

JOURNALIST SHAMSUR RAHMAN KILLING CASE Reinvestigation, speedy trial demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Benapole, Jessore

Newsmen here yesterday called for bringing the killers of journalist Shamsur Rahman to justice.

They also expressed their indignation at the delay of the trial of the murder that took place 12 years ago.

The proceedings of the case remained stuck for the last seven years.

Shamsur Rahman, special correspondent of the Daily Janakantho, was killed by unidentified assailants at the office of the newspaper in the town on July 16, 2000.

Journalists of the district placed wreaths at the grave of Shamsur Rahman and attended a *doa mehfil* to mark his 12th death anniversary yesterday.

Earlier in the day, the

Journalist Union of Jessore submitted a memorandum to the prime minister through the deputy commissioner of the district,



Shamsur Rahman

demanding reinvestigation and speedy trial of the case.

In 2001, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted a charge-sheet to the court, accusing

16 people.

Later, the BNP-led four-party alliance government extended the number of charge sheeted accused which virtually weakened the allegations.

After submission of the extended report in 2005 to a Jessore court, the charges of the case were framed.

In July of the same year, the case was shifted to the speedy tribunal in Khulna allegedly without the concern of the plaintiff.

Selina Aktar Lucky, wife of Shamsur Rahman, also the plaintiff of the case, submitted an appeal to the High Court (HC), protesting the shifting of the court in September 2005.

Since then the trial of the case saw no significant progress.

Two abducted schoolgirls rescued in Rangpur

Another flees human traffickers

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Rangpur

Police rescued two abducted underage girls on Sunday while a girl fled from the clutches of human traffickers on the day before.

The victims, aged between 8 and 11, are residents of Betarpara area in the city and Manik Nagar in Iswardi upazila of Pabna district.

Of them, two are the students of class four at a local government primary school.

Quoting the schoolgirls, police said the two along with another classmate of Purba Gilapara area on Sunday went out of the school during tiffin hours.

At that time, an unidentified woman picked up the trio in a microbus forcibly but one of them managed to escape the scene. The alleged abductor then took the two other girls to a photo

studio in Gangachhara upazila.

When the girl informed the headmistress about the matter she did not pay any heed to the incident. Later she informed locals who confined the headmistress to her room.

On information, the law enforcers raided the studio and rescued the girls, said Zahedul Islam, officer in-charge of Gangachhara police station.

On July 11, a gang of four human traffickers picked up a female student of class five at Diyar Government Primary School, from their house in absence of her parents and took her to Dhaka, said police.

The girl managed to escape from the gang and reached Rangpur railway station by a train on Saturday morning.

An NGO official found the girl weeping at the station and informed the police.

8 injured in clash at Mawa ferry ghat

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Munshiganj

At least eight people, including three policemen, were injured in a clash between the supporters of two rival lessees, over collecting toll at Mawa ferry ghat yesterday.

The injured include officer in-charge Md Arju Mia and constables Md Soheli and Aktar Hossain of Louhajang police station.

Local sources said, Zila Parishad lessee Hamidul Islam went to take control of the ferry ghat of Mawa Zila Parishad in the morning after the Appellate Division stayed the HC order to close the terminal.

An altercation erupted between the men of Hamidul and BIWTA Seaboard terminal lessee Md Ashraf when Hamidul's men went to collect toll.

The rival groups attacked each other with lethal weapons, leaving at least eight injured.

The situation came under control after local lawmaker Shegufta Yesmin held a meeting with the two factions at Padma Bridge resthouse at around 10:30am.



PHOTO: STAR

Manual rock lifters block Tentulia-Panchagarh road at Bhajanpur in Tentulia upazila of Panchagarh yesterday protesting rock extraction by dredgers.

Rock lifters block road protesting dredger use

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Thakurgaon

Several hundred manual rock lifters barricaded different points of Panchagarh-Tentulia highway under Sadar and Tentulia upazila yesterday protesting extraction by dredgers.

Vehicular movement on the road came to a halt since morning because of the agitation in Sadar and Tentulia upazilas.

Over a hundred vehicles, including long distance passenger buses and goods laden trucks remained stranded, much to the sufferings of traders and

commuters.

Import and export activities at Banglabandha land port was also disrupted due to the rock workers' programme.

Police and local sources said, the rock lifters put up road barricades in Bhajanpur, Buraburi Bazar areas under Tentulia upazila and Dashmile under Sadar upazila with the help of electric poles and trees trunks, demanding steps to stop use of dredger machines.

The leaders of the workers alleged that a vested quarter was lifting rocks with dredger machines

illegally, 'managing' the ruling party leaders and officials of civil and police administration and ignoring the threat of ecological disaster.

Contacted, general rock lifters' leader Muktarul Haque, also the chairman of Tentulia upazila parishad, told this correspondent over cell phone that the use of dredgers would leave hundreds of people of the area unemployed.

A decision to stop use of dredger machine was taken at a meeting at Panchagarh deputy commissioner's office on June 30 but to no effect yet, he said.

Two Jubo League men murdered

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Criminals shot dead a local Jubo League leader in Meherpur while an activist of the same party was stabbed to death in Noakhali early yesterday.

Mohiruddin, 45, Jubo League president of Bamundi union unit in Gangni upazila under Meherpur district, was picked up by a gang of 6/7 criminals from his house at Nishipur village around 5:30am, reports our Kushtia correspondent.

