

Jamaat's so-called body tarnishes image of freedom fighters

Protests mount in Kushtia, Rajshahi, Magura, Dinajpur and Rangpur against assault of freedom fighter

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Protests against assault of a freedom fighter by Jamaat-Shibir activists continued with freedom fighters joined by people and different political and socio-cultural staging demonstrations in Kushtia, Rajshahi, Magura, Dinajpur and Rangpur yesterday.

They demanded judicial inquiry into Friday's incident in the capital in which freedom fighter Sheikh Mohammad Ali was kicked, shoved and whisked away at a function of a Jamaat backed so-called freedom fighter's organisation.

The protesters also demanded trial of war criminals and called upon pro-liberation forces to unite to resist them.

Our Kushtia Correspondent reports: Different organisations in Kushtia yesterday protested the heinous attack on freedom fighter Sheikh Mohammad Ali Aman by Jamaat-Shibir and demanded punishment of the culprits.

The have also demanded ban of politics by Jamaat.

The organisations included Kushtia unit of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Oikya Parishad Central Command Council Kushtia, district Awami League, Kumarkhali unit of Muktiyoddha Sangsad. They held separate

programmes. Muktiyoddha Oikya Parishad held a rally and formed a human chain in Kushtia town. The rally was addressed by, among others, former Zonal Council Chairman in Southwestern Division during 1971 and former lawmaker mp Abdur Rouf Choudhury, Nasim Ahmed and Sahabub Ali.

They criticised the caretaker government for not taking any action against the culprits involved in Friday's incident, alleging that it is 'soft on Jamaat'. They demanded ban on Jamaat backed so-called freedom fighters forum.

Kumarkhali unit of Muktiyoddha Sangsad at a press conference at its office criticised the caretaker government for its silence on the issue despite an outcry across the country and urged all pro-liberation forces to intensify the demand for trial of war criminals.

Kushtia district AL in a statement claimed that Jamaat has gathered a large number of fake freedom fighters under its banner with an evil motive to tarnish the image of genuine freedom fighting. These people managed fake certificate of freedom fighters during the BNP-Jamaat government.

OUR Dinajpur

CORRESPONDENT reports: Dinajpur units of Sammillito Sangskritik Jote, Muktiyoddha Sangsad and some other organisations held a joint rally and formed a human chain in Dinajpur town yesterday demanding punishment of Jamaat-Shibir activists who assaulted a freedom fighter.

They said Jamaat formed the so-called Jatiya Muktiyoddha Parishad to harass genuine freedom fighters and demanded a ban on the organisation.

They also demanded trial of war criminals.

Freedom fighters are the greatest sons of the soil they said and urged the government to ensure their dignity and security

The speakers included Mayor of Dinajpur Municipality Freedom Fighter Md. Shafiqul Haque Chhutu, Sankritik Jote convener Mirza Awarul Islam Tanu and Dinajpur Muktiyoddha Sangsad president Mosaddeque Ali Mongolia

In Magura, Muktiyoddha Sangsad held a protest meeting at Asaduzzaman Auditorium demanding punishment of culprits who assaulted a freedom fighter for seeking trial of war criminals, our correspondent reports.

They also demanded ban on

the Jamaat-backed so-called freedom fighters body as their leaders made derogatory comments about the Liberation War.

Freedom fighter Abdul Halim Miraz chaired the meeting. Bangladesh Chhatra League, student front of Awami League, staged a demonstration at Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) and demanded punishment of Jamaat-Shibir cadres for assaulting a freedom fighter, reports our RU Correspondent.

Ruet BCL brought out a procession on the campus and held a rally at Central Shaheed Minar.

Speakers at the rally demanded a ban on the so-called Jatiya Muktiyoddha Parishad for misleading the people and making derogatory comments about Liberation War.

They also demanded a ban on Shibir in educational institutions across the country, trial of war criminals and urged all progressive students organisations to unite to resist Shibir.

