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Journalist marching streets in Jessore (L) and Mymensingh yesterday protesting the murder of Gautam Das, Staff Correspondent of Dainik Samakal in Faridpur on Thursday.

Journalist's murder triggers protests

Rallies, processions held in Satkhira, Jessore, Sirajganj, Gaibandha and Mymensingh for trial of killers of Gautam Das

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Journalists in districts yesterday protested the murder of Gautam Das, Staff Reporter of Dainik Samakal, in Faridpur Thursday night by unidentified killers. They brought out processions and held rallies in Jessore, Satkhira, Mymensingh, Sirajganj, Gaibandha protesting the killing and demanding immediate arrest and punishment of the assailants.

The body of Gautam Das was found dead at his office in the town. Police said he was strangled.

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: Journalists of different national, regional and local dailies in the district held a rally in the town and brought out a procession yesterday protesting the killing of Dainik Samakal Staff Correspondent Gautam Das in Faridpur.

The rally held at Satkhira Reporters Club premises was presided over by its convenor Kalyan Banerjee (Prothom Alo) and addressed by, among others, Prof. Abu Ahmed (Daily Star), Ramkrishna Chakraborty (Samakal), Kamruzzaman (Amar Desh), Abdul Bari (Dinkal), Abul Kalam Azad (local daily Patradut), Momtaz Ahmed Bappi (Inqilab), Mostafizur Rahman Ujjal

(Arhaniti), Manirul Islam Moni (Ajker Kagoj), Akbar Kabir Montu (Samakal), Yarab Hossain (Jessore-based regional daily Runner) and Badiuzzaman (Satkhira Chitra).

They expressed concern, saying killing of journalists in South Western districts of the country is increasing day by day due to government's failure to find out clues to the murders of journalists SM Alauddin (Patradut), Shamsur Rahman (Janakantha), Saiful Islam Mukul (Runner), Manik Saha (Sangbad), Humayun Kabir Balu (Janmabhumi) and others. Their killers have not been nabbed and punished.

Our Jessore Correspondent reports: Jessore journalists' Forum and Jessore Union of Journalists jointly held a meeting and brought out a procession in the town Thursday evening in protest against the killing of Gautam Das, Staff Correspondent of Dainik Samakal in Faridpur.

The processionists chanted slogans demanding immediate arrest and punishment of the killers.

After parading the main streets of Jessore town, the processionists held a protest meeting at the Daratana square. The meeting was addressed by, among

others, Jessore Journalist Forum leaders Ekramuddin, Moinul Haque, Mizanur Rahman Tota and Jessore Union of Journalists (UJ) President Shajedur Rahman Bokul.

Our Mymensingh Correspondent reports: Protesting the killing of Gautam Das, Staff Reporter of Dainik Samakal in Faridpur, journalists organisations here took up joint programmes yesterday.

The programmes included protest rally, mourning procession and wearing of black badges.

The local unit of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity, Mymensingh Press Club and Mymensingh Reporters Unity jointly brought out a mourning procession that paraded the main streets of the district town. Later, a protest rally was held on the premises of Press Club.

The speakers strongly protested the killing and demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

With Abdul Kuddus, correspondent of daily Sangbad in the chair, the rally was addressed by, among others, G Mostafa (The Daily Star), Shahidul, Shahidul Islam (Daily Khabar Patra), Akhtaruzzaman Bablu (BTV and BSS), Samim Shirajee (Inqilab), Rafiqul Islam Shamim (Provat), Abdus Samad Jahedi

(Sangram) and Nurul Islam (Naya Ekramuddin). They condemned the killing and demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the killers.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports: Gaibandha Press Club at a meeting here yesterday expressed grave concern at the killing of one more journalist - Gautam Das - and demanded exemplary punishment to the killer.

The speakers criticised the government for failing to check the alleged slide in law and order, resulting in killings of journalist, judges and intellectuals.

The killings are continuing as the government could not try the murder of journalists earlier, they said.