The gang took Mohiruddin to Shukurkandi on Kushtia-Meherpur road and shot three bullets at him, leaving him dead, said Bimol Krishna Mollik, officer-in-charge (OC) of Gangni police station.

Local Awami League and its associate bodies brought out a procession with the body around 9:00am.

They also blocked Kushtia-Meherpur road demanding immediate removal of district Superintendent of Police Abdullah Hel Baki for what they said 'failure to maintain

law and order in the district'.

Jubo League leader Mohiruddin was murdered due to political reasons, said Shahiduzzaman Khokon, president of Gangni upazila unit of AL.

Gangni police station OC Bimol Krishna Mollik, on the other hand, said, "Mohiruddin, also a listed drug trader in the area, went into hiding after he was made No 3 accused in a case filed for killing two siblings in Meherpur on May 6. He returned home on Sunday morning."

In Noakhali, Jubo League activist Abdur Razzak, 42, was stabbed to death at Adarsha gram village in Hatia upazila, reports a correspondent.

A group of 10/12 criminals stormed Razzak's residence around 3:00am and stabbed him indiscriminately, leaving him dead, said Hatia police station OC Moktar Hossain.

The attackers also stabbed his wife Hasna Begum, 30, as she tried to save her husband. She was rushed to Hatia upazila health complex in the morning, the OC said.

'Punish killers of Akij Bidi Factory workers'

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kushtia

Labourers of Akij Bidi Factory yesterday demanded punishment to the culprits who killed two of their colleagues on Sunday.

At a meeting, they also demanded compensation for the victims' families.

Kushtia Deputy Commissioner (DC) Banamali Bhoomik, superintendent of police (SP) Kushtia Mofia Uddin Ahmed and other high officials of district administration were present at the meeting.

Two workers of the factory were shot dead and 35 wounded as the factory security personnel opened fire on them during a demonstration demanding pay hike in Daulatpur upazila of Kushtia on Sunday.

The deceased were identified as Mintu Hossain, 30 and Rokibul Islam, 40.

No case was filed in connection with the killings till filing of this report yesterday evening.

Man killed, 4 hurt while making bomb in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Benapole, Jessore

A man was killed and four others were injured as a bomb exploded at Ulashi village of bordering Sharsha upazila of the district on Sunday night.

Police identified the victim as Mahmood Ali, an illegal bomb maker and also a notorious criminal.

Yousuf Ali, sub-inspector of Sharsha police station said the incident occurred around 7:30pm when the five were making bomb at Neel Kuthi picnic spot at Ulashi. A bomb suddenly went off killing Mahmood on the spot and seriously injuring the others, he said.

On information, police rushed to the spot but recovered the body from Mirzapur village. They also caught one of the injured, Babu, son of Abdul Kader.

Injured Golam Hossain, son of Aynal Hossain of Benapole upazila, Liton Hossain, son of Delwar Hossain of Ulashi upazila, and Sirajul Islam, son of Asadul of Jhikargacha upazila, however, managed to flee the spot.

Meanwhile, police recovered three live bombs from Talsari area of the district yesterday morning.

Officer in-charge of Benapole Port police station Hasan Hafizur Rahman said on information that three bombs were lying in an abandoned condition near the house of Israfil in the area, police went to the spot around 7:00am.

They recovered the bombs and defused those, said the OC, adding that criminals brought the bombs to carry out destructive activities in the area.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



PHOTO: STAR

Hindu devotees from different areas of Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts gather at Shiva Temple near Anandasagar in Dinajpur Sadar upazila to celebrate a two-day Bombom festival that began at the temple yesterday.

Two electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Two people were electrocuted in two upazilas yesterday morning. The deceased were identified as Rokeya Khatun, 55, wife of Momtaz Uddin of Bagan village in Trishal upazila and Johirul Islam, son of late Siddique Miah of village Pachhar in Gouripur upazila. Johirul was a class nine student at Pachhar High School. Police said, Rokeya came in contact with a live electric wire at her house and died on the spot at around 11:00am. Johirul, while fishing in a pond nearby his house, came in contact with a live electric wire at around 8:00am.

Schoolgirl drowns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A schoolgirl drowned in canal at Chowratari village in Aditmari upazila yesterday. The victim, Jannati Akhter, 8, daughter of Ershad Hossain of the village, was a student of class three at Chowratari Government Primary School. Family members said Jannati along with her two other classmates went to a canal for bathing near the homestead at noon yesterday and drowned.



PHOTO: GONO BISHWABIDYALAY

Teachers, students and staff of Gono Bishwabidyalay celebrate the 14th founding anniversary of the university on its Savar campus in Dhaka on Saturday.

3 UPDF men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Security personnel arrested three activists of United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) on charge of collecting illegal toll in Gargojjachhari area of Sadar upazila yesterday. The arrestees are Rupandu Chakma, 22, Rathu Marma, 18 and Roket Chakma. On secret information, a team raided the area and arrested the trio along with toll collecting memos, said sources.



PHOTO: STAR

A portion of a bridge on Mohadevpur-Jhitka road at Shimulia under Shibalaya upazila of Manikganj subsided last month. Though vehicles are crossing the bridge every day, risking fatal accidents, the authorities concerned are still indifferent to the problem.