

SAGAR-RUNI KILLING
Murder was to destroy
govt-press relations
Says Suranjit

Former railways minister Suranjit Sengupta yesterday in parliament claimed that journalist couple Sagar and Runi were murdered "to destroy good relations between the present government and the press".

While discussing supplementary budget, the Awami League (AL) senior lawmaker also claimed that a Saudi diplomat was assassinated in the capital "in a bid to destroy government relations with Middle Eastern countries".

Before Suranjit, a ruling alliance MP Rashed Khan Menon, president of Workers Party of Bangladesh, criticised the government for its failure to reveal the killers of the two murders.

Menon said instead of finding out the culprits and reasons, concerned ministers and government officials were confusing people by their statements on the incidents at different times.

Suranjit who resigned as the railways minister on April 16, said Bangladesh is a Muslim majority country having very nice relationship with the Middle Eastern countries.

"But a diplomat of a Middle Eastern country was murdered in such a skilled way that law enforcement agencies could not find any clue in the killing," Suranjit said adding the killing took place to destroy AL government relations with the Middle Eastern countries.

In presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Suranjit also said the journalist couple were also assassinated in the same way.

Journalist couple Sagar Sarowar, a news editor of Maasranga Television, and Meherun Runi, a senior reporter of ATN Bangla were killed in their residence of the capital on February 11.

On March 6, unidentified gunman shot dead Khalaf Al Ali, a Saudi diplomat.

In the discussion, Suranjit also blasted Menon for criticising prime minister's energy adviser Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury.

Menon, in his speech during the session, heavily criticised the adviser for his recent comment that those who talk against rental power plant are seditious and have no patriotism.



Journalists and other staff of Maasranga Television form a human chain in front of the private television channel's Banani office in the capital yesterday demanding arrest and trial of the killers of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi. Sagar was a news editor at the channel.

PHOTO: STAR

DOUBLE MURDER
Human chain
formed for
justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Teachers and students of Prafulla Patro Primary School yesterday formed a human chain in front of Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar demanding solving the murders of six-year-old girl and her grandmother who were killed last Saturday.

They also held a condolence meeting in the school for the deceased Sadia who was a student of the school.

Contacted, Rab-9 Special Commander Squadron Leader Fazle Shahin Haque said they picked up two persons -- satellite cable repairmen Tarek and Faruque of Doloipara area in Sylhet -- in this connection on Sunday night.

He said Sadia's neighbours saw Tareq coming out of her house around 2:30pm on the day. Tareq could not justify his reasons for being there.

The bodies were discovered in their house around 3:30pm Saturday.

Officer-in-Charge of Shahporan Police Station Enamul Monwar told The Daily Star that the two arrested were sent to court yesterday and that police prayed for seven-day remand to interrogate them.

On Saturday, Sadia Akhtar was strangled and her grandmother Momena Begum, 70, was stabbed to death.

ARSON CASE

Bail bonds of 15 opposition leaders accepted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday accepted bail bonds of 15 opposition leaders, including BNP Standing Committee Member Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain, in an arson case.

Fourth Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Saifur Rahman passed the order and asked the lawyers for the accused to furnish the bail bonds for Tk 5,000 each with two guarantors.

On June 7, the High Court granted bail to 33 leaders of 18-party alliance, who were charged with torching a vehicle in front of Prime Minister Office during the April 29 hartal.

The bail bonds of the rest of the leaders, including BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, are yet to reach the trial court.

Advocate Taherul Islam Towhid told The Daily Star that after getting the HC bail order, they submitted petitions seeking permission to furnish the bail bonds for release of their clients.

Only BNP leaders Mirza Abbas, Nazimuddin Alam, AKM Fazlul Haque Milon and Jagga President Shafiul Alam Pradhan may get out of jail, he said, as there was no other case against them.

But BNP leaders Dr Mosharraf, Brig Gen (ret'd) Hannan Shah, Aman Ullah Aman, Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu, Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, pro-BNP student body Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal President Sultan Salauddin Tuku, its General Secretary Amirul Islam Khan Alim, its Organising Secretary Anisur

Rahman Khokan, DU unit Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Convenor Abdul Matin, Dhaka North Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal General Secretary Kamal Anwar Ahmed and former student leader Kamruzzaman Ratan will not be released from jail, as they are accused in a blast case.

Moreover, a Dhaka court on Thursday issued production warrants against them in the case filed for blasting two bombs inside the Bangladesh secretariat on April 29, said Towhid.



Jono Udyog, Poribesh Chhatra Forum and People's Voice light candles on the Shaheed Minar premises in Chittagong city yesterday in memory of the people who died in rain-induced landslides around the city in 2007.

PHOTO: STAR

Police assault on judge condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different human rights organisations yesterday protested and condemned the incident of assault on a judge in Narsingdi by police on Sunday morning.

Abdus Salam and Ruhul Amin, nayeks of Narsingdi district police line, and a constable Md Solimullah who were suspended Sunday night reportedly assaulted Md Iman Ali Sheikh, a joint and session judge in Narsingdi.

Criticising the attack, rights organisation Ain O Salish Kendra in a statement said the number of assault incidents on journalists, teachers, lawyers, and judges by police have increased in recent times.

Protesting the incident, Bangladesh Human Rights Commission said attack on a judge is a serious violation of human rights.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Judicial Service Association (BJSa) at a meeting yesterday also condemned the incident.

The meeting, which was held at the conference room of Dhaka District and Session Judge, demanded immediate arrest of the police personnel responsible for the assault and their exemplary punishment.

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