

Expel Ilyas from BNP, demands Sylhet JCD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet district and city units of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday demanded expulsion of district BNP president and former lawmaker M Ilyas Ali from the party on charge of his anti-party activities.

They also called upon the party chairperson to conduct a probe into his role and take disciplinary action without delay.

The local leaders placed the demand at a press conference held at the Sylhet Press Club while announcing a programme to protest the killing of JCD activist Sourav Ahmed.

Struggling for 12 days with life support, JCD activist schoolboy Sourav Ahmed Babu, 17, died at a private hospital in Sylhet city early Wednesday. Sourav was critically injured in an attack by rival faction on July 22.

In the written statement the leaders urged the BNP chief to 'save BNP and JCD in Sylhet' from the clutches of the 'conspirators'.

They alleged that Ilyas Ali backed JCD men picked up Sourav Ahmed on July 22 evening and gave him a good beating which led to his death on August 4.

Ilyas Ali and his people made repeated attacks on the

BNP and JCD men for their petty interests. The armed groups also foiled the BNP's agitation programme and rally in the city on May 6 this year. Besides, on the same day they managed to identify the body of a mugger (who was stabbed in a separate incident) as JCD man at hospital just for political gain. The group however managed to implicate four innocent JCD men in the killing case, the leaders alleged in the statement.

The group led and backed by Ilyas Ali killed at least three party men in Sylhet since 1993. It is out to crush the genuine activists in the party, they said.

The protest programmes include doa mahfil on the premises of the mosque attached to the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) today after Juma prayers, mourning procession in the city on August 9 afternoon and condolence meeting at the city BNP office on August 11.

District JCD general secretary Syed Shafique Mahbub read out the statement at the press conference while central JCD vice-president Siddique Rahman Paplu, central member Mahbub Ul Haque Chowdhury and city joint secretary Sayeed Ahmed spoke to newsmen and replied to their queries.



With steel plates missing at places, Telikhali Bridge on Patuakhali-Barisal Road remains highly risky for users but the authorities are showing indifference to the matter.

PHOTO: STAR



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Locals bring out a large procession at Chapainawabganj yesterday protesting widespread drug trade allegedly in collusion with a section of staff of Narcotics Control Department office in the town.

Narcotics office besieged on drug trading charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A large number of people from all walks of life yesterday besieged the office of Narcotics Control Department in Chapainawabganj town protesting alleged involvement of some office staff with drug trading.

Increasing number of young people are becoming addicted to drugs including phensidyl and ganja as these have become available in the town but the local administration is yet to take any steps against drug peddlers, speakers said at a rally in front of the office.

A section of Narcotics Control Department staff are responsible for spread of drug in the town as they regularly take bribe from local drug traders, the speakers said.

Demanding immediate steps to stop illegal drug trade at Hujrapur and other areas in the municipality area, they said the menace can be checked easily if law enforcers are engaged in anti-drug drives at different points in the town.

They also demanded punishment to the employees, who are involved with drug trade.

Earlier, an anti-drug procession paraded different streets in the town.

Hujrapur Madok Protirodh Committee organised the programmes to create awareness against drug abuse that threatens the young generation. People from different occupations and leaders of political parties also joined the programme.

Convener of Hujrapur Madok Protirodh Committee and councillor of ward No 2 of Chapainawabganj municipality Shahid Hossain Rana, political leaders Rafiqul Islam, Moniruzzaman Monir, Shah Newaz Khan Apu, Imam of Pathanpara mosque Mohammad Abdullah, Imam of Food Office mosque Abdul Matin and social worker Naimul Bari spoke at the rally.

FRESH CLASH 50 more hurt in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

The villagers of Pagachang and Chandpur under Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila again clashed yesterday, leaving at least 50 people from both sides injured.

It was a sequel to Wednesday's clash between the people of two villages over capture of the playground of Chandpur Tamij Uddin High School by two groups of youths belonging to the two villages. At least 25 people were injured in the clash.