In Rangpur, Bangladesh Chhatra Union formed a human chain in front of Rangpur Press Club protesting the incident, reports our correspondent.

Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee will stage demonstrations in the town today.

BSF kills one in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) gunned down a Bangladeshi cattle trader on Tarai border in 24 Parganas district early morning yesterday.

The victim was identified as Azharul Islam, 25, of Boalia village in Kalaroa upazila.

BSF men of Tarai camp in Swarnnagar fired four shots targeting cattle trader while they were returning with cattle. Azharul Islam did on the spot, BDR said.

BSF men took away the body. BDR sent a letter to BSF protesting the killing and seeking return of the body. Maj Kamrul Hasan of 41 Rifles Battalion said.

UGC probes corruption charge against ex-VC of KU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The three-member team of University Grants Commission (UGC) yesterday began probe into allegations of corruption against former Vice Chancellor of Khulna University Prof Dr. Mahabubur Rahman.

Headed by UGC member Prof Dr. Mahmood Abdul Hakim, two other members of the team are Prof Dr. Md. Tajul Islam and UGC acting deputy secretary Ferdous Zaman.

The probe follows a case filed on April 13 this year by Khulna Citizens' Forum Chairperson Sheikh Abdul Kayyum against alleged corruption by the former VC.

Prof Rahman went on leave for one month from December 15 last year to meet his family in Canada.

In February this year, he sent his resignation letter to the ministry.

OC sued for taking 'bribe'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'haria

Union Parishad member Md. Fool Bahar filed a case against Nasiragar Tahana Officer-in-Charge (OC) Samsul Islam with Brahmanbaria Chief Judicial Magistrate Court on Tuesday alleging that the OC took Tk 30,000 as bribe in a case for that took place in Gukarna union under Nasiragar upazila.

Wasim Mia, son of Gukarna UP member Md. Fool Bahar Mia, was killed by a gang on June 25 last year, according to police.

In the case, the victim's father alleged that the OC demanded Tk 30,000 to file a charge sheet. He paid the money but did not get the desired result.

The court ordered a judicial investigation into the allegation.

Contacted, Samsul Islam said the false case was filed by Fool Bahar who was accused in several cases.

Unique step for transparency

Officials brought face to face with journalists in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Following a rare initiative to ensure government officials' accountability and transparency about their service to the people, all the 60 departmental chiefs of government offices in Khagrachhari hill district yesterday faced the reporters from print and electronic media.

The Army in Khagrachhari Region arranged the gathering, first of its kind in the country, at their auditorium hall in Khagrachhari Sadar upazila.

The government officials faced a number of questions as reporters raised different issues including disruption and irregularity in power and water supply, government offices' failure to provide people good services.

Khagrachhari Region Commander Brig Mohammad Qamruzzaman moderated the

discussion while Khagrachhari Hill District Chairman Monindra Lal Tripura was present as chief guest.

Raising questions about the duties and responsibilities of government departments, the reporters wanted to know why very little progress was made in the field of development including roads and construction works.

Frequent absence of responsible government officials from the offices and lack of coordination among government offices also came up in the discussion.

Strongly criticising the Water Development Board for their failure to stop river erosion in Khagrachhari district, the reporters said the engineer was found absent from his office most of the time.

They urged the related government organisations to ensure better services with transparency and check all kinds of corruption.

