

BLOGGER NILADRI MURDER



Protests pour in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different social and political organisations yesterday protested the murder of blogger Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy, and demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the killers.

They also demanded appropriate action against police officers who allegedly declined to record a general diary Niladri wanted to file in May in fear for his life.

Niladri, who was also a Gonojagoron Mancha activist, is the fourth blogger to have been killed this year by suspected Islamist militants.

Niladri's wife and a friend alleged that the blogger had wanted to file a GD with Khilgaon and Shahjahanpur police stations but the law enforcers refused to record it. However, police denied the allegation.

Referring to a Facebook post of Niladri, Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee said Niladri wanted to file a GD, but police instead told him to go abroad.

The police and administration have to explain why they would tell a citizen to leave the country instead of providing him protection, said the committee.

Sampradayikata-Jangibad Birodhi Mancha said progressive writers and intellectuals are being singled out and killed continuously. But the nonchalance of the administration has frustrated the nation, it said.

The criminals are becoming more violent as the trials of Rajib, Bijoy, Avijit and Oyasiquar are yet to be held, it said.

The Workers Party of Bangladesh, a part of the ruling Awami League-led alliance, urged the government to take strict measures in this regard to remove all confusion.

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MADRASA BLAST CASE

Hefajat leader Mufti Izhar sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday sent Hefajat-e-Islam Nayebe-Ameer Mufti Izharul Islam Chowdhury to jail in connection with a blast at his madrasa around two years ago.

Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate Abdul Kader passed the order after he was produced before the court by the detectives, said court sources.

Izhar, who had been on the run, was arrested in front of his Al Jamiatul Ulum Al Islamia Madrasa in the city's Lalkhan Bazar on Friday.

On October 7, 2013, a powerful explosion took place in a room of a student dormitory of the madrasa, killing three people.

Following the incident, police recovered four homemade grenades and a large amount of bomb-making materials from the madrasa.

The next day, a case was... SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

A torch procession protesting the murder of Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy, the fourth blogger to die at the hands of militant suspects in six months, at the capital's Shahbagh last evening. Rights activists, war crimes trial campaigners, professionals, and student leaders and activists joined the demonstration demanding quick arrest of the killers.

Build public opinion against extremism

Speakers tell meeting; Gonojagoron Mancha gives govt seven days to arrest killers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers yesterday called for unity of progressive minds and formation of public opinion to resist extremist ideologies and activities, which triggered the killing of freethinkers in recent times.

Following the murder of Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy on Friday, Imran H Sarker-led faction of Gonojagoron Mancha called a meeting of progressive organisations at the Teacher-Student Centre of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday afternoon.

Prof Mesbah Kamal of DU said the Mancha should lead the initiative to exchange opinions with all human rights, women, labour, cultural, social and civil rights organisations in deciding what steps could be taken to prevent further killings and the rise of extremism.

"We are not being able to reach people the way extremists are spreading hatred against bloggers and atheists through waz mahfils and khutbas after Friday prayers even in remote villages," said Hasan Tareq, president of the Bangladesh Chhatra Union.

Human rights activist Khushi Kabir questioned why the government did not give any statement about the killings. "Our constitution does not give anyone the right to kill someone for their belief or expressing their thoughts," she said.

Speakers said this message needed to be spread among the general people

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How long will police overlook the killings?

Asks NHRC chief about yet another murder of blogger; blames laid-back attitude for repeat of incidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission Chairman Mizanur Rahman yesterday came down heavily on the law enforcers, saying their nonchalance had caused the failure to ensure security to freethinkers.

"How long will our law enforcement agencies remain asleep?... how long will they watch bloggers being slain one after another?" he said.

The remarks came a day after secular blogger Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy was hacked to death inside his house in the capital's Goran.

He is the fourth blogger to die



at the hands of suspected Islamist militants in the last six months.

"They keep saying they'd look into it and that the motive appears to be the same... So many bloggers have been killed; what have you been doing?" Mizan asked.

