

Try killers of Khulna journalists

Newsmen urge caretaker government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Metropolitan Union of Journalists (KMUJ) yesterday reiterated its demand for further investigation and trial of journalist Belal murder case and arrest of the killers and the mastermind now on bail.

The demand was made at an emergency meeting of KMUJ held at Khulna Press Club with its president Md Anisuzzaman in the chair. Speakers at the meeting urged the caretaker government to initiate re-investigation into murder of journalists Belal, Manik Saha and Humayun Kabir Balu so that real culprits are unpunished. The second death anniversary of Belal will be observed tomorrow.

Shaikh Belaluddin, Khulna bureau chief of Dainik Sangram, was fatally injured in bomb attack at about 9 pm on February 5, 2005 at Khulna Press Club compound. He succumbed to the injuries on February 11 at Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka.

A case was filed with Khulna Sadar thana by Sub-inspector Aminul Islam as complainant. Later SI Asaduzzaman Farazi was made



Manik Saha

the investigation officer (IO).

The IO of the case submitted charge sheet accusing six persons. They are alleged extremists Iqbal Hossain Shadhin, Mirajul Islam, Rafiqul Islam Hasan and Goda Yunus, expelled Jamaat-e-Islami leader Shahabuddin Lashkar alias Dhira and expelled Chatra Shibir activist Eklasur Rahman.

The IO named Dhira as the mastermind behind Belal murder.

The case was transferred from CMM court to the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge, Khulna.

Judge Mashiur Rahman of the



Humayun Kabir Balu

same court framed charge against all the accused on June 29 last year.

Of the chargesheeted accused, Dhira and Eklasur Rahman are now on bail while four others are in Khulnajail.

Prime accused Dhira appealed to the High Court on August 23 last year to postpone the trial. Hearing on this appeal petition is yet to be held in the High Court. As a result, deposition of prosecution witnesses in the trial in Khulna court is also postponed, court sources said.

Manik Saha, Khulna

Correspondent of The New Age, was killed in a bomb attack at noon on January 15, 2004 near Khulna Press Club.

Charge sheet of the murder case was submitted on June 20, 2004, naming 12 alleged extremists as accused.

Four out of the 12 accused persons died in crossfire incidents while five are absconding and three are in jail.

Humayun Kabir balu, editor of Khulna-based Dainik Janmabhumi, was killed in a bomb attack at noon on June 27, 2004 in front of his office in the city.

Charge sheet of the case was submitted on April 26, 2005 accusing eight alleged extremists for the murder.

The trial court has ordered further investigation of murders of Manik Shah and Humayun Kabir Balu. Detective Branch Inspector Fazle Rahim of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) is yet to submit report on further investigation.

Murder of the three journalists triggered protests by news men and people across the country but their killers are yet to be punished.

Benapole check post alerted

Step against political leaders' leaving country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Surveillance at Benapole border by intelligence agencies has been intensified to prevent corrupt politicians and terrorists from fleeing the country.

According to sources at Benapole Police and Immigration Office, the border check post has been put on special alert following information that listed terrorists and corrupt politicians in south-western region may flee the country in disguise in the face of operation by joint forces.

Passengers going to India with passports are not also being spared from questioning and search by law enforces, the source said.

Meanwhile, a good number of leaders of political parties including BNP, Awami League, Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party in Khulna have gone into hiding since declaration of emergency.

Offices of BNP, Awami League, Jamaat and Jatiya Party in Khulna are under lock and key since joint forces raided the houses of former lawmakers Ali Asgar Lobi and former Whip and Awami League leader Mostafa Rashidi Shuja.



PHOTO: STAR

The Chittagong City Corporation bulldozing illegal billboards and signboard erected along roads.

EVICION OF SLUMS FROM GOVT LANDS

Barisal NGOs worried for loan recovery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Non-government organisations (NGOs) in Barisal are worried about realisation of over Tk 50 core micro credits as recipients living in about 54 slums in the city have been evicted from government lands since proclamation of emergency.

Realisation of most of the loans have become uncertain, sources in the NGOs said. The loans were given for generating self-employment and small businesses, they said.

Nripendra Nath Das, district manager of Association for Social Advancement (ASA), said they distributed about Tk 12 core loans among 35,000 people, mostly women, grouped in over 1000 associations in different slums in the city.

Abbasuddin, local manager of BRAC, another leading NGO, said they distributed more than Tk 6 core among about 5,000 women under 80 associations.

Anwar Zahid, executive director of Samonnito Samajik Unnayan Sangstha, said they distributed Tk 3.5 core among about 9,000 members grouped in 350 associations.

Hasina Pervin, Barisal Sadar

upazila coordinator of another leading NGO Proshika, said over 10,000 female members in 600 associations were given about Tk 2.6 core as micro credit for different income generating activities.

