

Murder of Sylhet college teacher sparks protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Teachers, students and cross-sections of people took to the streets in Sylhet city yesterday demanding immediate arrest of the killers of Sylhet Government Women's College teacher.

Harun-ur-Rashid, associate professor of philosophy department, was stabbed to death by a gang of criminals near Gourgovinda Tila in the city while returning to his residence from the college at around 4:00pm.

Thousands joined a protest rally and human chain near the Central Shaheed Minar in the morning while all college teachers in Sylhet division observed work abstention and wore black badges protesting

the killing.

Members of BCS (education) Association also gave a three-day ultimatum to arrest the killers of Prof Harun-ur-Rashid.

Harun's brother-in-law Al Amin Sarker yesterday filed a murder case with Sylhet Kotwali Police Station. But police could not unearth the motive for the killing as of filing of this report at 7:00pm yesterday.

Parvez Ahmed, landlord of the teacher, said his tenant had rebuked some local youths for teasing girls a few days back.

Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP) Deputy Commissioner (North) Ahsan Habib Polish told this correspondent that police would nab the killers very soon.

PCJSS demands traditional land right of hill people

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Leaders of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) yesterday called upon the government to ensure traditional land right of the indigenous people, empower their traditional leaders and review the Land Commission Act, 2001.

They also demanded resolving land dispute according to CHT Peace Accord, 1997 and its full implementation for development of CHT areas and its people.

They made the call at the concluding session of a two-day seminar titled 'CHT Peace Accord, its Implementation and Rights of CHT Indigenous People' organised by CHT Regional Council at Khagrachhari Zila Shilpakala Academy auditorium yesterday afternoon.

Pointing to the vulnerability of indigenous people, the leaders said they have remained neglected since the British colonial era and are still facing discrimination from the government.

They blamed the administration for

neglect and non-cooperation' towards the indigenous people in CHT.

They demanded activation of customary land laws and organisations, review of CHT Affairs Land Commission Act, 2001.

Headmen, karbaries, NGO personalities and civil society leaders participated in the seminar.

CHT Regional Council Chairman Goutom Kumar Chakma attended as chief guest while Khagrachhari District PCJSS member Roktupol Tripura presided over the closing discussion.

Among others, CHT Regional Council Member Jafar Ahmed, Sadar Upazila Chairman Mohammad Shany Alam, former principal of Khagrachhari Government College Bodhi Satya Dewan, Prof Modhu Mongal Chakma, former member of Khagrachhari Hill District Council member Mongprue Marma and Khagrachhari district Headmen Association President Shaktipada Tripura spoke.

Earlier on Thursday, PCJSS issued a

ACC CASE Warrant for arrest of Ilyas Ali, wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A court in Sylhet yesterday issued arrest warrant against former BNP lawmaker M Ilyas Ali and his wife Tahsina Rushti in a case for ill-gotten wealth filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission two and half years ago.

District and Sessions Judge Md Momin Ullah passed the order and fixed May 10 for framing charges against the accused, as they failed to appear before the court yesterday.

The then ACC assistant director of Sylhet Khandaker Enamul Basir filed the case on July 21, 2008 with Sylhet Kotwali Police Station against the couple for accumulating wealth worth Tk 91 lakh beyond their known sources of income and hiding information of wealth.

The ACC on May 6, 2009

pressed charges. The Chief Judicial Magistrate of Sylhet sent the case to the District and Sessions Judge on March 4, said Additional Public Prosecutor of Sylhet Shamsul Islam.

Earlier, the ACC issued a notice on Ilyas on January 28, 2008 asking him to submit wealth statement. Ilyas submitted his wealth report to the ACC Sylhet office through his lawyer on February 14.

According to the statement, Ilyas showed his wealth worth Tk 3.99 crore. The property includes two vehicles worth Tk 1.5 crore, a house at Banani in Dhaka, money in cash and land property at village and in the capital in his and his wife's names.

After investigation, the ACC found Ilyas and his wife had concealed information of their illegally amassed wealth worth Taka 91 lakh in the statement.



Students of Sylhet Government Women's College break down in tears after the body of their teacher Prof Harun-ur-Rashid was brought to the campus yesterday, right, aggrieved students gather in front of the college gate demanding arrest of and punishment to the criminals who stabbed him to death on Sunday.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Two children drown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two children drowned in a pond at village Khajanagr in Mirpur upazila in the district on Sunday. They are Sayem Ali, 5 son of Jamal Uddin and Nazmul Hossain, 6, son of Sultan Ali of the village. According to family sources, Sayem and Nazmul were playing by a pond near their house at about 5:30 pm. After a while they were not seen at the place. Their family members looked for them around the spot but failed to find them. Finally, they searched the pond and recovered the bodies of the children from it at about 7:30 pm.

3 Jamaat men remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Three Jamaat leaders arrested Sunday night in connection with the February 9 Rajshahi University violence, were taken on a three-day police remand yesterday. Jamaat leader and Poba upazila chairman Mokbul Hossain, city Jamaat publicity secretary Imaj Uddin Mondol and Jamaat leader Ahsan Habib were accused in a police assault case. Police sought 10 days' remand as they were produced before the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate in the afternoon. However, magistrate Amirul Islam granted three days' remand. Police on Sunday night arrested the three during a raid on Jamaat office in the city's Hatimkhan area.

