



Relatives of slain Senior Assistant Judge Jagannath Pandey wail after his brutal killing in a bomb attack in Jhalakathi (left). The powerful bomb blew up the microbus tossing a potion onto a tree (right). *Story on page 1.*



PHOTO: STAR

Death of judges in Jhalakathi bombing sparks protests

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The bomb attack allegedly by Jama'atul Mujahidin Bangladesh (JMB) in Jhalakathi that killed two judges and injured four persons triggered protests and condemnations across the country.

Senior Assistant Judges Shahid Sohel Ahmed, 35, of Nalchhiti and Jagannath Ppandey, 38, of Jhalakathi were killed when a powerful bomb was hurled on their microbus yesterday.

Lawyers in different districts held rallies, meetings and marched streets, bitterly condemning the dastardly act in the name of religion.

They also demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the attackers and stern action to stop such incidents. Otherwise, the judicial system will collapse, which will give rise to anarchy in the country, they warned.

In Mymensingh, lawyers boycotted courts, in addition to holding a protest meeting.

Our Mymensingh Correspondent reports: Protesting the killing of two judges in a bomb attack in Jhalakathi, members of Mymensingh Bar Association boycotted courts yesterday and brought out a protest procession on the court premises.

Later, a protest meeting as held at the Bar Association auditorium with its president Muslem Uddin in the chair. It

was addressed by, among others, M Jubed Ali, Anisur Rahman, Juhirul Haque, Monjurul Haque Wazedul Islam, Mahmud-Al-Noor Tareq, Muazzem Hossain Babul, Kabir Uddin Bhuiyan, Nazrul Islam Chunnun and Emdadul Haque Millat.

The speakers held the BNP-led coalition government responsible for nourishing fundamentalist elements who have been making bomb attacks across the country.

Judges and officials of judge courts held a meeting at judge court building with District and Session Judge Anisuzzaman in the chair.

They bitterly condemned the incident and demanded punishment of those responsible in the killings.

Thee meeting expressed sympathy with members of the bereaved families and prayed for salvation of the departed souls.

Our Manikganj Correspondent reports: Judges and lawyers in Manikganj held a emergency meeting to protest the killing of two judges in a bomb attack at Jhalakathi.

With District and Sessions Judge Md Asgar Ali the chair, the meeting was addressed by, among others, Public Prosecutors Moksedur Rahman and Azad Hossain Khan, Manikganj Bar Association President Rahmat Ali, its secretary Khalilur Rahman, Hezazur

Rahman Khan Baku and Abdul Mojid Photo.

The condemned the barbaric attack and demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the attackers and government steps at stop such indents. They also demanded security of all Judges in the country.

Earlier, the Bar Association members brought out a procession in the town and held a meeting at the Bar Association building protesting the attack.

Our Staff Correspondent reports from Khulna: District and Sessions Judge AKM Ishtiaque Hossain said he is feeling insecure to attend court in view of the death of two judges in a bomb attack in Jhalakathi.

"All other judges of my court are absolutely scared", he said when this correspondent met him in his chamber at noon yesterday to know his reaction to the bomb attack on judges by Islamist extremists.

The District Judge told this correspondent that his official residence is not at all secure as it is only about 100 yards from the bank of Bhairab river. There is enough scope for terrorists to attack my residence from the riverside as the backyard remains unguarded, he said.

"Necessary security measures have been taken to save lives of judges and magistrates from attack of terrorists or Islamist extremists. Yet, we are not at all

feeling secure. Because, target murders are beyond control of law enforcers", he said.

Meanwhile, security measures were beefed up in and around the Judges' Court and the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate.

Lawyers brought out a procession in protest against killing of two judges in Jhalakathi and strongly condemned the government's alleged failure to stop such bomb attacks.

Work in the Judges' Court remained suspended out of panic and in protest against the murders.

Awami League brought out a procession in the afternoon condemning the attack and demanding immediate arrest of all Islamist extremists and their ring-leaders Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai.

Our Jessore Correspondent reports: Lawyers and judges burst into protests as soon as the news of killing of two judges reached the town yesterday.

Judges left courts to hold a meeting to demand safety of their lives while lawyers came on streets to protest the gruesome killings. The processionists the main streets.

The judges did not make any comment to journalists when asked about their reaction to the killings.

Magistrates also left courts in protest against the killing of two judges in Jhalakathi.

