

TWO YEARS AFTER RAJNAGAR MULTIPLE MURDERS Accused moving freely, threaten victims' families

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet None of the 31 accused in Kashimpur murder case has been arrested, two years after the incident. Four murders were committed on September 28, 2003 in Rajnagar upazila in Habiganj district and the lone eyewitness to the gruesome incident was picked up from his house and killed on the night of April this year, allegedly by the accused. All the accused are moving freely in the area brandishing firearms and threatening the victims' families to withdraw the case, it was alleged at a press conference held at Sylhet Press Club on Sunday. Police are not arresting the accused as they are influential and known to be men of a local ruling party lawmaker, Rani Begum, daughter of the slain witness Aina

Miah alleged. Family members of other victims were also present at the press conference. In her written statement, Rani Begum said an organised gang of miscreants shot dead four members of a family when an arbitration meeting was going on at Kashimpur village in Rajnagar upazila on September 28, 2003. The victims were Lulu Miah, 28, his brother Farid Miah, 22, Ripon Miah, 18 and Faisal, 10. Immediately after the murders, a case was lodged with Rajnagar thana accusing 31 people including Haji Alkas Miah. But none has been arrested yet. Rather, family members of the victims are being harassed by police following filing of a number of false cases by the killers and their people, she alleged. The autopsy report was also tempered to save the killers, she

claimed. The killers, backed by powerful quarters enjoying political clout, are threatening the family members of the victims, she alleged. "My father Aina Miah was the lone eye witness to the four murders. As he was assisting the victims' families, a gang picked up him from our house in neighbouring Rashidpur village on the night of April 24 this year", Rani Begum said. The body with multiple marks of injury was recovered from Kushiara river two days later. Rani Begum said she filed a case on April 27 but Rajnagar police failed to arrest any of the accused in the two cases. "We apprehend further attack on us", her written statement said. The family members demanded immediate arrest of the killers to save the victims' families.

JMB threatens to bomb Patuakhali Govt College

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali Patuakhali Government College has been threatened of bomb attack by Jamaatul Mujahideen (JMB) unless coeducation is stopped. It's principal Quazi Shamsul Islam on Monday received a postal letter in the name of the Islamist outfit. The letter addressed to the principal began with some Arabic words reading Bismillah Hir Rahmaner Rahim. The rest of it was written in Bangla which said: Free mixing of boys and girls does not mean acquiring knowledge. Your college will be bombed soon. The principal showed the letter to newsmen at his office yesterday and filed a general diary (GD) with the Sadar thana. Police have been deployed on the campus.



Businessmen formed a human chain in Chittagong city yesterday demanding withdrawal of VAT on retail sale of goods. PHOTO: STAR

One abducted for ransom in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia Criminals abducted a fish trader from Deripara village in Kushtia Sadar upazila Monday night and demanded Tk one lakh ransom. The victim's family and police said a gang stormed into Sudhir's house and called his son Dilip, 38. When Dilip came out, the gang picked him up at gunpoint and later demanded payment of Tk one lakh within two days for his release. The gang also warned that if the money is not paid or police is informed, they would kill Dilip, family members said. When contacted yesterday afternoon, police at Kushtia Islamic University said they came to know about the incident and launched a drive to rescue the victim. But a case was yet to be filed, they said. Family sources said they were trying to rescue Dilip through negotiation with the abductors.

Businessman stabbed, robbed of Tk 5.5 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet Armed miscreants stabbed a businessman and took away Tk 5.5 lakh from him on Sylhet-Salutikor road on the outskirts of the city Saturday night. Seven people wearing black masks waylaid Mohammad Hossain Sweet, a stone trader, when he was returning home from the Bholganj stone quarry in an auto-rickshaw at about 8:30pm. They stopped the vehicle near Chhalia village and took away the money at gunpoint. They also stabbed him. Hossain was admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. A case was filed in the Sylhet Kotwali police station. Nobody was arrested till filing of this report.



Chhatra League, students wing of opposition Awami League, brought out a procession in Barisal city on Monday protesting recent recruitment of Chhatra Dal and Ismail Chhatra Shibir activists as election officials. PHOTO: STAR

AL leader murdered in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia An Awami League leader was hacked and killed allegedly by BNP men at Boalia village in Daulatpur upazila in Kushtia Monday night. According to a case filed with Daulatpur thana, Muktar Hossain, 60, a leader of Boalia union AL, was hacked by a group of BNP men led by Nazmul when he was returning home from market at about 9 pm Monday. They left him taking him to be dead. Passers-by took him to the local health complex and then to Kushtia General Hospital where he died at about 12 midnight. Local AL has demanded arrest of Nazmul and his alleged godfathers Momtaz Seikh and Awlad Hossain, masterminds of the murder. AL leaders alleged that the killers could not be arrested due to interference by the local lawmaker. Police said the killing was a sequel to rivalry for establishing supremacy in the area.

Netrakona AL leaders bury differences

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona Netrakona Awami League leaders have closed ranks after four years of internal feud and are taking up programmes jointly. The feuding factions led by former MP Fazlur Rahman Khan and Shamsujjaha, president of newly formed district committee, have buried their differences following the recent visit of party central secretary Abdul Jalil MP, party sources told this correspondent. They had fallen apart over party nomination in the 2001 parliamentary polls. The two groups took out processions jointly in the town during the September 21 countrywide hartal and are observing party programmes together since then. Talking to this correspondent, Fazlur Rahman Khan said we are holding joint programmes in the district to intensify the on-going anti-government agitation. Shamsujjaha said, "There are no conflict in Netrakona AL. We will run our anti-government movement seriously". Local people salvaged the trawler.

