunals. Besides, the government is trying to make other courts vibrant in disposing of the cases, particularly the sensa-

tional and important cases," he said. Sources said a total of 31 death sentences have been executed till date after the independence of the

A total of 56 death reference cases, including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case, have been filed in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court from 2001 till June 30. The Appellate Division has so far disposed of only 25 cases, but it could not dispose of any death reference case this year, sources said. According to the sources, the

speedy trial tribunals and sessions

udges' courts in last four years have

ven 434 people death sentences. The cadres attacked Shafiqul Of them, the speedy trial tribunals sentenced 311 people and the sessions judges' courts 123 people The government has been trying

> to increase the number of condemned cells for the capital punishment awardees. Moudud added. Sources said 22 people were sent to gallows from May 2001 to June 2005. Of them, one was in

occasion of launching of the school.

13 in 2004 and four in 2005.

courts till 2001 since independence. On the other hand, 80 people were given death sentence in 2002, 162 in 2003, 112 in 2004 and 80 this year, sources said Supreme Court sources said the

were convicted was filed in the Supreme Court 2001. The case cannot be disposed of for want of There are three benches in the High Court for hearing the death references but those cannot regu-

larly hear the death references due

to lack of paper books, sources said.

BOUQUET TO BIDISHA

Show cause on Rajshahi JP leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

The Jatiya Party, Rajshahi city unit, has served a show cause notice on its organising secretary for presenting a bouquet to Bidisha, estranged

wife of JP Chairman HM Ershad. In the notice issued or Wednesday night, Rajshahi city JP President Durul Huda accused Shamim Sarder of tarnishing image of the party and asked him to reply

within seven days why he would not be expelled from the party. Shamim called on Bidisha after her release from the prison cell and 2001, two were in 2002, two in 2003.

presented her with a bouquet.



Md Kamaluddin, chairman of Canadian International School, Dhaka, speaks at the 'Meet the press' in the city yesterday. The event was organised on the



Thundershowers likely

Khulna and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions till 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions, Met Office said. It predicted

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary

gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Chittagong, Barisal,

slight rise in day temperature over the country. Highest temperature 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Syedpur and lowest 24.1 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:15am Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town Temperature Humidity in in Celsius percentage Morning Evening Max Dhaka 29.2 25.8 88 Chittagong 27.0 24.8 92 Rajshahi 31.6 80 26.1 29.5 26.1 Khulna Barisal 27.0 25.5 100 30.9 26.0 Svlhet 92 Cox's Baza