

Mystery shrouds murder of Netrakona Hajong leader

Two indigenous men implicated by a ruling party leader to hide killers, locals claim

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Mystery shrouds the murder of indigenous leader Sattayban Hajong in Durgapur.

He was killed on April 23 by three miscreants allegedly for refusing to pay them toll, local people including some Banagalees claimed while talking to this correspondent.

Sttyaban's father Tusil Hajong filed a case accusing three persons--Rahimuddin, 38, Suruj Mia, 40, Kazimuddin, 35. But names of two Hajong community men Swapon Hajong and Sumon Hajongwere later included in the list of accused. Illiterate Tusil Hajong, when asked about this, said he filed a case against three persons and does not know how two more names were included in the list of accused.

The murder and inclusion of the two Hajong men in the case triggered protests in the area.

Several thousand indigenous people including teachers and students of different schools and colleges in Durgapur upazila formed a human chain and submitted a memorandum to the Durgapur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) demanding arrest and punishment to the real killers of Sattayban Hajong.

They demanded dropping of the names of Swapon Hajong and Sumon Hajong from the list of accused, saying they have been falsely implicated in the murder case as part of a conspiracy to hide the killers.

Sattayaban Hajong of Manikpur



PHOTO: STAR

Students of schools and colleges, joined by cross-sections of people, brought out a procession in Durgapur on Thursday demanding arrest of killers of indigenous leader Sattayban Hajong.

village in Kalmakanda upazila was killed at Lakmipur village in Durgapur upazila.

In the memorandum, the demonstrators claimed that Swapon Hajong and Sumon Hajong were not involved in the murder. Some local influential persons implicated them in the case due to previous enmity, they claimed.

This correspondent visited the area yesterday and talked to local people, who said Swapon Hajong and Sumon Hajong are not the killers. They claimed that the killers are Rahimuddin, Suruj Mia and Kazimuddin.

They alleged that the three persons had demanded Tk 5000 from Sattayaban as toll a few days ago, but he declined to pay.

Sattayaban was the superintendent of a hostel for Hajong students in Durgapur, run by Dustha Shastha Kendra (DSK), a local NGO.

On April 23, the three persons (Rahimuddin, Suruj Mia and Kazimuddin) attacked and fatally injured Sattayaban when he was going to visit his aunt Avlong at Lakmipur village, the locals alleged.

Sattayaban anyhow reached the house of Avlong in a critical condition and died there soon after. Before death,

Sattayaban told Avlong told that he was attacked by the three persons, locals quotedAvlong as saying.

The local people said, Swapon Hajong is a teacher and is also a leader of Hajong community in the area.

On April 23, Swapon was in Durgapur, they claimed. Moreover, when the murder took place just before the sunset, Swapon was teaching his students at his house.

This correspondent talked to Achia Khatun, Aparna Kubi, Jhama Devnath, all students of Susang Degree College. They said they were taking lessons from Swapon in late afternoon when the murder took place.

Memory Hajong, an indigenous woman, said she saw the three miscreants beating Sattayaban. She shouted and requested them not to beat him but they ignored her screams, she told this correspondent.

Razia Khatun, wife of Abdus Salam of the same village, said Rahimuddin, Suruj Mia and Kazimuddin beat Sattayaban seriously in front of her house.

Some sources claimed that the names of Swapon ans Sumon were included in the list of accused later under pressure from a local ruling party leader and a leader of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB).

None of the accused has been arrested.

When contacted, Officer-in-charge (OC) of Durgapur Police Station Bhaja Gobinda said investigation is going on and they are trying to arrest the accused.

Pak Health Secy visits birthplace at Saidpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Pakistan Heath Secretary Syed Anwar Mahmud, now on a visit to Bangladesh, on Thursday came to Saidpur, his birthplace where he spent his childhood.

Mahmud is on an official visit to Bangladesh to attend the SAARC Health Ministers' conference being held in Dhaka.

Saidpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Shamsul Alam received Mahmud and his wife when they reached Saidpur airport in a Biman flight.

The couple visited the house near Saidpur railway hospital where he spent his childhood and Saidpur Railway High School where he was a student. He also met his boyhood friends and relatives.

Hearing of Udichi blast case deferred again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Hearing of the Udichi bomb blast case has been deferred again following a petition for time by APP MirAli Mortoza.