Ex-UP member murdered

UNB, Jhenidah

A former union parishad (UP) member was chopped to death at Radhanagar village in Jhenidah Sadar upazila early yesterday. Police said the body of Abdus Samad, 65, former member of Saganna Union Parishad of Sadar upazila, was recovered from a banana orchard. Police said two unknown men called Samad out of his residence at about 2:00am and killed him sometime at night. Police also said that Samad might have been killed following past enmity. Samad's son Imran Hossain was killed by outlaws five years ago, police said.



An uncommon fish, netted from a pond at Digholgram village in Shalikhia upazila of Magura district yesterday, is now kept at Theme Park in Magura town.

GK project starts water supply for irrigation

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

GK (Ganges-Kobadak) project yesterday started supplying irrigation water for Irri-Boro cultivation in Kushtia, Faridpur, Jhenidah, Magura and Chuadanga districts.

The project will cover 1.16 lakh hectares of land in the five south-western districts with a target to produce 3.13 lakh tonnes of paddy in the current season, sources said.

Earlier on several occasions, the project failed to ensure smooth water supply due to fall in the water level of Padma River.

Uninterrupted supply will be maintained if water is available in the Padma and it depends on discharge of water at Farakka in the upstream, project officials said.

The project authorities repaired its main intake channel and dredged its drains at a cost of Tk 5 crore.

Bangladesh was supposed to get 43,996 cusec of water during March 1-10 and 41,251 cusec during March 11-20 at Farakka but got only 28,000 and 27,798 cusec of water respectively, sources said.

The quantity of water sees decline every year due to withdrawal of Ganges water at Farakka point in the upstream, said a high official of Water Development

27 houses, 8 shops gutted in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Twenty-seven houses, eight shops and assets worth around Tk 30 lakh were reduced to ashes in two separate incidents of fire in the port city and Mirersarai upazila in Chittagong early yesterday.

Firefighters said the flames originated from an electric short-circuit at a grocery store at Abu Torab Bazar under Mirersarai upazila around 3:30am and spread rapidly to seven more adjoining shops including a grocery store, a cosmetics shop, a barber shop and a tea stall.

Two fire engines rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire after a two-and-a-half-hour battle.

According to sources in the Fire Service and Civil Defence, the damage was estimated at Tk 25 lakh.

Meanwhile, 27 homes, including 17 shanties and 10 semi-puccas houses, were reduced to ashes in a fire at the port city's Aman Bazar.

Firemen suspected that an electric short-circuit might have caused the blaze at Badsha Mia Colony of the area around 3:15am that spread fast engulfing the neighbouring houses causing an estimated property loss of Tk 5 lakh.

Two fire engines doused the fire after one and a half hours' struggle with the flames.



Sachetan Nagorik Committee of Transparency International Bangladesh forms a human chain in front of Shaheed Satu Hall in Chapainawabganj town demanding steps to ensure safe drinking water on World Water Day yesterday.

BAU teachers to stay out of duty today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The teachers of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) yesterday decided to abstain from taking classes and examinations today demanding arrest of the culprits involved in recent attack on BAU teacher and staff.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting at BAU under the banner of BAU Shikhhok Parishad.

A group of outsiders attacked BAU assistant proctor Prof Alamgir Hossain, students and employees on March 17 night as they opposed a programme marking Bangabandhu's birth anniversary on the campus without prior permission of the university authorities.

At least 50 people including the assistant proctor were injured in the incident.

Presided by the parishad president Prof Md Zohir Uddin, the meeting was also addressed by parishad secretary Prof Emdadul Haque Chowdhury, Prof Yahia Khandaker, Prof Sultan Uddin Bhuiyan, Prof Shadidul Haque, Prof Shahidullah Taluker, Prof Abdul Moin Miah, AKM Zakir Hossain, Md Moinuddin and Dr Abu Hadi Noor Ali Talukder.

The teachers demanded arrest of all the attackers by March 23.

"We will not carry out duties on Monday and if the

15 injured in clash

UNB, Madaripur

Fifteen people, including three women and a police official, were injured in a clash between two groups of people at Kawrakandi ferry ghat in Shibchar upazila on Sunday afternoon. Witnesses said the supporters of two sea boat drivers Delwar and Joyanal locked into an altercation over taking serial of their vehicles at about 1:00pm. At one stage, two groups equipped with lethal weapons attacked each other, leaving 15 people injured from the both sides. Police sergeant Asad, who went to pacify the feuding groups, was injured during the clash. Nine of the injured were admitted to upazila health complex while six others sent to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) in critical condition.

Criminals torch betel leaf garden

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Criminals torched betel leaves on four bighas at village Khalishkhali in Tala upazila in broad daylight yesterday.

Betel leaves worth Tk 10 lakh were completely destroyed by the devastating fire, farmers and witnesses said.

The criminals entered the betel leaf garden owned by Devabrata Pal, son of Dina Bandhu Pal of village Khalishkhali at

about 2:00pm and set it afire.

On information, fire fighters from Satkhira reached the spot after 40 minutes of the incident and extinguished the fire with the help of locals, said villager Rabindra Nath Pal.

Contacted, Devabrata Pal said, a group of local musclemen torched his betel leaf plantation over previous enmity.

He said he took Taka one lakh loan from a commercial bank and a non-

government organisation (NGO) to cultivate betel leaves.

"How shall I repay the loan," said a weeping Devabrata. "I have no other means to maintain my family," he said.

Patkelghata police station officer in charge (OC) said police are trying to nab the culprits.

In the last few weeks, several other betel leaf gardens were allegedly torched by criminals in the district of Jhenidah.

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