

PROF TAHER MURDER CASE

Concern at delay in execution of verdict

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers, students and employees of geology and mining department of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday demanded execution of the verdict in Prof Taher Ahmed murder case.

The demand was raised at a discussion meeting in the seminar room of the department, marking the fourth death anniversary of Prof Taher.

Prof Taher Ahmed, a senior teacher of the department, was murdered on February 1, 2006. His body was found in a septic tank behind his residence on the campus on February 4.

Prof Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan, Dr M Sultanul Islam, Prof Golam Sabbir Sattar Tapu, Dr Musfik Ahmed and some students spoke at the meeting with Prof Dr Kamrul Hassan Majumder, chairman of the department, in the chair.

The speakers paid tribute to the slain



Prof Taher Ahmed

teacher and expressed deep concern over delay in execution of the court verdict in the murder case.

They urged the government to take immediate steps to execute the case

verdict and also demanded arrest and punishment of the masterminds behind the murder.

On May 22, 2008, Rajshahi Speedy Trial Tribunal sentenced RU teacher Dr Mia Mohammad Mohiuddin, caretaker at Taher's residence Jahangir Alam, his brother Abdus Salam and brother-in-law Nazmul to death for killing Prof Taher.

The tribunal judge acquitted former president of Islami Chhatra Shibir RU unit Mahbubul Alam Salehi and Jahangir's father Azimuddin Munshi of the murder charge.

Muktijodha Santan Command, Bangabandhu Parishad, Progressive Teachers Association, Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), Jasod Chhatra League and Chhatra Maitree in separate statements yesterday also demanded immediate execution of Prof Taher killing case verdict.



Students, attired in sarees distributed through political activists, keep standing along the way leading to a gorgeously decorated temporary gate in front of Syed Abul Hossain College in Kalkini upazila of Madaripur district yesterday as part of the grand reception arranged for Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain on Sunday.

COURTESY: PROTHOM ALO

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Suspected killer held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Police on Sunday arrested one person from Kalabagan village under Birol upazila in Dinajpur in connection with killing of BRDB officer. Arrestee Masud Rana, 28, is son of Abu Bakkar Master of Nayalavanga village under Shibganj upazila in the district. Nazrul Hossain, superintendent of police (SP) said at a press briefing at his office yesterday noon that Masud Rana and Kawsar Ali allegedly killed Mohammad Abdullah, deputy project officer of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila on January 12. He said, on the basis of mobile tracking police arrested Masud from his uncle's house. Police also recovered a mobile phone set of Abdullah and a knife used in the murder. Masud also disclosed that he along with Kawsar, arrested earlier, murdered Abdullah, the police superintendent added.

Woman's body recovered

UNB, Beanpole

Police recovered the body of a woman from a mango orchard at Harikhali in Sarsha upazila on Sunday morning. The identity of the victim could not be known immediately. Police said, locals found the body of the woman, aged about 40, in the area and informed them. Later, the law enforcers sent the body to hospital morgue for autopsy. Police suspected that assailants killed her after rape. A case was filed in this connection.

One killed in roof collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A construction worker was killed as the roof of an under-construction office room of a petrol pump collapsed at Isapur in Shyamnagar upazila yesterday. Victim Abdul Mazid was son of Khairul Islam of Khanur village in the upazila. Quoting locals police said the roof collapsed on Mazid while he was working under it. He died on the spot.

2 held with hemp, liquor

UNB, Bhola

Detective Branch (DB) of police in separate drives on Friday and Saturday arrested two drug peddlers along with hemp and liquor from the town's Rupashi cinema hall and bus stand areas. Acting on a tip-off, a team of DB police raided the house of drug peddler Bashir on Saturday noon and arrested his wife Nurjahan with 1.5 kg hemp. In another drive on Friday night they arrested notorious drug peddler Alauddin with 3 litre liquor from the bus stand area.

Fishermen's memo to DC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Chapainawabganj Bilgawha Fisheries Management Committee on Sunday brought out a procession and submitted a memorandum to Deputy Commissioner (DC) demanding renewal of lease of Bilgawha water body in Sadar upazila. The committee alleged that a section of local Awami League activists are trying to cancel the lease of the water body. They plan to take lease of it although the water body was leased out to Bilgawha Fisheries Management Committee several years ago. It urged the administration to renew contract with Bilgawha Fisheries Management Committee for 10 years more for cultivating fish in the water body. The processionists paraded the main streets of the town and held a rally in front of the DC office before submitting the memorandum.

