



PHOTO: STAR

A large number of people returning from Begum Rokeya Girls' High School ground after attending the namaj-e-janaja of Boraigram upazila chairman Sanaullah Noor Babu yesterday. Babu, also president of Bonpara municipality unit BNP, was killed in an attack by ruling Awami League activists on a procession of BNP at Bonpara in Nature on Friday.

UZ chairman killing sequel to local AL-BNP conflict

ANWAR ALI and BULBUL AHMED, from Natore

Fridays' killing of Boraigram upazila chairman and BNP leader Sanaullah Noor Babu is a sequel to local confrontational politics over the years, said local residents and political leaders.

On March 28 in 2002, Awami League (AL) activists killed Ali Mollah alias Alam, president of the upazila unit of Jatiyatabadi Swechchhasebak Dal. Hours later, BNP activists beat up the then upazila AL president Dr Aynul Haq, who succumbed to his injuries at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital the next day. BNP men also torched houses and shops of some 16 AL men at that time.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Aynul's son Zakir Hossain, also former information and research secretary of the upazila AL, said, "Natore BNP president Ruhul Kuddus Talukhdar Dulu is responsible for the 2002 attacks on Awami League leaders. As local people were angry with Dulu for the incidents, they could not tolerate Dulu's joining the local BNP's protest rally on Friday. They attacked the BNP procession and Babu as he was leading it, chanting slogans welcoming Dulu."

Babu was to preside over a BNP rally at Bonpara in Nature as part of BNP's countrywide programmes in upazilas on Friday and Dulu was scheduled to attend

as chief guest.

Asked about his presence on video footages where Babu was seen being beaten, Zakir said, "Hearing the attack on Babu, I went there and tried to pacify the attackers."

"AL men were fleeing homes after the 2002 incidents. It was Babu who gave Zakir shelter at Bonpara again for doing politics. I cannot think how Zakir and his men could beat Babu to death," said Shafiqur Rahman, a BNP worker at Bonpara.

"Babu was not involved with the 2002 incidents of arson and attack on AL men. It was Dulu who masterminded the attacks with assistance from the BNP faction led by Ekramul Haq. AL men and local businessmen got angry as Babu was welcoming Dulu," said Mizanur Rahman, the upazila AL general secretary.

On September 8 this year, BNP worker Sohrab Hossain accused Zakir's brother Zamil Hossain and 16 others in a case filed with Boraigram PS for looting his sweetmeat shop and later police arrested Zamil.

"Awami League and BNP men show hostile attitude toward each other in Bonpara. They turn violent at minor incidents," said Habibur Rahman, a local resident.

Seeking justice for Babu's killing, Babu's wife Mohua Noor Kochi said, "The murderers were encouraged as previous murders were not tried. Babu was elected

the upazila chairman as he was acceptable to all irrespective of Awami League and BNP."

"I am now helpless as Babu sold all his property for his election," said a wailing Kochi sitting with her daughters -- Sanjida Noor Punam, an HSC examinee, Sadia Noor Poroma, an SSC examinee, and six-year-old Suraiya Noor Upoma at Babu's government quarters.

Beaten up by workers of local Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League at Bonpara Bazar on Friday morning, Sanaullah Noor Babu succumbed to his injuries at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in the afternoon.

A large number of people took part in the namaj-e-janaja of Babu at Bonpara High School field yesterday. He was buried at his family graveyard at Sardarpara.

Termining Babu's murder as a pre-planned one, Natore BNP president Dulu said, "Killers of the ruling party were encouraged by the recent release of 20 death sentenced people."

Natore BNP has called a daylong hartal in the district today as the main opposition party is observing a three-day programme to mourn and protest the killing of Babu, also president of Bonpara poura unit of BNP.

A large number of police and Rab members was deployed at Bonpara and Natore following tension over the call of hartal.

KILLED IN ANTI-ERSHAD MOVEMENT

Jehad's family to file murder case after 20 years

A CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

It was October 10 of 1990.

Naziruddin Jehad, the then president of Government Akbar Ali College unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, along with 60 other students from Ullapara in Sirajganj, joined the grand rally at Paltan in the capital, organised by the BNP led seven-party alliance to call for ending HM Ershad's autocratic regime.