Abdus Salam, supervisor of Shakti Foundation, a local NGO, said they disbursed over Tk core taka among 2500 members of 100 associations in the slums.

Jahanara Begum Swapna, director of Chandradwip Development Society (CDS), another local NGO, said they disbursed about Tk one core among 9,000 recipients in 50 groups.

Besides theses organizations Grameen Bank, Bangladesh Social Advancement Society (BDS), Association for Voluntary Action for Society (AVAS), Integrated Development Association of Bangladesh (INDAB), Association for Village Development (AVA), Community Service Centre (CSC), Caritas, Jubo Karma Sangsthan Society, South Bangla Credit Association, Bikalpa Unnoyan Karmasuchi (BUK), Voluntary Organization for Social Development (VOSD), Love Thy Neighbor (LTN), Steps for Women Development (SWD), Social Economic Development Society

(SEDS), Social Advancement Society (SAS) and other NGOs invested cores of taka under micro credit programs among slum dwellers in the city.

Sardar Humaun Kabir of BDS, Anwar Zahid of SSUS, Jahanara Begum Swapna of CDS and other NGO officials said, those who have become homeless can not repay loan installments. The recipients can not be forced to repay loans in such conditions, they said.

They also blamed local activists of different political parties for the present situation. The poor loan recipients paid rents and resided in slums raised by party men under protection of governments, they said.

Most of the slums were raised on government lands and political parties realised rent, they said. Many of the loan recipients have also left the slums for unknown destinations, making loan recovery totally uncertain.

They should have been given adequate time and provided with alternative arrangements before eviction, the NGO officials said.

NGOs gave micro credits to poor people on interest rates up to 40 per cent, sources claimed.

Vow to protect rights of Harijans in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

It was a different day for members of Harijan and Adivasi communities (low caste Hindus) yesterday when over 200 people including owners and employees of restaurants and saloons joined hands in establishing rights of the 'untouchables'.

Restaurant and saloon owners expressed their solidarity with the low caste Hindus in their struggle to establish their rights enshrined in the Constitution.

They announced their solidarity at a meeting held at Uttaran training centre at Patkelghata in Tala upazila.

Action Aid Bangladesh, a major NGO, and Bhumij, another local NGO, jointly organised the meeting chaired by Patkelghata Restaurant Owners Association president Aditya Mallik.

Speakers urged all to help establish rights of the untouchables in

restaurants and saloons.

They lamented saying it is a pity that the deprived community members are even barred from entering restaurants to have a cup of tea. Not only that they are also unable to enter any saloon for shaving, they said. They urged all to remain vigilant so that none can hate the Harijans and Adivasis.

Speakers demanded a separate ministry and separate allocation from the national budget for the community members to ensure their equal rights.

They called upon the government to take measures to ensure their rights. They called upon the people of all strata of life to come forward to ensure their just rights.

Among others, Ishaque Ali, Hari Pada, Mongal Kumar, Rabindra Nath Roy, Abul Hossain, Amit Kumar Ghosh, Abdullahel Hadi, Tanzulur Rahman, Mallika Mallik and Boyhom Loncheo addressed.

Islami Bank swindled of Tk 9.25 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

An amount of Tk 9,25,000 was drawn from Gaibandha Islami Bank through eleven fake demand drafts.

Bank authorities caught the alleged ringleader of forgers, Jahangir Alam, Wednesday while he was cashing a fake draft. Islami Bank officials recovered Tk one lakh from the accused person.

Police arrested Jahangir Alam and seized his motorcycle and mobile phone.

Gaibandha Islami Bank authorities admitted the incident of forgery. The accused person drew over Tk 9 lakh through eleven fake demand drafts since November 20 last year, the bank officials said.

The drafts bore signature of bank officials from where those were sent but the drafts were not genuine, said a bank official.

Jahangir Alam of Khamar Tengorjani village in Gaibandha

Sader upazila opened a savings account (No. 7765) with Gaibandha Islami Bank branch few months back. He first deposited three demand drafts for Tk 2.38 lakh issued by Pubali Bank against M/s Aziz-Al-Jamil and Sons of Saudi Arabia.

After collection of drafts, Jahangir Alam drew the money. Thereafter, he at different times drew Tk 6.74 lakh against eight fake bank drafts.

On February 7, Jahangir deposited a bank draft for Tk 68,000 issued by Pubali Bank. On suspicious, bank officials examined the draft on machine and found it fake.

"Later we have tested all the eleven drafts (deposited by Jahangir) and found those fake", said an official of Islami bank.

During interrogation, Jahangir confessed before bank officials and police that he is member of a gang involved in trading fake drafts from Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia.



PHOTO: STAR

The CAFEXPO, organised by Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), drew crowds in large numbers on the second day yesterday.

9x2

6x2

8x4