

YOUTH’S DEATH IN GAIBANDHA CUSTODY

Hartal observed for trial of cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

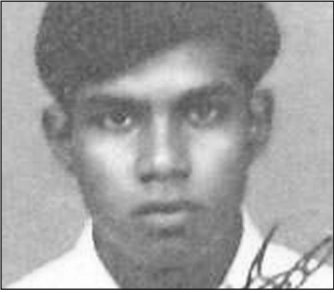
A dawn to dusk hartal was observed in Gaibandha town yesterday at the call of Nagorik Committee demanding punishment to the policemen responsible for death of Sajedur Rahman Sajid in custody.

No major untoward incident took place during the hartal barring damage of a bus and a truck on Gaibandha-Sadullapur road and a motorcycle at rail-crossing point by pickets.

All markets, business establishments, banks remained closed.

The Nagorik Committee brought out a procession in the town demanding capital punishment to the policemen who “killed” Sajid in custody during remand. It held two rallies at the Shaheed Minar and in front of the Deputy Commissioner’s office to press the demand.

Pickets detained a Bogra-bound



Sajedur Rahman Sajid

train for an hour at Gaibandha station. Movement of other trains was normal. No vehicle left the town during the hartal hour.

At the Shaheed Minar rally, the Nagorik Committee announced a three-day agitation programme to press the demand for arrest of accused police officials. It includes observance of ‘black day’ on May 31, laying a siege to Police Superintendent’s office and

protest meetings.

Speakers at the rally claimed that arrest of Sajid, sales representative of a pharmaceutical company, along with a firearm is shrouded with mystery. He was killed at the behest of some vested quarters, they alleged and demanded fair trial of the incident.

Police to cover up the murder exposed it as suicidal incident and arranged to bury body under police cordon, even father of victim was barred to see his son, the speaker told.

They also condemned the alleged police inaction when a, earlier rally of Nagorik Committee came under attack allegedly by ruling party men.

Sajid, 26, of Kathpatti area of the town was arrested on May 18 along with a revolver. He died in police custody on May 21 while on remand.

Police said he committed suicide but the autopsy report said he was strangled.

Jamaat lawmaker’s sons 'occupy' water body

Local Jamaat men tell press in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Two sons of a local Jamaat lawmaker and their accomplices have “occupied” a water body and looted shrimps in Assassuni upazila, local Jamaat leaders and workers alleged at a press conference here.

“They are now threatening us to withdraw the case”, said Abdur Rashid, Anulia union Jamaat secretary and a member of Eksara Jubo Samabaya Samitty, which leased the water body from the authorities.

Among others, former secretary of Assassuni upazila Islami Chhatra Shibir Nure Alam, Jamaat activist Ziaur Rahman, Pratapnagar union BNP vice-president Abu Yahya also spoke at the press conference, held at Satkhira Reporters Club.

They said they feel insecure as the two sons of the lawmaker are threatening them with “dire consequences”.

They also sought intervention by the prime minister’s office so that they can get back the water body.

In his written statement, Abdur Rashid said members of Eksara Jubo Samabaya Samitty had been cultivating shrimps in Pratapnagar Garukhali

Jalmahal (water body) in Assassuni upazila for five years, leasing it from the Upazila Jubo Unnayan Adhidaptar (youth department).

Local Jamaat leader Zulfiqar Ali, son of Jamaat lawmaker Riasat Ali, tried to occupy the water body in December last year but his attempt was foiled.

At this, the lawmaker Riasat Ali submitted a written application to higher authorities to cancel the lease order, he said.

Knowing this, the lessees filed a case with a court in Satkhira on February 5. After hearing, the court ordered statues quo and fixed July 3 for the next hearing, Abdur Rashid added.

Thereafter, violating the court order, Assassuni Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and chairman of Upazila Jalmahal Ejara Committee Khan Nurul Amin cancelled the lease on May 10, he said.

“On the following day (May 11), a group of miscreants numbering 70 to 80 led by local Jamaat leaders’ sons Nurul Afsar and Zulfiqar Ali swooped on the shrimp enclosure, beat the staff and looted shrimps worth Tk 12 lakh”, he alleged.

Later, the lawmaker’s sons unofficially leased the water body to one Abdul Kader at Tk 50,000, he said.

After the attack, the victims went to Assassuni thana to file a case but Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abdul Matin declined to record it.

A case was then filed with a magistrate court at Satkhira on May 16 accusing 26 people including the two sons of the Jamaat lawmaker, Abdur Rashid said.

The victims also filed a defamation case with the same court against Assassuni UNO Khan Nurul Amin for canceling the lease violating the court order, he said.

The lawmaker’s sons are threatening members of Eksara Jubo Samabaya Samitty with dire consequences if they do not withdraw the case, he alleged.

On contact, Assassuni UNO Khan Nurul Amin said he cancelled the lease as per law.

Nurul Afsar, when contacted, said the allegation of occupying the water body is not correct. Local people have taken its possession to cultivate fish, he said.

“I did not threat anybody”, he said.



Rival BNP factions led by general secretary Ali Ahmed Biswas (left) and vice-president Nazimuddin brought out separate processions in Magura town on Sunday after rallies accusing each other.



PHOTO: STAR

Patuakhali Aug17 blast verdict today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Verdict of the August 17 serial bomb blast case in Patuakhali will be delivered today.

Additional District and Session Judge ABM Sajedur Rahman will deliver the verdict.

