



Family members of slain Narsingdi municipality mayor Lokman Hossain among multitude of people join a human chain on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Narsingdi district yesterday demanding fair investigation into the murder, right, a large number of vehicles got stuck in tailback during the programme.



PHOTO: STAR

25-km human chain demanding justice in Lokman killing case

STAR NATIONAL DESK

People from all walks of life formed a 25-kilometre-long human chain in Narsingdi district yesterday demanding fair and neutral investigation into the case for murder of Narsingdi mayor Lokman Hossain.

Holding banners, festoons and placards, they also demanded that the government remove posts and telecommunications minister Rajiuddin Ahmed from the cabinet for the sake of fair and impartial investigation into the much talked about killing.

Participants including students, teachers, farm-



Lokman Hossain

Salauddin Ahmed is the main accused in the murder case. Law enforcement agencies are not investigating impartially due to interference of the minis-

ter," Kamruzzaman, younger brother of Lokman, said in the human chain.

Masterminds behind the gruesome assassination have not been arrested more than a month after the incident, speakers said at the programme organised by Narsingdi unit of Awami League.

People will be bound to wage agitation if law enforcement agencies divert the case to a wrong direction, said SM Kaiyum, a close aide to Lokman, said.

Local lawmaker Nazrul Islam, Lokman's mother

Majeda Begum, wife Tamanna Nasrat Bubli and brothers Kamruzzaman and Shamim Newaz also took part in the human chain.

Thousands of vehicles got stuck in around 40-kilometre-long tailback on Dhaka-highway during the human chain, witnesses said.

Meanwhile, Narsingdi police yesterday took Kazi Alam, a suspect in Lokman killing, under a fresh remand for four days.

Arrested on November 28, Alam was earlier taken to eight-day remand.

2 abducted schoolgirls rescued

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two abducted schoolgirls were rescued in Gopalganj and Sylhet districts on Tuesday and the day before.

Six people were arrested in connection with the incidents.

Detective Branch (DB) police on Tuesday night rescued a kidnapped schoolgirl and arrested four people including a woman from the outskirts of Gopalganj town.

The arrestees are Lichu Mia, 22, son of Mansur Mia, Rajib Hossain, 18, son of Abdur Rashid Bepari of Narail district, Saddam Sheikh, 25, son of Hiru Sheikh and Nasima Begum, 55, wife of late Ledu Mia, of Gopalganj, reports our correspondent.

Shahadat Hossain, sub-inspector of DB police said, about 21 days ago, daughter of Jihad Mia, also a student of class seven, was kidnapped from her house in Chawta village under Moksdupur upazila of the district.

Mother of the victim later filed a kidnap case with Moksdupur police station.

DB police arrested Lichu Mia and Rajib from in front of Police Line and on the basis of their statements, they rescued the girl from the house of late Ledu Mia at Manikdah village under Sadar upazila of the district and arrested Saddam and Nasima.

In Sylhet, another schoolgirl, who was kidnapped about four months ago, was rescued in Sadar upazila early Monday.

Police also arrested her alleged kidnapper Nizam Uddin, 35, son of Abdul Latif of Atgaon village in the upazila.

The victim was a resident of Chuabahar village. She was kidnapped on August 11, reports UNB.

Police said, Nizam Uddin kidnapped the class VII student of a local school, at gunpoint while she was returning home from school.

The man later forcibly married the girl and threatened her family members time and again as they tried to rescue her, police said.

A team from Shah Par PS arrested Nizam from his house late at night after the victim's father filed a case accusing eight people.

Nizam's first wife Shamima Akter was also arrested.

SNIPPETS

Convict dies at hospital

UNB, Barisal

A life-term convict in Barisal central jail died at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) on Monday. The deceased was Atahar Bepari, 52, son of late Kadam Ali of Dighlipacha village in Muladi upazila. Partha Gopal Banik, senior superintendent of the jail, said Atahar had been serving life-term conviction in a murder case for last three years. He was sent to SBMCH after he fell sick on Monday morning and declared dead by the attending doctors.

Culvert collapse kills man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A labourer was killed and four others were injured seriously when an under-construction culvert collapsed on them at Koya Chaighoria village in Sader upazila on Tuesday. The deceased was Manu Miah, 35. The injured were sent to Gaibandha hospital in critical condition. The accident occurred in the afternoon when a large chunk of the culvert on Gaibandha road fell on the victims, said police.