At around 4:00pm, police charged baton at the rally and fired gunshots. Hit by a bullet, Jehad fell to his death, leaving his last words with Dr Milton, who also died in anti-Ershad movement a few days later.

"I came to join the movement against autocracy but now I am dying without seeing its fall. My soul will rest in peace when the autocratic regime is ousted," these are Jehad's last sayings, according to Dr Milton's writings in diary.

With Jehad's death, the popular movement to oust the autocratic government of Ershad took a momentum, spreading throughout the country. Within two months, the once military strongman was forced to step down, marking an end to nine years of his autocratic rule.

Jehad's family has now decided to file a murder case after the observance of 20th anniversary of his death today.

Former prime minister and BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia will attend a memorial programme on the occasion at Sayedabad in Sirajganj tomorrow.

Jehad's family members said the then prime minister Khaleda Zia earlier promised

to rename Ullapara College after Jehad, erect a concrete structure on his grave, and provide jobs for his family members as per their qualification.

Jehad's younger brother KM Shahid got a job in the labour ministry in 2004 but the other promises are yet to be fulfilled, they added.

Jehad's mother, sister and younger brother are dependent on Shahid's meagre income.

"Murder case against Ershad and others involved in my brother's killing will be

filed after consulting with BNP leaders and lawyers," Shahid said.

"I want exemplary punishment to the killers of my son. I came to know from newspaper that Khaleda Zia is coming here and I would request her to cooperate in this regard," Jehad's 90-year-old mother Basirunnessa said.

"Jehad's heroic death in the anti-Ershad movement paved the way for BNP's ascension to power, but his supreme sacrifice was never evaluated properly," said

Azad Hossain, Ullapara upazila BNP general secretary.

Born on September 6 in 1969 at Nabogram village under Ullapara upazila, Jehad was ninth among the 10 children of Basirunnessa and late KM Mahmud.

Jehad, who helped create a strong foothold for Chhatra Dal in Ullapara, became the president of Government Akbar Ali College unit Chhatra Dal and the vice president of its Ullapara upazila unit in 1990.



PHOTO: STAR

Jehad's mother Basirunnessa, accompanied by sons and daughters, holds his photo in front of their house in Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj district yesterday as the family prepares to observe 20th anniversary of his death today.

Stalker beaten up, handed over to police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Students beat up an alleged stalker on Government Ananda Mohan College campus yesterday morning and later handed him over to police.

The stalker was identified as Mithun Saha of Boro Bazar area in the district town.

Police and college sources

said Mithun collected cellphone number of Ishrat Jahan, a female student of the college, from her classmate Imran when he went to the customer care service of Warid here a few days ago.

Mithun started teasing Ishrat through his cellphone frequently with love proposals. As Ishrat refused his proposal, he threatened her and

demanding Tk 2,000 from her, police quoting Ishrat said.

Mithun also demanded Tk 500 from Imran and threatened him to harass by police and Rab for nonpayment of the amount.

Yesterday morning, Mithun went to the college campus and started looking for Imran. At one stage, Imran and other students caught

Mithun, beat him up and took him to the office of the college principal.

On information, police and Rab personnel rushed to the spot. Mithun was later handed over to police.

Contacted, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kotwali Police Station Golam Sarwar said action will be taken against Mithun after investigation.

Storm damages 100 houses, injures 10 in Chandpur

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

At least 10 people were injured and more than 100 dwelling houses dam-

aged as tornado lashed Matlab Uttar upazila in Chandpur district on Friday night.

Of the injured, Shafiqul

Islam, 35, Rafiqul Islam, 40, Parul, 30 Mofia Begum, 45, Nure Alam, 30, and Nurul Amin, 35 of Panch Ani village were

admitted to a local hospital while the rest given first aid.

The worst affected villages are Panch Ani and Dewankandi Panch Ani villages under Mohonpur and zahirabad unions.

Mohonpur Union Parishad Chairman Md Abul Kashem said the violent storm damaged over 100 houses in the villages of the two unions.

Besides, several thousand trees and electric poles were uprooted by the storm in the two unions. Power supply to the affected villages remained snapped as of filing of this report as 6:00pm yesterday.

List of the families affected by the storm in the two villages is being prepared, chairman Abul Kashem said.



PHOTO: STAR

A house in Matlab Uttar upazila in Chandpur district lies mangled as a storm battered the area yesterday.

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