"Why people have to pass days amid insecurity? You have to answer this question," he said.

Mizan was addressing the unveiling ceremony of a book, "Muktijuddha: Sotter Mukhomukhi" (Liberation War: Encounter with Truth), written by former state minister for information Prof Abu Sayeed at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

He urged the law enforcers to discharge duties sincerely so that people do not feel insecure and freethinkers can express themselves.

"The state must ensure security to every citizen," he viewed.

Earlier this year, suspected militants killed three secularist bloggers and writers -- Avijit Roy in February, Oyasiquar Rahman in... SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

9 held over shooting of man to death in bus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police arrested nine men in connection with the killing of businessman Nurul Islam at different parts of Dhaka and Narayanganj yesterday and Friday.

The nine are professional criminals and drug peddlers, Khandakar Mahid Uddin, superintendent of police in Narayanganj, told a press conference at his office yesterday.

He said some of them were directly involved in the murder, and in primary interrogation, it emerged that they shot him dead for valuables.

Police recovered four foreign pistols from the arrestees, he added.

On the night of August 3, criminals stopped a bus... SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



High school graduates of the class of 2015 celebrate at the commencement ceremony of Sunnydale School at Lakeshore Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. Ninety-two students passed the A-level examinations under the batch this year.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

President for expansion of Thai market

BSS, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday asked the expatriate Bangladeshis in Thailand to continue to work together rising above all differences to brighten the image of Bangladesh and consolidate their position in this Southeast Asian country.

"... You must keep it in mind that every expatriate here is a goodwill ambassador of Bangladesh," the president said while speaking at a dinner hosted by Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand Saida Muna Tasneem, according to information received in Dhaka.

He asked the embassy officials and employees to work sincerely to expand the market for Bangladesh products in Thailand.

Monitor eateries strongly: Experts

BSS, Rajshahi

Strong and regular monitoring on eateries is needed to prevent use of formalin in milk while a ban on preparing and selling food under open sky and on roadsides can help maintain public health, experts recommended yesterday.

They stressed the need for ensuring food security, and creating mass awareness about safe and nutritious food for maintaining sound public health.

Scientists and researchers made the observations at an international seminar titled "Food, Health and Environmental Perspectives", held at the senate building of Rajshahi University (RU).

The Institute of Biological Science of RU organised the seminar where over 100 teachers and researchers were present. RU Vice Chancellor Prof Mizan Uddin and Pro-VC Prof Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan addressed the inaugural session as chief and special guests respectively with Prof Tanzima Yeasmin, director of the institute, in the chair.

Impunity encouraging human trafficking

Sultana Kamal tells Cox's Bazar road march

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The culture of impunity is creating space for the human traffickers to continue their operation, sending many to their deaths and putting thousands of lives at stake, rights activist Sultana Kamal said yesterday.

Addressing a rally as part of an 87km road march from Cox's Bazar to Teknaf, she said human trafficking had recently created a humanitarian crisis, bringing to the surface the great responsibility of the state to take strong remedial measures.

"Each of those involved in the heinous crime of human trafficking must come under law and strong punishment," said the executive director of the Ain o Salish Kendra



(ASK) at a rally in Cox's Bazar town.

The Human Rights Defenders' Forum organised the rally in association with the ASK to end human trafficking.

A former caretaker government adviser, Sultana Kamal, said in a democratic society, the state's responsibility was to ensure security and dignity. "However, identified human traffickers are getting released even after arrest, using legal loopholes and restarting the crime. They are daring to do it for the culture of impunity," she said.

The rights activist said nobody had known about the fate of "thousands of people who have been buried in the Thai jungles" and their families.

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Dhaka reiterates zero tolerance to human trafficking

UNB, Dhaka

Expressing concern over the humanitarian crisis emanating from the irregular movement of people in the Indian Ocean and other parts of the world, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali informed the 22nd ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) of the government's "zero tolerance" approach to human trafficking and people's smuggling.

Describing Bangladesh's impressive progress in human development that has drawn international

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