



January 15, 2004 Thursday

Eminent journalist **Manik Chandra Saha** was killed in a bomb attack near Press Club in the city today (Thursday).

He was senior staff correspondent of New Age and Daily Sangbad and stringer for BBC Radio.

Witnesses said a powerful bomb was hurled at Manik while returning home from the Press Club at about 1.15pm. He died on the spot as the bomb blew up his head. His body was taken to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Motives behind the killing were not immediately known. He left behind his wife and two daughters.

Manik Saha, 45, was former president of Khulna Press Club. He was also a member of Khulna Ainjibi Samity and Vice-President of Udichee Shilpi Gosthi. In his student life, Manik was President of Khulna Chhatra Union.

Khulna Press Club called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Khulna City for Saturday to protest the dastardly killing.

On the same day (Saturday), Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) has called half-day hartal in Khulna and nationwide demonstration programme to protest the killing.

As the news of Manik's death spread, journalists burst out in protest and staged street demonstrations. They held an instant protest rally at the Picture Palace square where Press Club president Humayun Kabir Balu and general secretary Sheikh Abu Hassan condemned the killing and demanded the arrest of the killers.

Later at an emergency meeting, the Khulna Press Club executive committee decided to hoist black flag at the Press Club and all newspaper offices in Khulna. The meeting also decided to bring out newspapers tomorrow (Friday) with the first column blank as a mark of protest.

Preliminary reports said Manik Saha was killed at a place named Kaguji Bari, about 30 yards from the Press Club, on his way home.

Earlier, a peon of the Press Club, Abul Hossain, called a rickshaw to take him to his house at Ahsan Ahmed Road. The office of Udichee Shilpee Gosthi is on the ground floor of his rented house.

The killing of Manik is the latest in a string of killings of journalists in recent years. On March 2 last year, Senior Staff Reporter of Daily Purbanchal Harun-or-Rshid Khokon was shot dead on the Khulna-Jessore Road. Sukur Hossain Gazi, correspondent of local daily "Anirban", was killed in 2002 and Nahar Ali of the same daily in 2001.

Funerals of the slain newsman will be held tomorrow (Friday). His body will first be brought to the press club at 10am where the journalists as well as his admirers will pay their tributes.

His body will also be taken to his residence, CPB office and Shibbari temple on the last ride before cremation at Rupsha Shasan Ghat at noon.



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January 16, 2004, Friday

Thousands mourn Bangladeshi newsman killed in grenade attack

Thousands marched in silence in a southern Bangladeshi city Friday to mourn the assassination of a prominent local journalist by suspected political extremists, police and witnesses said.

About 6,000 mourners joined the silent street march in the industrial city of Khulna after the overnight killing of local newsman and human rights activist **Manik Chandra Saha**.

Witnesses said Saha, 45, was killed in a grenade attack as he was returning home from work Thursday night.

Police said the outlawed Purba Bangla Communist Party, a Marxist extremist group, claimed responsibility for the murder in faxed messages to local newspapers.

Both the ruling Nationalist-Islamist coalition and the opposition Awami League have condemned the killing and called for giving exemplary punishment to the assailants.

Opposition parties, journalist unions and cultural organizations have called a general strike for Saturday and Sunday to protest the fatal attack on Saha in Khulna 330 kilometres south of the capital Dhaka.

Family members said Saha worked for the national daily Sangbad as its local representative in the southern region.

Saha is the 12th journalist killed in Khulna allegedly by political and religious extremists in the past nine years, a press report said. dpa af me



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January 22, 2004 Thursday

Journalists-Work Stoppage

The journalists and other employees of all the dailies published from Khulna division will observe a daylong work stoppage Saturday demanding immediate arrest of the killers of **Manik Chandra Saha** and their punishment.

No newspapers will be published in the division Sunday. Local hawkers also will not distribute the newspapers published from Dhaka and other parts of the country.

Local press club, journalists' union, metropolitan journalists' union, Sangbadpatra Parisad, local branch of Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association, newspaper agents and newspaper hawkers' union have urged all to observe the work stoppage.

Manik Chandra Saha, a staff reporter of the daily New Age and the Sangbad and BBC (Bangla service) stringer, was killed in a bomb attack in the city on Jan 15.



3 journalists killed in 6 months

Thursday July 01 2004 01:46:25 AM BDT

Three journalists, including Janmabhumi editor Humayun Kabir Balu and Manik Chandra Saha of Khulna, were killed while 95 others were either tortured or received threats across the country in last six months.

In its report for January-June, 2004, Bureau of Human Rights Bangladesh-BHRB said the country saw 13 hartals at national level while 33 at local level during the period.

The BHRB reports said some 2078 people were killed in the first half of this year, showing an upturn in murder, as it was 1719 during the corresponding period of 2003.

Thirteen people were killed on average everyday as some 392 incidents of murder took place across the country in the current (June) month.

The report said some 512 people, including 141 women and 68 children, were abducted, and of them 78 were killed after abduction, creating panic in public minds.

The Bangladesh Observer



Juba Union demands arrest of Manik's killers

Monday July 19 2004 10:40:37 AM BDT

The Khulna unit of the Bangladesh Juba Union at a briefing in Khulna on Sunday demanded that the killers of Manik Saha and the masterminds of the killing should be included in the charge sheet.

Manik Chandra Saha, a Khulna-based staff correspondent of New Age and also stringer of the BBC Bangla Service, was bombed to death on January 15 near the press club.

The Juba Union leaders alleged that the charge sheet tried to save Manik's killers. They also demanded immediate arrest of and punishment for the killers of journalists Humayun Kabir Balu and Rashid Khokon.

The leaders announced a four-day programme, including submitting a memorandum to the home affairs ministry through the deputy commissioner on July 20 and a memorandum to the Khulna Metropolitan Police commissioner on July 22, and holding a discussion on July 23.

Deen Mohammad, the convener of the Juba Union, also spoke. Mahendra Nath Sen, a presidium member of the organisation, Babul Hawladar, Hasan Mahamud Rony and Badsha Alam were present.

New Age