RU quota for indigenous students demanded

Call to form body to look into their problems RU CORRESPONDENT The function was arranged in Rajshahi city to award prizes and stipends among Saontal students at Rajshahi University with bright academic performance. Adivasi Unyon Sangstha (AUS) and Saontal Students Union (SASU) jointly organised the programme. AUS Executive Director Bhavagat Tudu was the chief guest at the function, also attended by advocate Michael Saran, Bhaga upazila AUS representative Surzo Hambron, indigenous leader Ranjit Saran and AUS leader Tanvir. SASU president Trimuki Hambron was in the chair. The speakers also demanded of the government to enact laws to protect rights of the indigenous people and their traditional culture and language. They alleged that many indigenous children leave Bangalee schools as they do not get opportunity equal to Bangalees. AUS and SASU distributed Tk 10,000 and books among the 20 RU students for their education. The function was marked with a freshers' reception and a cultural programme where Santal students presented drama, songs and group songs depicting their culture.

College girl found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali Dashmina police on Friday recovered the body of a college girl from a canal near Dashmina High School. The victim is Tania, daughter of Abu Noman and a student of class XI of Dashmina Degree College. Police sources said, Tania was missing since September 20 when she was on way home from her college. Police arrested one person, Miraj, 30, on suspicion. The college students brought out a protest procession in the upazila headquarters on Saturday. They also boycotted their classes demanding exemplary punishment to the killers.

2 brothers drown as trawler sinks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali Two minor brothers drowned and five others went missing as an overcrowded trawler capsized in the Bura Gouranga near Patua village in Kalapara upazila on Monday. The recovered bodies were identified as Bikash, 7, and Dipanker, 5. Local people said, the trawler having a capacity of 40 passengers sailed for Patua from Machua Khali with 80 passengers on board. When it reached at a place near Patua, suddenly it was caught by a storm and capsized. Local people salvaged the trawler.

RIVALRY FOR PARTY TICKET IN NEXT POLLS

Zia Parishad confce foiled by BNP faction in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore A conference of Zia Parishad at Monirampur was foiled on Monday following an attack by a rival faction of BNP. At least 27 people including Kazi Kamal, member secretary of Khulna Division Zia Parishad; its Jessore unit secretary, Jessore town BNP president and editor of local daily Amar Jamin Prof Abdur Razzaque, its publisher Dr. Mesbaur Rahman and photo journalist Jainta Bosu were injured. The attack was the result of intra-party rivalry for nomination in Monirampur constituency in the next parliamentary election. The attackers allegedly looted

the photojournalist's digital camera and other valuables and damaged his motorcycle. Zia Parishad leaders said the attackers belonging a rival group of BNP also beat local journalist Jahangir Alam and 22 leaders and activists of Zia Parishad. The victims include Kazi Kamal, Jainta Boru, Abdul Jalil and Ripon. Three of the injured were admitted to Jessore Sadar Hospital. The attackers also kept Dr. Mesbaur Rahman and Prof Abdur Razzaque confined to the conference room. Later, police rescued them. Mesbaur Rahman blame Monirampur Pourashava Chairman and BNP leader Shaheed Iqbal for the attack.

Leaders of Jessore Zia Parishad at a press conference held at Jessore Press Club yesterday demanded immediate arrest of the attackers, return of the looted goods and compensation for the damages. In a written statement, Dr. Mesbaur Rahman said he and other Zia Parishad leaders went to Monirampur following a green signal from the party high command. Local BNP leader Shaheed Iqbal deliberately made the attack to that they can not do any party activity in the area, he alleged. Party sources said both Dr. Mesbaur Rahman, hailing from Jessore Sadar and Shaheed Iqbal are aspirants for BNP ticket in the next parliamentary polls.

ইসলামী ব্যাংক হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি. Table with columns: ক্রমিক, পদের নাম, সংখ্যা, বেতন ভাতা, শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা. Includes details for various medical and administrative positions.

Jhowdanga culprits yet to be arrested

Preparations for Durga Puja, rites at temples still stopped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkhira Police could not arrest any of the miscreants who attacked a Hindu temple at Jhowdanga in the Sadar upazila on September 4 and threatened a priest to stop religious activities there. Since then, all religious rituals and preparations for the Durga Puja are now stopped at four temples in the area. The decision to suspend religious activities was announced at a press conference held at Sathkhira Reporters Club after the September 4 incident. The press conference was addressed by general secretary of Jhowdanga Crematorium Committee Biswanath Ghosh. In a written statement at the press conference, he alleged that some vested quarters were trying to occupy lands of the century-old crematorium at Jhowdanga. They are threatening the Hindu community not to worship at the temples.

"A group of miscreants led by Riaz Uddin entered into the temple at Jhowdanga Crematorium and assaulted priest Ashoke Kumar Mukherjee on September 4", he had said. He also said that the Sathkhira Deputy Commissioner and the Police Superintendent were informed of the incident. Yesterday, the Sadar thana officer-in-charge called priests and Hindu community leaders of Jhowdanga and sought time to arrest the miscreants. He also assured them security during Durga Puja, sources said. Those who met the OC included Sathkhira district Puja Uddhayan Parishad president Monoranjan Ghosh, its general secretary Mongal Kumar Pal, Pranab Ghosh Bablu, Tapan Kumar Saha, Anit Mukherjee, Dhru Banerjee, Asim Chakravarty, Milon Kumar Ghosh and Subhas Ghosh.

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