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Targeted killings must be stopped

Reacts NHRC boss after killing of Jessore AL leader

STAR REPORT

The government needs to take stern measures to stop targeted killings in the country, said Dr Mizanur Rahman, chairman of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

"Such incidents like the one in Jessore's Abhaynagar are triggering insecurity among people and the government must act on it strongly," said the NHRC chief yesterday.

His comments came just a day after the killing of an Awami League leader at Abhaynagar in Jessore on Sunday night.

Chaitanya Kumar Mondol, formerly in the army and youth and sports secretary of Magura ward AL, was hacked and burnt to death inside his drugstore in Magura bazaar by a group of miscreants allegedly having ties with the BNP and Jamaat-Shibir.

While talking to The Daily Star, Mizanur Rahman expressed concerns over such incidents.

"After the post-polls violence erupted across the country, people came out in protest and we thought the violence would stop now. However, it has not stopped and we see targeted killings and attacks are going on," said the rights body chief.

The NHRC chairman recently visited Abhaynagar, where Chaitanya was killed, and talked to the Hindus of Malopara who fell victim to the brutal attacks of BNP and Jamaat-Shibir men following the January 5 polls.

Meanwhile, the police have not yet been able to arrest Mesbah-ur-Rahman, the prime suspect in Chaitanya's murder, or any of his gang members.



Chaitanya Kumar Mondol



Family members of deceased Awami League leader Chaitanya Mondol in shock yesterday after criminals indiscriminately stabbed the retired army person inside his pharmacy in Magura Bazar of Abhaynagar in Jessore on Sunday and then poured petrol over him and his shop, inset, and set it alight.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

HALL-MARK CHAIRMAN HC declares her bail illegal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday declared illegal the conditional bail granted by a lower court to Hall-Mark Group Chairman Jasmine Islam in all the 11 cases filed against her in connection with the Sonali Bank loan scam.

The Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka in August last year had granted the bail to Jasmine on condition that she would have to refund Tk 100 crore to Sonali Bank every month in loan repayment.

Delivering the verdict on 11 separate petitions, the HC said conditional bail is illegal as the court cannot grant bail to an accused on any condition.



Jasmine Islam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

JCD leader killed in Satkhira 'gunfight'

ASK worried at 'killings by law enforcers'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A local leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was killed in a "gunfight" with the joint force of law enforcement agencies in Tala upazila of the district early yesterday.

The dead, Azharul Islam, 27, was the joint convenor of Tala upazila JCD, a student body associated with the BNP.

As many as 15 people have been killed since January 1 by law enforcement agencies, which has concerned Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), an organisation that provides legal aid, according to a press release.

Quoting media reports, ASK in the press release issued yesterday said Jamaat-Shibir activists, who had been involved in subversive activities, were killed in "gunfights" with police, Rapid Action Battalion and other law enforcement agencies.

It also said people involved in the recent killing, looting, arson attacks and violence against the minority community should be brought to book immediately but extrajudicial killings should not be a way of punishment.

Azharul, a resident of Ghona village, was accused in seven cases, including that filed in connection with the killing of Abdur Rauf, a member of Islamkati Union Parishad and an Awami League activist in 2002, said

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Killings aim at eliminating opposition

Alleges BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that law enforcers have been killing opposition men across the country by staging crossfire with state patronisation.

"The country is gripped by state terrorism....

Extrajudicial killings are being carried out to eliminate the opposition," he told reporters after a party meeting at the BNP's Nayapaltan headquarters.

The meeting discussed preparations for the BNP-led 19-party alliance's black

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Tk 1CR RANSOM DEMAND

Boy found dead 8 days after kidnap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered the decomposing body of a 14-year-old boy from under a sand mound at Yakubdandi village of Patiya upazila in Chittagong early yesterday, eight days after he had been abducted.

Deceased Ashrafur Alam Opu, son of pharmacy owner Md Idris of South Hulin village under Hailash Dwip union of the upazila, was a student of class-VIII at Patiya Model High School.

Police have so far arrested two neighbours of Opu -- Sagor, 19, and Sajjad, 20 -- in connection with the abduction and killing.

Law enforcers said they on information from a villager recovered the body around 2:00am and that they suspected the villager might have link with the kidnap and murder.

Sub-Inspector Abdul Hamid of Patiya police, also the investigation officer of the case, said looking at the body it seemed that the boy had been killed a day after his abduction.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Ashrafur Alam

The Daily Star



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PRAYER TIMING January 28

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-35	6-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-46	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim yesterday batted the way it should be in a Test match. Unfortunately his teammates had gone bonkers on the opening day of the first Test against Sri Lanka, only to be bowled out for 232 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. The visitors were 60-0 at stumps. Story on Page 14.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

CLASH WITH JUBO LEAGUE

Pabna Jubo Dal leader killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Jubo Dal man was killed while three others were injured in a clash with Jubo League activists in Ishwardi upazila of Pabna last night.

The victim, Jahangir Alam, 27, was a leader of the pro-BNP organisation's Ishwardi municipality unit.

A group of Jubo League activists attacked the Jubo Dal members on College Road about 9:00pm triggering the clash, local BNP men claimed.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Near-demise of stethoscope

THE TELEGRAPH ONLINE

It would be like a policeman without his truncheon or a fireman lacking a ladder. But the stethoscope -- which has adorned the necks of doctors for decades -- seems to be on its way out.

An editorial in a leading

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