Replying to the reporters' ques-

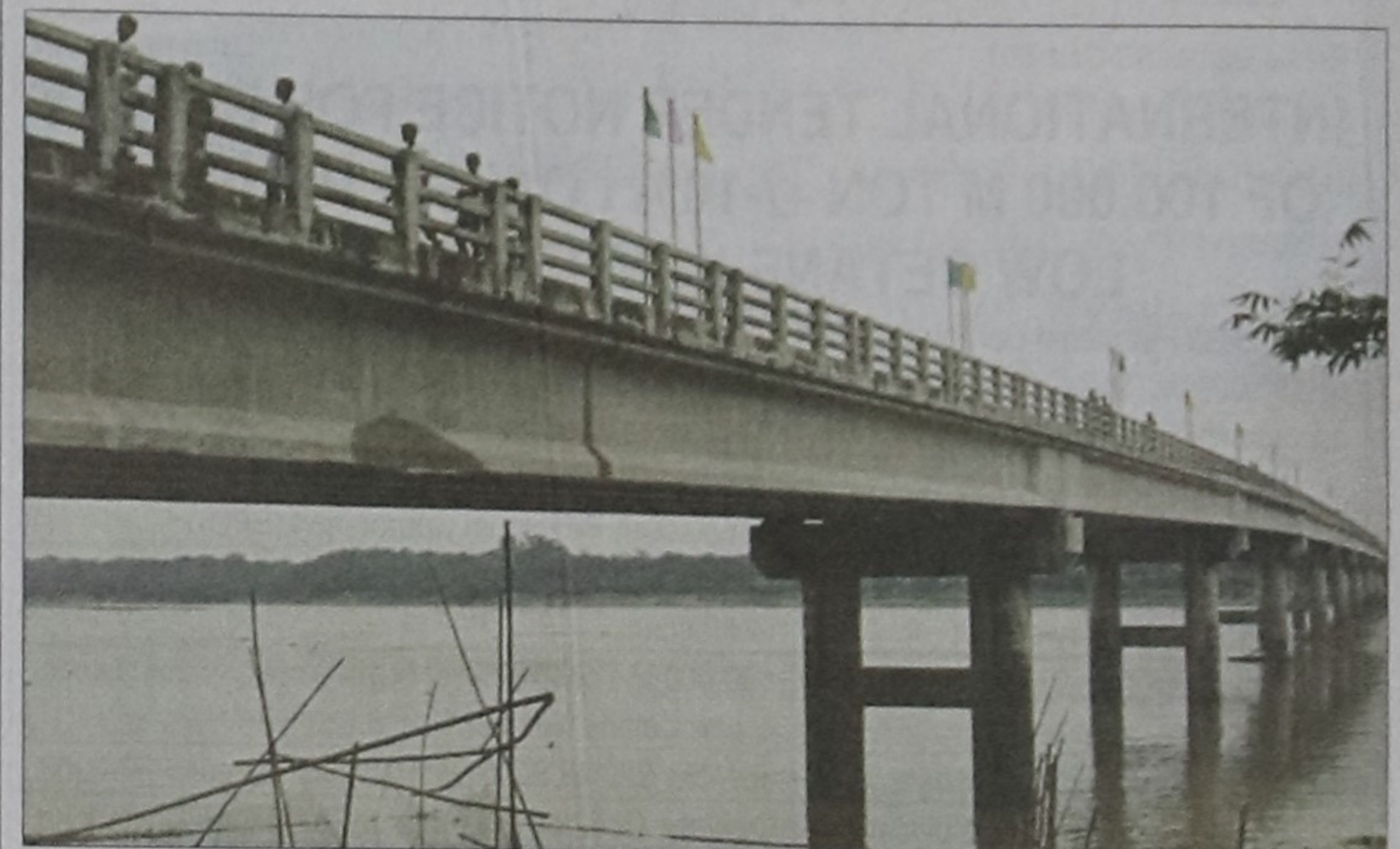
tion, the concerned officials mentioned different problems including crimes, extortion, kidnap for ransom and lack of security as barrier to ensuring satisfactory development works.

There would be significant change if there were no pressures from politicians, they said.

Seeking cooperation from the reporters, the officials asked them to inform about the negligence of their fellow officials.

The moderator of the discussion, Brig Mohammad Qamruzzaman said he will organise such discussions to ensure transparency in government offices and ensure corruption-free services for the people of Khagrachhari.