Dhaka Chittagong, Dhaka Sylhet and Dhaka Noakhali rail links remained snapped yesterday for three hours from 8:45am as clash spread to Pagachang rail station.

Police and witnesses said hundreds of people of the two villages, equipped with lethal weapons locked in the clash at Chandpur Bazar in the morning. Later, the clash spread to Chandpur and Pagachang villages and Pagachang rail station.

Subarno Express remained stranded at Akhaura Railway Junction, Upakul Express at Brahmanbaria Railway Station and Mahanagar Express at Talshahar Railway Station.

At least 10 shops at Chandpur Bazar were ransacked and looted during the clash. Law enforcers from Brahmanbaria Sadar and district headquarters rushed to spot, fired at least 100 rounds of rubber bullets and tear gas shells to disperse the clashing villagers. They also arrested 15 people from the spot.

40 hurt as AL factions clash in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

At least 40 people were injured in a clash between two groups of Awami League (AL) at Putimari village under Shailakupa upazila of Jhenidah district on Wednesday night.

Locals said the members of AL Fulhari unit have been divided into two groups over fielding candidates for the post of chairman in the coming Fulbari Union Parishad election.

One faction is led by Fazar Ali while the other by Sarwar Hossain. Both are from

Putimari village and want to contest the election to the post of UP chairman.

At around 9:00pm on Wednesday, the supporters of the two rival groups had an altercation over choosing candidate for the post and then locked in a fierce clash, leaving at least 40 people from both sides injured.

The feuding groups used lethal weapons during the clash that continued for three hours. Being informed, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Of the injured, 26 were

admitted to Jhenidah Hospital while the rest to Shailakupa Upazila Health Complex. As the condition of two deteriorated, Jhenidah Hospital referred them to Khulna Medical College and Hospital early yesterday. They are Mansur Ali and Altaf Hossain of Putimari village.

No case was filed at Sailakupa Police Station in connection with the incident as of filing of this report at 4:00pm yesterday. Additional police have been deployed at the village to avert any further clash.

BDR man commits 'suicide'

UNB, Sathkira

ABDR member of Nildumur-7 Rifles Battalion in Shyamnagar upazila allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself in an under-construction building on Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Latif, 30, son of Saheb Ali of Gunaigach village in Ulipur upazila of Kurigram district.

BDR sources said Latif had been working for 8 years in the Nildumur-7 Rifles Battalion. They said he looked worried for the last few days.

On Wednesday noon the labourers of the under-construction building of the Nildumur camp found his hanging body and informed them. Later, the BDR officials rushed to the spot and recovered the body.

BNP leader hurt in bomb attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

A local BNP leader was critically injured in a bomb attack in Gangni upazila of Meherpur Wednesday night.

Abdul Alim, 44, BNP joint secretary of Bamundi union unit, is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Owner of an electronics shop, Alim is also general secretary of Bamundi bazar committee.

Police and Rapid Action

Battalion arrested three people in this connection.

According to police, criminals threw three bombs at Alim near the gate of his Bamundi Paschimpara residence at about 11:15pm.

He was returning home from his shop at Bamundi bazar.

In the bomb attack two fingers of his left leg were completely damaged. He also received injuries in his abdomen.

Family members and neighbours rushed to the

spot and took him to Gangni upazila health complex where the doctors referred the case to Kusthia General Hospital.

Alim was later shifted to DMCH as his condition deteriorated.

On information, police and Rab teams rushed to the spot and collected evidence including splinters of the bombs.

The law enforcers launched separate drives and arrested Abdus Salam and Ariful of Bamundi and

Shimul of Nishipur union of the upazila.

Salam's father, who was a top cadre of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) Janajuddho faction, was killed in a 'crossfire' with Rab two years ago.

Salam's family blamed Alim for the 'crossfire' as Alim used to work as a Rab source. After the killing, Salam often threatened Alim of taking revenge.

The arrestees were taken to Gangni police station for interrogation.



PHOTO: STAR

A truck carries cow dung at Naodapara in Rajshahi city during the daytime, exposing the authorities' utter callousness about public hygiene. The photo was taken a few days ago.



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