

One arrested, two sued on war crime charges

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A man was arrested in Patuakhali while a case was filed against two others in Sylhet on Wednesday on charges of war crimes in 1971.

Patuakhali DB police on Wednesday arrested an elderly man from Bridgeghat area in the district town on charge of war crimes, reports our correspondent.

Detective Branch police arrested Rustom Sikder, 70, of east Telikhali village under Sadar upazila.

Earlier Reaz, son of late Sahabuddin of Khalishakhali village under the upazila filed a case with judicial magistrate court in Galachipa upazila on March 16 accusing Rustom and 11 others of war crimes in the district.

The arrestee was handed over to Galachipa police station, said OC Noresh Chandra Karmoker.

According to the case, two freedom fighters Badsha and Hanif, both uncles of the plaintiff of Amkhola village under Galachipa upazila were slaughtered by the accused on November 14 in 1971. Badsha and Hanif from Chinguria were picked up by the accused when they were going to Patuakhali town. They brought them to Amkhola bazar in the afternoon on the day and physically tortured them. Later Faizul Islam slaughtered Hanif with the help of others first and then Abdul Haque slaughtered Badsha.

Later they took the bodies into a boat and threw them into Amkhola river. Family members searched for the bodies later but in vain.

Nobody filed any case after the incident in 1971 as the accused were influential persons in the areas.

In Sylhet, senior judicial magistrate II Moazzem Hossain ordered the officer-in-charge of Beanibazar PS submit a report on a case filed on charge of crime against humanity and war crimes.

The accused are Abdul Musabbir Khan and Taiyebur Rahman Khan of village Pariabahaar of Beanibazar upazila, court sources told our staff correspondent on Wednesday.

Md. Rafique Gazi of village Pariabahaar alleged in his case the two accused along with other culprits looted the valuables and burnt away his house and the house of one Nishikanta Acharya of the same village as Gazi and Acharya had been serving at a freedom fighters' medical centre at Karimganj in the Indian state of Assam during the liberation war in 1971.

Besides, Musabbir and Taiyebur had instigated the killings of Mujib Ali and Sriman Das of village Haldipurin of the same upazila. They, with the help of 5 to 6 others, also handed over the daughter and wife of Larai Namasudra to the then Pakistani occupation forces.



Jatiya Adivasi Parishad forms a human chain at Shaheb Bazaar in Rajshahi city, right, brings out a procession in Thakurgaon town yesterday demanding restoration of the 1972 constitution and constitutional rights of the indigenous people.



PHOTO: STAR

HUMAN CHAINS, RALLIES IN DISTRICTS Indigenous people call for restoration of '72 constitution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Indigenous people formed a human chain yesterday in the town demanding restoration of constitution of 1972 and constitutional rights of indigenous people.

The human chain followed a discussion at the same venue.

The speakers reiterated the demand for a separate land commission to protect rights of the community living in planlands.

They said the indigenous people are still victims of discrimination in different fields due to government indifference to their causes.

They are always lagging behind as they are being deprived of their rights in all sectors, they said.

The speakers also called to establish a separate ministry for indigenous people to deal with their problems.

Indigenous people are becoming landless as criminals and local influential people with the help of a

section of officials are grabbing their lands, they pointed out.

Urging the government to save the indigenous people from the land grabbers, they said all fake documents made to occupy their land should be declared illegal.

They demanded allocation khas land to the landless indigenous people for their survival.

Calling for withdrawal of all false cases against the indigenous people, they said the indigenous community is still not getting facilities like others in the fields of education and job.

The speakers also demanded mother tongue-based primary education for their children and the community's quota in higher education and government service.

They said the indigenous people played a significant role during the liberation war in 1971 but they are yet to be given constitutional rights.

Demanding restoration of '72 constitution they said the

people of the country including indigenous people joined the Liberation War to establish a secular society. But even after 39 years of independence it is yet to be achieved, they lamented.

Indigenous people in Rangamati also organised a human chain in the town yesterday demanding restoration of '72 constitution and constitutional recognition to the rights of the community, reports our correspondent.