Welcoming arrangement of the discussion, KHDC Chairman Monindra Lal Tripura said such discussions work as remedy in the government as well as non-government departments.



Makrampur Bridge across the Mahananda River on Rohonpur-Bholahat road in Chapainawabganj after its inauguration by Maj Gen Ferdous Mia yesterday. The joint forces initiated work in December last year to complete the work, stopped for seven years earlier.



Magura freedom fighters raise hands at a meeting in the town, left, and Sangskritik Jote forms a human chain in Dinajpur yesterday demanding Jamaat-Shibir men's punishment for assaulting a freedom fighter in the capital on Friday.



Sangskritik Jote forms a human chain in Dinajpur yesterday demanding Jamaat-Shibir men's punishment for assaulting a freedom fighter in the capital on Friday.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Open University (BOU) featuring the university logo, TQI-SEP accreditation, and details about a 2008-2009 academic year program.

Advertisement for Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. (PGCL) featuring the company logo, contact information, and a detailed list of 13 service points with descriptions and contact details.

Pabna voters fall by 2.7 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The fresh voter list in the district shows 2 lakh 70 thousand 127 voters less than the list prepared in 2006.

District election office sources said 14 lakh 81 thousand 690 voters including 7,51,662 women have been registered in the fresh voter list in the district this year while there were 17 lakh 51 thousand 817 voters in the previous list prepared during the BNP-led four-party alliance government's tenure in 2006.

District election office sources said 14,81,690 voters including 7,51,662 women have been registered in the fresh list. Of them 3,47,404 voters are in Pabna Sadar upazila, 1,89,977 in Ishwardi upazila, 94,127 in Atghoria, 1,74,015 in Chatmohar, 71,361 in Bhanganra, 75,258 in Faridpur, 2,17,479 in Santhia, 1,49,543 in Bera and 1,62,526 in Sujaganur upazila.

"There was no scope to include false voters in the fresh list as it included the voters' photographs. A large number of fake voters that were found in the earlier list have been left," said Pabna District Election Officer Md Faridul Islam.

3 to die for murder in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A Chuadanga court yesterday sentenced three people to death and seven others to life-term imprisonment in the case for killing farmer Aktaruzzaman at Kamarpara village in Damurhuda upazila in the district in 2001.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Motaher Hossain gave the verdict in presence of the convicts.

The court also fined them Tk 10,000 each, in default to suffer one year more imprisonment.

The death sentence awardees are Mannan 32, Pintu, 30, and Nasir, 39.

Moula, 45, Gias Uddin, 33, and his brother Pias, 23, and Faruk, 36, Mahir Ali, 30, and Abdul Bari were given life-term.

Criminals hacked to death Aktaruzzaman, 33, son of Akkas Ali of Kamarpara village in Damurhuda upazila in Chuadanga, following a previous feud on February 6 in 2001.

UNIDENTIFIED DISEASE IN CHANDPUR 26 schoolgirls collapse in two days

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Twenty-six girls of Bashara High School in Faridganj upazila in the district suddenly became unconscious in the classrooms yesterday and Tuesday.

"They were attacked with mass hysteria. It is a psychological disease," Civil Surgeon Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman said after visiting the school yesterday.

Even during the doctor's short stay at the school yesterday noon, four girls of class XI and X collapsed on the floor, said school-teachers.

A medical team treated the girls on the school premises. On Tuesday, 22 girls fell ill and

became unconscious, school headmaster Md Abul Kashem told this correspondent.

The unknown disease attacked several girls earlier on June 26, July 2, July 8, and July 12, he said.

Amid panic due to the spread of the mass hysteria, students' attendance in classes has reduced to almost half, said the headmaster and other teachers.

An orientation meeting on health and psychology will be held at this school on Saturday morning. Guardians, local representatives, teachers and students of schools have been asked to attend the function, said Civil Surgeon Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Open University (BOU) featuring a list of 13 service points with descriptions and contact details, including branch names and locations.