



Makers and sellers of wreaths pass a busy time on the eve of Ekushey February as many people and organisations buy the item for placing at Shaheed Minars in reverence for the 1952 Language Movement martyrs. The photo was taken from Goneshtala in Dinajpur town yesterday.

MEHERPUR, JOYPURHAT DISTRICTS

Most educational instts yet to build Shaheed Minar

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A staggeringly vast majority of the educational institutions in Meherpur and Joypurhat districts are without any Shaheed Minar, a monument to commemorate the martyrs of 1952 Language Movement.

As many as 415 of the 449 educational institutions in three upazilas of Meherpur district have no Shaheed Minar, reports our Kushtia correspondent Amanur Aman, from Meherpur.

There are 11 colleges, 129 high schools, three vocational institutes, 306 primary schools and 26 madaras in the district and of them, only 19 high schools, four colleges, seven madaras and four primary schools have Shaheed Minars, said Biswajit Boldar, assistant inspector of district education office.

The students of Meherpur Government

Boys' School, established in 1948, played a glorious role in the Language Movement but no Shaheed Minar was built after the earlier constructed language martyrs' monument at the school ground was removed during construction of a new building a few years ago, said a teacher during this correspondent's visit there.

Afroza Haq, headmaster of the school, said they have sent a letter to the higher authority concerned asking for Tk 28 lakh to build a new Shaheed Minar.

"We build a Shaheed Minar with bamboo and leaves of deodar tree at our school ground on the eve of February 21 every year to observe the day," said Mita Khatun, a student of Radhakantpur High School in Meherpur Sadar upazila.

Headmasters of several primary schools said they cannot build Shaheed

Minar due to lack of fund. "As per a government directive, every school has to build Shaheed Minar within 2017," said Gazi Md Rafi, district education officer of Meherpur.

"We can consider using a part of the government's development budget in every district to build Shaheed Minar at the educational institutions," said Forhad Hossain, lawmaker of Meherpur-1.

Our Dinajpur correspondent Kongkon Karmaker reports: Only 41 of the 262 high schools in five upazilas under Joypurhat district have Shaheed Minars, said sources of the district education office.

The scene is even worse for madaras as only four of the 101 madaras in the district have Shaheed Minars.

The language martyr day of February 21, observed as the National Mourning Day,

is also recognised as International Mother Language Day.

Students, especially those of developed urban areas pay respect to the language martyrs at the Shaheed Minars on the institution premises, said Amzad Hossain, commander of Joypurhat district Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

"But a large number of institutions, especially in rural areas, are still without any Shaheed Minar. The government should take initiative to build language martyrs' monument in every school of the country," he said.

Anwarul Islam, district education officer of Joypurhat, said all the educational institutions have got notice to build Shaheed Minar at their ground and authorities of most of them are waiting for government fund for the purpose.

4-KID MURDER

One more arrested in Habiganj

MINTU DESHWARA, back from BAHUBOL, HABIGANJ

Police arrested another person for his suspected link in the killing of four kids at Sundrateki village in Bahubol upazila of Habiganj from the same village yesterday.

The arrestee is Saleh Uddin, 27, brother of Bashir Ahmed, who was earlier arrested in the killing case.

With the arrestee, police have so far arrested six people in the gruesome murder case, said Mosharrif Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bahubol Police Station.

On February 12, the four kids went out to a nearby playground, telling their parents they would return before sunset.

As the four did not come back home, families mounted a search that night at Sundrateki village. But they found no trace of the children.

Worried sick, the parents went everywhere -- neighbours' homes, police station, playgrounds and bushes -- and looked frantically for the apple of their eyes over the next four days.

On February 17, the kids finally returned home but dead. Their bodies were found buried under sand at a place around a kilometre off their village.

The ill-fated children are Monir Miah, 7, son of Afjal Miah; Zakaria Shuvo, 8, son of Abdul Wahid Miah; Mohammad Tajel Mia, 10, son of Abdul Aziz; and Ismail Miah, 10, son of Abdul Kader.

Monir, Shuvo and Tajel were cousins and students of class I, II and IV at Sundrateki Government Primary School. Ismail was studying at a local madrasa, said the OC.

Police and victims' relatives suspect that the murders could be a result of rivalry between two groups of local panchayat (village arbitration).

AL infighting over UP polls nomination leaves 20 hurt

A CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between two factions of Awami League (AL) in Ashashuni upazila of the district yesterday over party nomination for the union parishad election, beginning next month.

Quoting locals, police said there had been a rivalry between Nur Mohammad, president of Sreeula union unit of AL, and Abu Hena Md Shakilur Rahman, incumbent chairman of the union parishad, allegedly over getting party nomination for the polls.

