

Killings in political violence marked 21pc rise last year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Killings in political violence marked 21 percent rise last year comparing to that of 2005.

In 2006, 374 people were killed in political violence whereas 310 people killed in 2005, revealed a report of human rights watchdog Odhikar which was released yesterday.

The report, prepared on the basis of stories published in 14 national dailies and its own fact-finding reports, said 355 people were killed by the law enforcers across the country in 2006. In 2005, 396 people were killed by law enforcers including 111 by Rab and 258 by police.

Of the 355 victims, 190 were killed by Rab, 147 by police, one by forest guard, four by Detective Branch of Police, four by coastguards, six by BDR and three

by forest and coastguards jointly.

A total of 290 people were killed in so-called 'crossfire' by Rab and police, the report said.

According to the report, 21265 people were injured and 2358 arrested due to political violence last year. Besides, 28651 people were the victims of mass arrest.

Odhikar said political abduction however decreased by 48 percent last year. Forty-eight people were abducted in 2006 while the number of people kidnapped in 2005 was 93.

The report also observed that the percentage of general killing and crossfire killing decreased in 2006 by 10 percent compared to that of 2005.

In 2006, one journalist was killed, 183 were injured, six arrested and 53 others assaulted. Besides, cases were filed against 111 journalists. In 2005, two jour-

nalists were killed, 142 injured, 11 arrested while four abducted.

According to Odhikar, 412 women and 227 children were raped last year. Of them, 126 were killed and 13 committed suicide after violation. Three were raped by the law enforcement agencies. In 2005, 588 women and 319 children were victims of human rights violation.

In Chittagong Hill Tracts, 29 people were killed, 361 injured, 22 kidnapped, three women raped and 42 others arrested in different incidents of human rights violations in 2006. The number of killing was 25.

Along the Bangladesh-India border, 147 people were killed in 2006 while 104 people killed in 2005.

"Upon analysing the report it is construed that all violence other than political, border and Chittagong Hill Tracts, decreased in 2006," said Odhikar.

From January 1 to December 31 in 2006, around 1043 children were

the victims of human rights violations. Of them 366 were killed, 139 injured, 227 raped, 93 abducted, 12 arrested and 20 were the victims of acid throwing. In 2005, 1139 children were victims of human rights violation.

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PHOTO: STAR
Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain waves to party leaders and activists who received him at Zia International Airport in the city on his return from the USA yesterday.

Govt schools' admission tests Jan 13

The admission tests of city's top eight government high schools under group-A will be held on January 13 instead of January 7 due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

The schedule of the tests will remain unchanged. The schools are Government Laboratory High School, Mirpur Government High School, Motijheel Government Girls' High School, Khilgaon Government High School, Nababpur Government High School, New Government Girls' School, Islamia Government High School and Mohammadpur Government High School.

Membership of 4 LDP members suspended

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) temporarily suspended the primary membership of four of its party members in charge of violating the party rules and regulations, says a press release.

The suspended members are Nazim Uddin Al Azad, vice-president of LDP executive committee, Advocate Mohammad Delwar Hussain Khan, Mokarram Hussain Daradi, secretary of religion related affairs and Sheikh Shahiduzzaman, member secretary of Ganatantrik Jubo Dhara, said the release signed by Additional Office Secretary Wazed Ali Chowdhury Parvez on behalf of party President Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury.

290 bags of urea recovered in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Detective branch (DB) of Khulna police yesterday recovered 290 bags of urea from a rice mill and arrested its owner at Dumuria in the district.

The owner of the mill, identified as Shushil Saha, is a fertiliser hoarder but not a dealer, said SI Obaidul Huq of DB, adding that the rice mill was raided on information.

He further said that Shushil Saha used to purchase urea at the rate of Tk 290 per bag and sell it in the black market at the rate of Tk 400 per bag.

Meanwhile, a large number of farmers staged a demonstration yesterday evening protesting the artificial crisis of urea at Dumuria upazila.

Two killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least two people were killed and five others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka and Chittagong yesterday.

Our Staff Correspondent reports: A vegetable trader was killed and five others were injured when a truck turned upside down on Mohakhali Flyover in the early hours of yesterday.

The dead was identified as Jalal Uddin Sikder, 39, a vegetable trader.

The accident, the first ever fatal accident on the flyover, took place at around 12:10am on Mohakhali over bridge when the driver of a tomato-laden speeding truck from Mymensingh lost control over the steering, police and witnesses said. The truck hit the island and turned upside down.

Jalal fell from the truck and died on the spot while five other traders sustained severe injuries.

The accident occurred due to heavy fog or negligence of the driver, police said.

Police seized the vehicle and sent the injured to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Jalal was taking the tomatoes from Mymensingh to Karwan Bazar market, family sources said.

Both the driver and helper of the truck managed to flee.

A case was filed with Gulshan Police Station in this connection.

Our Correspondent from Chittagong adds: An elderly rickshaw-puller was killed in a road accident in the port city yesterday.

The victim identified as Abul Hossain, 70, of Comilla was a rickshaw-puller of Riazuddin Bazar.

The accident occurred when a speedy Rider (human hauler) hit the rickshaw-puller loaded with potato in front of Banani Complex Cinema Hall near Agrabad Bork Building intersection at around 11:30am, leaving Abul critically injured.

Abul was rushed to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

Police arrested the rider driver Mohammad Ullah and seized the vehicle.

Any intervention in blockades to be resisted

Say city 14-party leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka city unit of 14-party alliance yesterday warned of stiff resistance to any intervention into their countrywide blockades on January 7 and 8.

"Our blockades will be enforced peacefully, but if anyone interferes and tries to prevent us then we will fight," said Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, general secretary of city Awami League (AL), at a 14-party's preparatory meeting on January 7 and 8 blockades at the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) office.

Acting president of Dhaka city AL AKM Rahmatullah called for a greater involvement of people with the grand alliance's movement to remove Iajuddin from the post of CA and ensure free and fair polls.

Other 14-party leaders, including AL leader Haji Selim, Worker's Party General Secretary Bimal Biswas and Sammyabadi Dal General Secretary Dilip Barua also addressed the meeting.

Maya said the 14-party alliance had made all preparations for going to the polls, but Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed's bias towards the BNP and Jamaat and their failure to draw up a correct voter list forced them to boycott the election.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Md Munir Chowdhury, also acting as Chittagong Wasa magistrate as an additional duty, led the drive.

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