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) searched different courts as part of precautionary measures.

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: the Satkhira Bar Association held a meeting at the Bar Association auditorium protesting the killings.

With its president Abdul Hossain in the chair, the meeting was addressed by, among others, SM Haidar, Shah Alam, Solam Mostafa, Moharall Ali, Mustafa Lutfullah, Nurul Alam, Abdus Sattar, Safiqul Islam. They demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the culprits and steps to ensure security of life of judges.

Our Patuakhali Correspondent reports: The local Bar Association brought out a protest procession and held a rally at the court compo, demanding security of life of judges. It was addressed by, among others, Abdul Aziz, Wahid Sarwar Kalam, Golam Wahid Chowdhury, Abdul Hai and Humayun Kabir.

CPB protests 'failure' to tackle Monga

Processionists lay siege to DC's office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) brought out a procession in Nilphamari town and laid a siege to the Deputy Commissioner's office yesterday protesting alleged government failure to supply food to the poor in Monga-affected northern districts.

The programme in Nilphamari was part of similar agitation in other northern districts yesterday.

At a rally held in front of the DC's office the CPB leaders alleged that the government failed to face the Monga while it spent several hundred crore taka for decoration of Dhaka city.

CPB central leader Sreedam Das was among the speakers. They said ruling party leaders are amassing wealth through corruption while the

people are virtually starving in northern districts.

The BNP-Jamaat government did not try to create job opportunities in the northern districts. Rather, it closed so many mills and factories. This aggravated the Monga situation, they said.

They demanded immediate steps to prepare a master plan to create jobs and increase the number of VGF (vulnerable group feeding) cards for the poor.

They urged the government to take steps to control price hike of rice and other essentials.

After the rally, the CPB leaders handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner. ADC (General) Alefuddin received the memorandum on behalf of the DC.

ALLEGED DEATH FROM MONGA

BNP leaders slate Hasina's remark

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Nilphamari district leaders of BNP have protested Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's statement that 'a number of people' died of starvation in Monga-affected northern districts.

She made the statement on November 10 during her visit to some northern districts.

Protesting this, Shahrin Islam Tuhin, president of Nilphamari BNP and nephew of the Prime Minister, said no one died of starvation in northern districts in recent times.

"Awami League wants a dead body for its destructive politics and so it is making a false propaganda of death from starvation", he told a press conference at the Circuit House on Sunday.

He said the opposition is trying to create an anarchy in the name of Monga. A section of newspapers is also intentionally publishing 'biased

reports' in favour of Awami League. This is not fair, Tuhin said.

There is no denying of the fact that farm labourers did not have any work during the pre-harvest lean period during Bengali months of Aswin and Kartik. To help them tide over the situation, the government has sanctioned 1,25,500 VGF cards and another 54,500 cards under rural rationing programme under which rice is sold at Tk 4 per kilogram. Another 64,000 VGF cardholders are getting 30 kg rice a month. So the poor people suffered least this year, he claimed.

But a section of newspapers do not highlight the government steps, he regretted.

The press conference was also addressed by district BNP secretary Anisul Arefin Chowdhury, joint secretary Mir Selim Faruk and Sadar upazila BNP president Alamgir Sarkar.

144 PSTU staff stage sit-in, no classes held

Regularisation of services demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

One hundred and forty-four staff of Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) including 12 teachers staged a sit-in demonstration in front of the Academic Building from 9 am to 4 pm yesterday demanding regularisation of their services.

The 144 staff including 24 officials and 108 employees are working on an ad-hoc basis for long.

Classes in all the three faculties were not held yesterday due to the demonstration by teachers. There are about 300 employees including teachers at the PSTU.

The agitating employees, joined by their other colleagues also brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus to press their one-point

demand. The rally was addressed by, among others, Lecturer SM Hemayet Zahan and officials Aminul Islam Tito and Abu Bakar, and Jalal Ahmed and Sahid Sikder, president and secretary respectively of Master Roll Sramik Karmachary Parishad.

They urged the authorities to fulfil their legitimate demand immediately and threatened of tougher agitation for non-compliance.

When contacted, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Wahid-uz-Zaman said, "We yet to finalise service rules for PSTU staff. It will be finalised by the Regent Board, the highest decision making body."

A meeting (of the Regent Board) has been called on November 24", he said.

9X3

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