Abu Hena recently got party ticket to contest for the post of chairman of Sreeula Union Parishad.

When Abu Hena was talking with his supporters at Mahishkur Muktiyoddha office at around 9:00am, a group of AL men, led by Nur Mohammad, swooped on them, leaving Abu Hena, his son and 12 others injured.

Hearing the news, the supporters of the two, equipped with sharp weapons, locked in a clash that left six more people from both sides injured.

Of the injured, Abu Hena, his son Sourav Raihan, AL activists Kohinoor Islam, Sirajul Islam, Shamim Hossain, Asadul Islam, Shafiqul Islam, Motiur Rahman, Abdul Hamid, Golam Mustafa, Mustafizur Rahman, Ramjan Ali, Rabiul Islam, Yeasin Ali, Mukul,

Sabuj, Saiful, Shimul and Shahedur Rahman, were admitted to Sathkira Sadar Hospital and Ashashuni Upazila Health Complex.

Being informed, law enforcers from Ashashuni Police Station went to the spot and dispersed the clashing groups, said Officer-in-Charge Asaduzzaman.

Abu Hena said he has been nominated by the party to contest the union parishad polls. Being aggrieved with the party decision, Nur Mohammad and his men launched the attack, he added.

Refuting the allegation, Nur Mohammad said Abu Hena's supporters attacked him while he was going to a local bazaar.



Civil society members and journalists form a human chain in Mymensingh town yesterday demanding withdrawal of all cases filed against The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam across the country since February 9.

Withdraw cases against Star editor

Demand human chains, rallies in four districts

STAR REPORT

Civil society members and journalists yesterday formed human chains in Mymensingh and Jessore protesting countrywide filing of cases against The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam.

Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) Press Club also held a meeting protesting the barrage of cases filed against the Star editor.

Earlier, on Friday, journalists formed a human chain at Pubali Chattar in Kandipara area of Comilla city, protesting the case filing spree.

In Mymensingh, the human chain, under the banner of "Mymensingher Sangbadik O Sudhi Samaj" lasted for an hour in front of the local press club.

The participants also held a rally at the same venue.

Decrying the filing of barrage of cases against Mahfuz Anam by a section of the ruling party men, the

speakers at the rally said the intention of the section is to harass The Daily Star editor and undermine the reputation of the country's leading English newspaper.

They also demanded withdrawal of all the cases filed against Anam.

In Jessore, local press club secretary Tauhidur Rahman, during a human chain on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Road, said pen of journalists cannot be stopped by filing such cases for harassment.

The event, organised under the banner of Sachetan Nagorik Samaj (conscious civil society), was also addressed by Abul Hossain, president of Communist Party of Bangladesh's Jessore unit, Mahmud Hasan, secretary of district Shilpakala Academy, and Mahbubur Rahman, secretary of district Trade Union Kendra, with RM Khairul Umam, former president of Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh, in the chair.

In the meeting of Sust

Press Club with its president Javed Iqbal in the chair, speakers expressed hope that all the cases against The Daily Star editor would be withdrawn as filing of such cases go against freedom of the press.

So far 75 lawsuits have been filed against Mahfuz Anam in 50 districts since February 9. Of the cases, 17 involve pleas for bringing sedition charges against him, while the rest are defamation suits.

The case spree began days after the Star editor's comment on a TV programme about publishing some reports without independent corroboration.

At a talk show on February 3, Mahfuz Anam made an introspective remark about a lapse in his editorial judgment in running a few reports, based on information given by the Task Force Interrogation cell during the 2007-08 caretaker government's tenure, without being able to verify those independently.

Doctor rescued 22 hours after abduction, 10 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A doctor, abducted from Gobindaganj upazila of the district on Friday, was rescued from Joypurhat district yesterday.

The victim is Dr Refat Jahan Bappi, 35, son of AKM Kamrul Hasan of Anantapur village in the upazila. He is a medical officer at Monur Ali Medical College and Hospital at Uttara in Dhaka.

Quoting family sources, police said Dr Refat and his sister Romena were going to

Gobindaganj from their house in a CNG run auto-rickshaw at around 5:00pm on Friday. When they reached Pobnapur area, a gang of criminals waylaid the vehicle and abducted Dr Refat at gunpoint.

Later, the gang demanded Tk 10 lakh as ransom from Refat's father.

Police, on the basis of Romena's information, conducted a drive and arrested four people, suspected their involvement in the abduction. The arrestees

are Monjurul Alam Raju, 45, Abdus Salam, 21, Golam Mostafa, 25, Golam Mowla, 35.

