

YOUTH'S DEATH IN GAIBANDHA CUSTODY

Hartal observed for trial of cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha



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.

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

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 Miner 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

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.



PHOTO: STAR

Patuakhali
Aug 17 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 brought out separate processions and held rallies on Sunday as part of the party's nationwide 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 Sarbarha 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 Nomani 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 Jatiyatabdil Chhatri 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 Jatiyatabdil Chhatri Dal (JCD) 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.



PHOTO: STAR

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

3X3

6X2

5X3

7X3