Presided over by Gobinda Lal Das, president of Gaibandha Press Club, the meeting was addressed by, among others, KM Rezaul Hoque, Syed Nurul Alam Jahangir, Dipok Kumar Pal, Abu Zafar Sabu, Siddique Alam Dayal, Abedur Rahman Shawpon, Shahbul Shaheen Tota, Amitav Das Himun, Abdul Mannan Chaowdhury and Harur-Rashid Badal.

Later they brought out a mourning procession and paraded the main streets of the district town.

Jamaat leader Dhira prime accused in Belal murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Charge sheet of journalist Belal murder case will be submitted to the CMM court here on Sunday.

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Shahabuddin Lashkar alias Dhira has been named as the prime accused in the charge sheet to be submitted under Section 302,

according to Khulna thana OC and Investigation Officer (IO) of the case Md. Iqbal.

Belal was fatally injured in a bomb attack in front of Khulna Press Club on February 5 this year. He died at Dhaka CMH on February 11.

One shot dead by BSF in Darshana

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi on Darshana border in Chuadanga early yesterday.

The victim has been identified as Yunus Ali, 33, son of Azer Ali of Iswarchandrapur village in Damurhuda upazula in the district.

BDR said BSF patrol team shot Yunus near border pillars no 74 when he was crossing the border at about 3.30am. He died on the spot. BSF took away the body.

BSF later claimed that they shot the Bangladeshi citizen when he was roaming near the Indian border and that they also recovered 200 bottles of contraband phensidyl from his possession, BDR sources said.

Railway goods seized from BNP leader's house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police recovered 56 railway sleepers and some equipment worth about Tk. 24 lakh from a BNP leader's house in Bheramara town on Monday.

Police said that acting on information they raided the house of Saiful Haq Mukul a leader of Bheramara Pura BNP and recovered the goods. But he escaped. A case has been filed, police said.

The goods might have been stolen from railway store or from tracks, police said.

Pilferage of railway goods was also reported earlier. Police on several occasions recovered pilfered goods from houses of influential people having links with political parties.

'Charter of freedom' to be announced at Nov 22 rally

AL leaders say at Narsingdi and Manikganj

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Front ranking Awami League leaders at rallies in Narsingdi and Manikganj have said a 'charter of freedom' of the people will be announced at the grand 14-party rally in Dhaka on November 22.

Scared at the opposition movement, the BNP-Jamaat government, now 'isolated from the people', is trying to foil the rally by arresting and harassing opposition leaders and activists across the country, they alleged.

A Correspondent reports from Narsingdi: Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil has said the 14-party opposition alliance will announce at its November 22 grand rally a 'charter of freedom' of the people from the BNP-Jamaat government's misrule.

A programme will be announced to oust this anti-people government from power through a mass movement, he said at a big public meeting, held in front of Narsingdi AL office Thursday afternoon. It was organised by the district 14-party alliance.

He said killings and repression on people have crossed limits and this government can not be allowed to continue in power any more. He alleged that the two judges in Jhalakathi were killed by terrorists sheltered by the government.

Jalil said the government has already ruined the administration by politicising it. Now it is destroying the judiciary in a systemic way.

So, there is no alternative to dislodging this government he said and urged the people to join the November 22 grand rally in Dhaka to hasten its fall.

The meeting was presided over by advocate Asaduzzaman, president of Narsingdi district Awami League, and addressed by, among others, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, AL Presidium member Motia Chowdhury, JSD central leader Sharif Nurul Ambia, Gono Forum leader Jahirul Islam, Syamyabadi Dal leader Dilip Barua, Ganatantri Party leader Nurul Islam, Abdus Samad of Gano Azadi League, MA

Gani of NAP and Raziuddin Ahamed MP.

Our Manikganj Correspondent reports: Leaders of 14-party opposition alliance blamed the BNP-Jamaat government for the killing of two judges in Jhalakathi and recent bomb attacks across the country.

The attackers have links with a ruling partner in the coalition government and so they kept the period during the SAARC free of any violence, Awami League Presidium member Abdur Razzak MP alleged at a JSD workers meeting held here on Thursday.

As soon as the summit ended, bomb attacks and repression on the opposition started, he said.