On information given by the arrestees, Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mozammel Huq of Gobindaganj Police Station with the help of Kalai police in Joypurhat district raided Gorail village in Kalai upazila and rescued Dr Refat from there at around 3:00pm yesterday.

During the drive, police arrested six more people from the village.

7 jailed for arranging early marriages in Pabna, Jessore

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Seven people have been jailed for arranging marriage of two underage girls in Pabna and Jessore districts.

A mobile court sentenced a union parishad (UP) member and four others to one month's imprisonment each for arranging marriage of an underage girl at Bhadra village in Chatmohar upazila of Pabna on Friday, reports our correspondent.

The convicts are Saidul Islam, 45, member of Mothurapur Union Parishad, Akkas Ali, 42, night guard of the UP, bridegroom Kawsar Hossain, 22, and his relatives Uzzal Mandal, 45, and Nazrul Islam.

The court also fined them Tk 1,000 each, said police.

Subroto Kumar, officer-in-charge of Chatmohar Police Station, said family members arranged mar-

riage of Jesmin Khatun, 11, a Class VII student of Saint Ritur High School in the upazila, in the afternoon. The UP member Akkas Ali was also involved in arranging the marriage.

On information, Md Mizanur Rahman, assistant commissioner (land), who led the court, rushed to the spot and stopped the marriage. The five people were also arrested.

The arrestees were later produced before the court that pronounced the verdict, said the OC.

In Jessore, a mobile court sentenced two people to seven days' imprisonment each for arranging marriage of an underage madrasa girl at Patbari village under Benapole Police Station in Jessore district the same day.

The convicts are bride's uncle Sohrab Hossain, 34, and her grandfather Maminur Rahman, 50,

reports our Benapole correspondent.

Sharsha Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abdus Salam led the court, said OC Apurbo Hasan of the police station.

4 outlaws held with firearms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police arrested four members of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) and recovered arms and ammunition from them in Pangsha upazila of Rajbari district on Friday night.

They are Jagadish, 30, Shyamal Kumar, 35, Shorojit Paul and Zohurul Islam, 20, of Pangsha and Kalukhali areas of Rajbari district.

Police raided Bagli Bridge area at Patra village in the upazila where the outlaws were holding a meeting at about 11:30pm, and arrested them.

SNIPPETS

Youth stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A youth was stabbed to death in Kazir point area under Sadar upazila of Sunamganj district on Friday. The deceased was identified as Bishwajit Chowhan, 30, son of Khuka Chowhan of Hasonnagar village in the upazila. Police said a gang of 4/5 attacked Bishwajit with sharp weapons, leaving him seriously injured while he was returning home from the area around 9:00pm. He was rushed to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

JCD leader arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police arrested a local leader of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Aloya village in Dhunat upazila of the district yesterday. The arrestee is Abdul Latif, 22, a leader of Mothurapur union unit of JCD, and son of Hossain Ali of the village. He was arrested on sabotage charge, said police.

Cow fattening tablets seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized 2 lakh cow fattening tablets from Hili border under Hakimpur upazila of the district early yesterday. On secret information, the border guards raided the area and seized the tablets worth about Tk 40 lakh. However, none was arrested in this connection, said Atahar Ali, camp commander of Hili post under Joypurhat-3 BGB Battalion.

Youth held on rape charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

A youth was arrested from Tulpai village in Kachua upazila of the district on charge of raping a minor girl at the village on Thursday afternoon. The arrestee is Sumon Miah, 28, son of Bachchu Dali of the village. Officer-in-Charge Ibrahim Khalil of Kuchua Police Station said Sumon forcibly took the girl, a Class IV student of Tulpai Pashchim Darashai Government Primary School, to an under-construction house when she went to a shop near their home to buy some goods and raped her around 7:00pm.

4 Indian nationals arrested

UNB, Kushtia

Police arrested four Indian nationals from Atarpara Udoynagar area in Daulatpur upazila of the district on Friday afternoon. Asaduzzaman Chakladar, officer-in-charge of Daulatpur Police Station, said four Indian nationals -- Imran, 22, Alamgir Hossain, 30, Giri Mandal, 35, and Kuddus Sheikh, 35, -- were arrested from the border area around 4:00pm on charge of intruding into the Bangladesh territory. All of them hail from Raninagar in Murshidabad district of India, added the OC.



Detective Branch of police arrest three activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir from different areas of Bogra town on Friday in connection with the killing of local Gonojagoron Mancha organiser college teacher Ziauddin Zakaria Babu on December 9 in 2013.