Hundreds of ethnic people from different far-flung areas with banners and feasts joined in the programme followed by a rally.

Speakers at the rally said the indigenous people have been playing important role in national level since long but they are still deprived of their rights.

Congratulating the current government for move to restore the '72 constitution, they said the opportunity now has come for providing constitutional recognition to the indigenous people.

Pabna act condemnable, says Obaidul Quader

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Awami League (AL) presidium member Obaidul Quader yesterday termed some ruling party men's recent attack on an examination centre at Pabna as a 'condemnable' act and said action would be taken against those involved.

"The matter has been discussed inside the party. Decision will be taken after the prime minister returns to the country. The PM has directed that action be taken against land grabbers, extortionists and criminals irrespective of their party affiliation," Quader said at a view exchange meeting with journalists at Hilltop Circuit House in Cox's Bazar in the morning.

On the Right To Information (RTI) Act he said people has right to know where their tax money is being spent and so, people can go to any government office at district and upazila

level and seek information.

"The government officials are obliged to provide information. Implementation of the RTI is important to give democracy institutional form and establish the culture of accountability," he said.

Asked about Health Adviser Syed Modasser Ali's directive not to give information to journalists, Obaidul Quader said, "It is not a government decision. It is his (Modasser's) personal matter. Each ministry will have to provide information."

He urged the journalists to write if the officers concerned do not provide them with information sought.

Lawmaker from Cox's Bazar-4 constituency ruling AL leader Abdur Rahman Bodi, district AL General Secretary Salah Uddin Ahmed, former lawmaker Mostaq Ahmed Chowdhury, Nazrul Islam Chowdhury and Chakoria upazila parishad Chairman Rezaul Karim were present at the meeting.

Human chains for start of Barisal university

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Human chains were formed at different educational institutions in the city yesterday demanding admission in Barisal University from current academic session.

Organised by the "action committee for starting Barisal University from current academic session" the programmes were held simultaneously at 60 public and private educational institutions in the city and outskirts.

Leaders of the action committee, students, and teachers

of the educational institutions also addressed rallies during the human chain programmes.

The speakers said the decision to establish a public university was first approved by late president Ziaur Rahman in the cabinet meeting on November 23, 1979.

However, the decision was not implemented in long three decades while more than 30 other universities were established in different parts of the country during the period, they said.

FISH FARM STAFF KILLING IN SATKHIRA Body exhumed after two years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Body of a field assistant at a government fish farm, killed allegedly for refusing to pay toll about two years ago, was exhumed on Friday following a court order.

Victim Wahidul Islam Moral, 45, of village Kapsanda in Assasuni upazila worked at a government fish farm at Ellarchar in Sadar upazila. Wahidul's wife Nazira Begum said her husband worked as a field assistant there for about 22 years.

She alleged that two fishery officials demanded toll from her husband. They used to threaten him over cell phone for not responding to their demand, she said.

They called my husband to their office at 2 pm on October 2 in 2008 and strangled him. Later they informed me over cell that Wahidul died due to cardiac arrest," she alleged.

I went to the office and found my husband's body lying on the ground. I also demanded a postmortem of the body seeing marks of torture on the body, Nazira further said.

But the fishery officials managed to take away the body from the hospital without performing postmortem and hurriedly buried him at village Kapsanda on October 3 evening, she said.

Nazira went to file a case with Sadar police station accusing the two fishery officials but police did record the case.

Finding no alternative, she filed a case with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court on August 6.

Judge AHM Samsul Arefin of the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court ordered Sadar police on the same day to take necessary steps in this regard.

After next hearing the Chief Judicial Magistrate on September 15 ordered the District Magistrate to engage an executive magistrate to exhume the body.

Advertisement for Rajshahi University (রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়) for the year 2010-2011. It lists various departments like Law, Education, and Agriculture, along with their respective exam dates and fees. It also includes contact information for the university.

Advertisement for the University of Chittagong (চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়) for the year 2010-2011. It lists various departments like Law, Education, and Agriculture, along with their respective exam dates and fees. It also includes contact information for the university.