The next date for hearing has been fixed on May 10.

Out of the total 23 accused, 21 were present in the court of the Special Tribunal Judge Abul Hossain Bepari during hearing of the case on Wednesday. The 21 are on bail.

One of the accused, Mizanur Rahman Mizan, is absconding. Another accused, Khokon, also on bail, did not appear before the court, court sources said.

FILARIASIS ERADICATION DRIVE

Man dies soon after taking medicine

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

One person died within half an hour of intake of medicine given by a Health worker at Kachim Khali village in Kalapara upazila on Wednesday.

The medicine was distributed by the Health Department under Filariasis Disease Eradication Programme which began in the district on April 23.

Local people said, Ahmed Ali, 45, fell sick and died within half an hour of intake of medicine distributed by Santana Paul, a health worker, as a part of the programme.

The victim's family sources claimed that the health worker gave Ahmed Ali three DEC tablets, higher anti-biotic and one Albandezol tablet. He began to vomit immediately after taking medicine and died at his house, the sources claimed.

However, upazila health officer Dr Jashim Uddin Khan denied the claim, saying the victim died of diarrhoea.

Sources in the civil surgeon (CS) office said, a seven-day Filariasis Disease Eradication Drive began on April 23 as the disease broke out in an epidemic form in the district. Many patents of Patuakhali district were found to be admitted at two Filariasis hospitals in Dhaka and Nilphamari.

Under the Filariasis Disease Eradication Programme, about 14 lakh people above two years of age got medicine in the entire district.

On contact, Patuakhali CS Dr Nurun Nahar Begum said, the patients may vomit and feel uneasy after taking the medicine. They should drink a lot of water, she said.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangabandhu Shishu Kishore Mela formed a human chain in Dinajpur yesterday protesting the April 16 police atrocities on media men in Chittagong.

4 outlawed parties unite to avenge crossfire killings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Four underground parties have closed ranks in the south-western districts to take revenge against Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police for crossfire deaths of their party men.

According to sources in Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP), top leaders of outlawed PBCP (Purba Banglar Communist Party-Janajuddho), PBCP (M-L), New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP) and Chinnomul Communist Party held a secret meeting in the first week of this month at a primary school at Morrelganj upazila in Bagerhat.

At the meeting, they sank their 'tactical differences' to launch attacks on members of Rab, police and media men.

They also decided to free leaders of underground parties from custody at any cost, the source said.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) Zahur Chowdhury of Detective Branch and AC Hasan Bari Noor of South Zone of Khulna Metropolitan

Police said yesterday that police were put on high alert in and around the CMM (Chief Metropolitan Magistrate) court and Judges' court following an information that outlaws will try to snatch two top terrorists from court hajat or prison van by bomb attacks on Thursday.

Both the assistant police commissioners said they foiled the attempt but admitted their failure to arrest outlaws who moved in disguise in court areas on Thursday to snatch top terrors Golam Mawla Shanu and Gazi Kamrul from police custody by carrying out bomb attacks. The two were produced before a court in Khulna on Thursday.

Golam Mawla Shanu, a former KCC Commissioner elected from ward no 24 and a top leader of PBCP Janajuddho has been sentenced to death in Awami League leader SMA Rob murder case.

Gazi Kamrul, second-in-command of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party, is serving a 40-year prison term in two murder cases.

Both these terrors were brought

to court from Khulna District Jail on Thursday in connection with other criminal cases pending against them.

A senior official of Khulna Metropolitan Police admitted that large number of extremists have again entered Khulna city and other areas of the district with consent from their godfathers in different political parties.

He however refused to name the political parties giving shelter to outlaws for using them in the next general elections.

Meanwhile KMP arrested 19 youths from different areas of the city for questioning in connections with bomb attack on a police van near Sangeeta cinema hall in the city Wednesday night. Constable Saifur Rahman was injured in the attack.

The bomb attack was the second such incident in five days. On the night of April 21, a Rab patrol van came under bomb attack at Sonadanga bus terminal. Three persons including a police sub-inspector were injured.



PHOTO: STAR

Fakirhat Shaheed Smriti College, one of many structures tore down by Wednesday's nor'wester in Polashbari in Gaibandha district.

9X3

10X3

6X2