Clash at urs, 5 injured

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least five people were injured in a clash over an urs mahfil at Diashur village in Gouranadi upazila on Sunday. Of them, three seriously injured have been admitted to the upazila health complex. They are Tuhin Hawlader, 20, Siraj Khan, 18, and Sohel Malik, 22. Witnesses and police said, the annual urs was organised at the house of Taleb Hawlader of the village Saturday night. When the function was in progress the supporters of Tuhin Mallick and Sohel Mallick of the same village locked in a clash as a sequel to previous enmity. On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.



Director of Operations of Chevron Bangladesh, T Ryder Booth hands over a cheque to advocate Saleh Ahmed, vice chairman of Jalalabad Disabled Rehabilitation Centre and Hospital, second from left, in Sylhet recently.

PHOTO: CHEVRON

MURDERS IN BOGRA, NARSINGDI

Two siblings to die, 2 others get life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Two siblings were sentenced to death in Bogra yesterday for killing their brother 10 years ago over land dispute.

Convicts Shahad Hossain, 55, and Abdul Malek, 50, were in the dock when the verdict was delivered in Sadek killing case.

Additional District and Sessions Judge-1 Shahina Nigar also sentenced Bakul and Mukul, two sons of Shahadat, to life for their involvement in the killing.

According to the prosecution, the convicts, as a sequel to long-standing dispute over a piece of land, attacked Sadek with sharp weapons at Induel village in Adamdighi

upazila of the district on June 21 in 2000 leaving him seriously injured. Sadek later succumbed to his injuries at a hospital.

Sadek's son later filed a case accusing five people of murder.

The court acquitted Bel Hossain as he was found innocent.

According to UNB, a court in Narsingdi on Sunday sentenced two siblings to life term imprisonment in a murder case.

The lifers are Anwar Hossain and his brother Monir Hossain, sons of Hanif of Majlishpur village in Shibpur upazila.

The court also fined them Tk 5,000 each, in default, to

suffer six months more rigorous imprisonment.

According to the prosecution, small trader Manu Mia of the village was killed on January 23, 2005 by the siblings following a previous enmity while he was returning home by a boat.

Victim's elder brother Suroj Mia filed a case with Shibpur police station against the two and their father Hanif.

Later, police submitted charge-sheet against the three accused.

After examining the records and witnesses additional district and sessions judge Abul Kashem handed down the verdict acquitting Hanif.



Locals form a human chain at Jalayog intersection of Chapainawabganj yesterday demanding steps to free the district town from drug abuse.

PHOTO: STAR

Stop drug peddling, save the youths

Human chain in C'nawabaganj demands

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

Several thousand people from all walks of life formed a human chain at Huzrapur Jolajog intersection in the town yesterday demanding immediate steps to stop drug peddling in the area.

Chapainawabganj District Madok Babosa Protirodh Committee organised the human chain, submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner and held a rally to create awareness against evils of drugs that threaten locals, especially young generation.

The speakers at the rally demanded immediate measures against illegal drug trade in Huzrapur. They alleged that a num-

ber of gangs with the help of local influential people in Huzrapur are openly selling harmful drugs ruining young generation of the town.

They said, local administration remained silent spectator despite lodging several complaints.

Shahid Hossain Rana, convener of the drug trade resistance body and councilor of Chapainawabganj municipality, joint convener Gobinda Lal Chowdhury and committee members Omar Faruk, Naimul Islam Bari spoke at the rally.

Later, the committee submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner.

In Sirajganj, police have arrested three drug peddlers including two women along with 25 bottles of phensidyl

syrup and seized their private car at Chandona Rowsha road in Sadar upazila, reports UNB.

The arrestees are fake newsman Masud, 30, son of Lehaj Chowdhury of Bhoga village in the upazila, his 'wife' Dolon and mother-in-law Selina.

Police said Masud claiming himself as a reporter of electronic media was involved in drug peddling since long.

Suspecting their involvement with the drug peddling, locals on Saturday caught them along with the private car and handed them over to Joydevpur police.

Later, police recovered 25 bottles of phensidyl from their possession.

Minister vows to stage 20 such grand receptions

Newspaper reports false: Abul Hossain

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain has blasted journalists for publishing reports on his grand reception at Kalkini in Madaripur.

The reception was accorded to the minister at Syed Abul Hossain University College ground Sunday afternoon.