Manikganj JSD President Abdus Salam Bulu presided over the meeting held at the Town Hall. It was addressed by, among others, JSD Joint Secretary Shirin Akhter, Manikganj AL President Golam Mohiuddin, its secretary Gazi Kamrul Huda Selim and AL leader Abdul Mazid.

Thousands pay tributes to Bhasani in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The 29th death anniversary of veteran political leader Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani was observed here on Thursday.

To mark the day, different political, social and cultural organisations arranged various programmes at the mazar of the great leader in Santosh.

The Santosh Islamic University Trust Board and Maulana Bhasani University of Science and Technology jointly organised a two-day programmes to pay homage to the legendary leader.

The programmes included placing wreaths, offering Fateha and holding a Milad Mahfil at his mazar, special prayer, destitute feeding, discussion meeting, blood donation programme, painting competition for children, a session of spiritual songs, photo exhibition and handicrafts show at Santosh.

Thousands of admirers of Maulana Bhasani from different parts of the country and outside came to his mazar in Santosh and paid tributes to the leader of the oppressed people.

Different social and cultural organisations also placed wreath at the mazar. They included Maulana Bhasani



University of Science and Technology, Santosh Islamic University Trust Board, Maulana Bhasani Foundation, International Farakka Committee, Khoda-e-Khedmatgar.

Tangail BNP organised a memorial meeting in Santosh. Chief Whip and BNP leader Khandakar Delwar Hossen MP attended the meeting as chief guest while Forest and Environment minister Tarikul Islam, Fisheries Minister Abdullah-al-Noman and Jute and Textiles Minister Shajahan Siraj spoke.

Judges' killing protested in Satkhira, Tangail

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Lawyers and political parties in Satkhira and Tangail protested the killing of two judges in Jhalakathi. They marched streets in protest and held rallies, condemning the brutal killings by Islamist zealots.

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: The Satkhira Bar Association brought out a procession and held a rally yesterday at the court compound to protest the killing of two judges in a bomb attack in Jhalakathi.

Earlier on Thursday the lawyers boycotted courts and also held a protest meeting on the court premises.

Yesterday's rally was presided over by Bar President Golam Mostafa and addressed by, among others, SM Haidar, Ala Uddin Ahmed, Tapan Chakraborty, Shah Alam, Mostafa Nurul Alam, Asaduzzaman Dili, Osman Gani, Ataur Rahman and Narayan Chandra Ghosh.

Condemning the gruesome killing violence and demanding arrest and punishment to the killers, the speakers bitterly criticised the government for what they called protecting fundamentalists who are misinterpreting Islam and doing violence in the name of religion.

They urged the government to uproot the militants from the country to ensure security of judges, lawyers as well as the people.

Satkhira Awami Juba League also brought out a procession and held a rally yesterday evening in the town protesting the killing of judges.

After parading the main thoroughfares of the town, the processionists held a rally at Katia Bazar intersection. It was addressed by, among others, Asaduzzaman Babu, Zahurul Haque Nantu and Rana.

They said the BNP led coalition government has to bear the responsibility

for the attack as they patronised Islamist zealots who have been making bomb attacks across the country. The government has no right to cling to power after failing to protect life of the people.

Our Tangail Correspondent reports: The Sammlito Ainjibi Samonnoy Parishad and Awami Ainjibi Parishad here boycotted courts, jointly brought out a procession and held a rally in Tangail town Thursday afternoon protesting the killing of two judges in a bomb attack in Jhalakathi.

The rally held on the judge court premises was presided over by advocate Mohammad Sohrawardy.

It was addressed by, among others, president of Tangail Advocate Bar Association KM Abdus Salam, Abdur Razzak, Zoaherul Islam, SAKbar Khan, Fazlul Haque Dulal, Shamimul Akter, SM Suzat Ali, Badiuzzaman Faruque and Mohsin Sikder.



PHOTO: STAR

Lawyers from Dhaka and Barisal placing wreaths yesterday at the site where slain judge Jagannath Pandey was cremated at Jhalakathi crematorium.

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