The date was fixed on May 22 when arguments of prosecution and defense lawyers were completed. The court examined 32 out of 40 witnesses in the case. Four out of five of the accused are now in custody. They are Msum Billah, Hafez Abdullah, Asad and Zafor, all from Barguna Sadar upazila.

Another accused Arifis absconding.

The main accused, Masum, was ‘regional commander’ of Jamaatul Mujahidin Bangladesh (JMB) for Patuakhali-Barguna area. The five are accused for involvement in the August 17 serial bomb blasts at seven points in Patuakhali town last year.

Magura BNP factions start mudslinging on streets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Dogged by internal feuds, the two rival factions of Magura district BNP have come on streets, publicly accusing each other.

One faction led by Magura BNP vice-president Nazimuddin calls the party general secretary Ali Ahmed Biswas an ‘outlaw’ and demands his immediate arrest. The other faction led by Ali Ahmed calls their rivals as ‘agents’ of the opposition.

Tension mounted in the town as the two rival factions led by Ali Ahmed and vice-president Nazimuddin Ahmed brought out separate processions and held rallies on Sunday as part of the party’s countrywide programmes to protest ‘destructive politics’ of 14-party opposition alliance.

Nazimuddin led the procession under the banner of municipality

unit of BNP while Ali Ahmed led the rival groups under the banner of the party’s district unit.

As the rival factions were on streets, Magura Police Superintendent Mia Lutfar Rahman Chowdhury along with a large number of policemen followed them to stave off any untoward incident.

At the rally of Nazimuddin-led faction, speakers demanded immediate arrest of Ali Ahmed for his alleged involvement with outlawed Sarbahara Party and amassing crores of taka through tender manipulation. They also urged the administration to verify his sources of his income and wealth and vowed to resist his political activities.

Terming Ali Ahmed as an ‘outlaw’, they also alleged that he is accused in at least 19 cases including four for murder, one for looting

Madhukhali police station in Faridpur, three for robbery and the rest for kidnapping and other crimes.

The meeting was addressed by, among others, Nazimuddin Ahmed, municipality chairman Abdul Gafur, former central JCD leader Monwar Hossain Khan and former Magura district Jubo Dal president Khan Hasan Imam Suja.

Talking to this correspondent, Ali Ahmed Biswas denied his involvement with outlaws and in tender manipulation. He however admitted that he faces some criminal cases and claimed that those were lodged during Awami League rule to harass him.

When asked about separate party procession by his rivals, he said followers of some “expelled leaders” did that to damage his image.

Speakers at the other meeting of Ali Ahmed-led faction, held at Nomanai Maidan, called their rivals as ‘agents’ of opposition alliance and claimed that they were trying to damage the party image through anti-organisational activities.

Meanwhile, a faction of district Jatiyatabadi Chattral Dal (JCD) led by its general secretary Shahidul Islam Rupak staged a token hunger strike in front of Magura Press Club demanding party high command’s intervention to resolve the intra-party feud.

The other faction of JCD led by its president Nazmul Hasan Liton did not take part in the token hunger strike. Talking to newsmen Liton termed Rupak’s programme as a ‘drama’ and claimed that the JCD general secretary is a follower of Ali Ahmed Biswas.

Attack on journos in Kushtia protested

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Journalists in Pabna, Faridpur, Gaibandha, Mymensingh and Dinajpur yesterday protested the attack on The Daily Observer Editor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and 20 other newsmen by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadres in Kushtia.

Speakers at protest meeting held at Pabna Press Club condemned the barbaric attack by the ruling party cadres led by lawmaker Shahidul resulting in serious injuries to the journalists. They urged the journalists to unite against the ruling party hooligans. They also demanded punishment to the culprits.

Club president Md Mohiuddin presided the meeting.

Pabna Press Club secretary ABM Fazlur Rahman, elderly journalist and politician Ranesh Moitra, The Daily Ittefaq correspondent Anwarul Haque and Faruk Hossain of The Daily Prothom Alo addressed the meeting.

In Faridpur, The Daily Samakal Editor Abed Khan, at a meeting held at Faridpur Press Club, demanded immediate resignation of Kushtia lawmaker Shahidul. He also demanded immediate arrest of the attackers.

Among others, The Daily Samakal sub-editor Abu Sayed Khan, The Daily Observer correspondent Jagadish Chandra Ghosh The Daily Prothom Alo correspondent Ponna Bala, The Daily Ajker Kagonj correspondent Nirmalendu Chakrobarti Sankar, BTV newsmen Resatul Hakim addressed.

They condemned the heinous attack on their colleagues in Kushtia.

A protest meeting at Gaibandha Press Club, presided by Club president Gobinda Lal Das demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the culprits.

KM Rezaul Haque, Abu Zafar Sabu, Syed Nurul Alam, Jahangir, Nuruzzaman Prodhan, Amitav Das Himu and others spoke on the occasion.

In Mymensingh, a protest meeting held at Mymensingh Press Club under the chairmanship of the local unit president of Sangbadik Samity, Kazi Yasin condemned the attack.

Speakers expressed their grave concern over increasing trend of attacks on journalists by police and hooligans in recent days.

In Dinajpur, a protest meeting was held in front of Dinajpur Press Club where local journalists condemned the attack and demanded punishment to the culprits.



PHOTO: STAR

Journalists in Dinajpur brought out a procession in the town yesterday protesting the attack on colleagues in Kushtia by activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), youth front of ruling BNP.

3X3

5X3

6X2

7X3