Talking to journalists at the venue, the minister said journalists have published false, fabricated and baseless reports on his reception at Kalkini, "Following reports on my reception, I have decided to arrange such receptions in 20 unions under my constituency," the minister said.

He went on, "People of my constituency love me very much and their presence at today's reception in large numbers is a shining example of this."

People from Madaripur, Shariatpur, Gopalganj, Faridpur and other districts came to the venue in buses, mini-buses, private cars and auto-rickshaws to witness the grand reception to the minister, also a lawmaker

from Madaripur-3 (Kalkini) constituency.

The minister also said the tender for construction of Padma Bridge will be floated in a month or two. After construction of Padma Bridge, the southern region will see a great change, he added.

Kalkini upazila AL General Secretary Golam Mir Faruq said they will hold journalists responsible if the minister loses his cabinet post for 'false' reporting against him.

AL central leader Sohel Rana Mithu, Kalkini Municipality Mayor Toufiqzaman Shahin, upazila AL Vice President Khairul Alam Khokan Bepari spoke at the reception with upazila AL President Tahmina Siddiqui in the chair.

Deputy Commissioner of Madaripur Shashi Kumar Singha and Police Superintendent M Khurshid Hossain were also present.

Leaders and workers of AL upazila, ward and union units and teachers and students of all educational institutions in Kalkini upazila queued up on both sides of the road to greet the minister.

JMB militant arrested in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police on Sunday night arrested an alleged member of Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from Sunking residential hotel at Lower Jessore Road under Khulna Sadar police station.

Arrestee Mohammad Mahmudul Hasan, 22, is son of Md Shafiqul Islam of Pakundia upazila of Kishoreganj district.

Police recovered a few leaflets from his possession.

Police said, Hasan was arrested following a secret information.

He is now being interrogated to know about his stay in Khulna for the last one week, said OC Monirul Gias of Khulna Sadar police station.

Khulna AL leader held with arms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police and Rab-6 in a joint drive on Sunday recovered one single barrel gun, one double barrel gun, a pipe gun and eight gun cartridges from the possession of an Awami League (AL) leader.

The team raided the house of Shahidul Islam at night at Garhaikhali village under Paikgacha upazila.

Shahidul is secretary of forests and environment affairs of Garhaikhali union unit of Awami League and also an influential member of the union parishad.

Earlier on Saturday, members of the joint team arrested him from Khulna city. They recovered the arms and ammunition on Sunday from his possession following intense interrogation, police said.

According to OC of Paikgacha police station, the arrestee is godfather of a group of notorious pirates of the Sundarbans and was wanted in several criminal cases.

In Benapole, members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in a drive on Sunday night arrested a gunman along with a pistol, a few bullets and mobile phone sets from local Sundarban courier service office.

Acting on a secret information, BDR jawans raided the office and arrested Kamal Hossain along with one 9-mm pistol, 150 bullets, two mobile phone sets and five SIM cards, according to UNB.

The border guards arrested Kamal, son of Wahab Ali of Ghiba village in Benapole while he was sending the firearm and bullets to one Abul Kashem of Motijheel in Dhaka.

Rare barn owl rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A villager rescued a large barn owl, now a rare species in the country, from a bamboo cluster at Dakkhin Nagar village of Chirirbandar upazila in Dinajpur district on Sunday.

Injured near its wings, the owl had taken shelter there apparently after being chased by crows, villagers said.

The beautiful owl tinged with golden buff and grey at the back is stippled with black and white. Silky white at the chest and stomach, it is normally spotted dark brown.

It has a large round head with a monkey-like facial disc. When one looks at the owl from the front, the beak looks pinkish yellow. The eyebrows join between the two eyes and go further down, giving the face a heart-shaped look.

Seeing the bird in a bamboo cluster on Sunday morning, Md Aktaruzzaman, a resident of Dakkhin Nagar village, picked it up and secured it in a cage after nursing.

Kept in front of Aktaruzzaman's house, the owl has attracted a large number of visitors from the surrounding areas.

"Seeing the beautiful wild bird, I felt I should save it. Wildlife watchers said they had never seen such an owl in this area. I will release the bird after its recovery," said Md Aktaruzzaman.

The barn owl always avoids densely populated areas. It normally inhabits barns, deserted buildings, ancient structures and ruins, forest officials said.

Several bird watchers said they had never seen barn owl in the district earlier.

The nocturnal bird spends the daytime standing upright and comes out after dusk, to hunting for small creatures, especially rats.