RCCI website opens

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) launched its website and high-speed Wi-Fi internet zone as well on Monday. Divisional Commissioner (DC) Jasim Uddin Ahmed inaugurated the website www.rangpurchamber.com at the auditorium of RCCI. Speaking as a chief guest, the DC said the country's growing digitized information and communication technology has been boosting trade and commerce at home and abroad. Alhaj Mochhaddek Hossain Bablu, president of RCCI, presided over the programme.

Barisal university admission

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The admission test for the first batch of Barisal University (BU), the only public university in the division, will be held today. Around 10 thousand applicants will vie for 400 seats, said Bahauddin Golap, acting assistant registrar of public relations of the university. A 120-mark one-hour written test in Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) system will be held at four government colleges and two government schools of the city. The seat plan and name of the centres will be available at the BU website www.barisaluniv.edu.bd and notice board of the university office and will also be published in newspapers. "The Admission test is going to be held on an auspicious day as Barisal district was freed from the clutches of the Pakistan occupation forces on this day in 1971", Vice Chancellor Prof Md Harun-Or-Rashid told newsmen yesterday.

Youth's body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Police recovered the body of a young man from a bamboo cluster at Norarkandi village in Rajoir upazila on Tuesday. The deceased, Iqbal Bapari, 25, son of Asoruddin Bapari, was a rickshaw-van puller. Police said unidentified criminals might have strangled him. Victim's father said "Iqbal demanded Tk 100 from me on Monday evening to leave for Dhaka and since then he went missing". He claimed that rivals killed his son over a land dispute.



PHOTO: STAR

Patuakhali people recall the day of freedom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

On December 7 in 1971, the valiant sons of the soil freed Patuakhali from the clutches of the Pakistani occupation forces.

Different organisations including district unit of Muktijoddha Sangsads have taken up various programmes including colorful rally, discussion meeting, cultural function in the town to mark the day.

After the declaration of independence on March 26, several battles took place in the district and the occupation army aided by their local collaborators started indiscriminate killing.

On April 26 in 1971, Pakistani army men with the help of peace committee members picked up women, free from occupation.



Locals form a human chain on Madhabpur-Nasirnagar road in Brahmanbaria yesterday demanding withdrawal of an election violence related case against Md Abdul Hai, the winner in the last election to Dharmandal union parishad in Nasirnagar upazila of the district. Political opponents belonging to the ruling Awami League falsely accused Hai in the case for the August 6 post-poll violence that left one killed and 50 others injured, said the agitators.

6 YEARS INTO NETRAKONA JMB BOMBING

Verdict yet to be executed, victims' families helpless

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

On this day in 2005, nine people were killed and over 50 others injured in a suicide bombing by Islamist outfit JMB, in front of Udichi office at Azahor Road in the town.

Three people killed on the spot are Khwaza Haider, 38, joint secretary of Netrakona Udichi Shilpi Goshti, Rani Begum, 35, wife of a police sub-inspector and beggar Jinal, 55.

Six others who succumbed to their injuries on the way to or at hospitals here and in Mymensingh are Yadob Das, 28, Rais Uddin, 35, Ashab Uddin, 40, Jahanara Begum, 45, Sudipta Paul Shelly, organising secretary of Netrakona Udichi, 28, and an unidentified bomber.

But six years into the incident, neither the families of the victims got compensation nor any government official visited the bereaved.

During a visit to the house of Shahana Begum, 30, wife of Khwaza Haider, this correspondent came to know that her family is yet to get any monetary help from the government.

"No minister, even the Netrakona deputy commissioner (DC) did not visit my house," she said.

Shahana, mother of two children - Shilpi, 16, and Shaon, 8, maintains a

family of four including her elderly mother-in-law.

"We have become simply helpless after the death of Haider as he was the only earning member of the family," she said.

This correspondent also visited the houses of other victims -- Rani Begum, Jinal, Raisuddin, Yadav Das and Jahanara and talked to their family members. All of

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Udichi leader Sudipta Paul Shelly was also the lone earning member of her family. After her death, Shelly's old parents Sushil Paul, 68, and Aruna Paul, 58, along with her ailing brother have also become totally helpless. All of them live at a rented house. They also did not get any help from the government.

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