

Shibir men assault college principal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Principal SM Abu Sayeed of Daulatpur Day and Night College is feeling insecure as he is being threatened by Islami Chhatra Shibir activists for filing a general diary (GD) with Daulatpur thana on Thursday for assaulting him and ransacking his office.

In the GD the principal alleged that Shibir cadres stormed into his office on Thursday, dragged him out, damaged furniture snapped the telephone line. The Shibir men were instigated by some teachers who do not want to see him in the post as he supports an opposition party, Principal Abu Sayeed alleged.

He alleged that the attackers were headed by the son of a central leader of Jamaat-e-Islami, who is also a lawmaker.

The matter is under investigation, said OC Mahiur Rahman of Daulatpur thana when contacted yesterday.

JMB threat to blow up college in Khulna

Another activist held in Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

JMB has threatened to blow up MM College in Phultala upazila in Khulna.

Principal Abul Kalam Azad of the college received the threat over cell phone on Thursday. The caller who identified himself as an 'ehasar' of JMB (Jamaatul Mujahideen, Bangladesh).

After the threat, teachers and students left classes out of panic. A general diary was filed with Phultala thana Thursday afternoon.

Meanwhile, police arrested a JMB suspect on Thursday from Bagerhat town. He was identified as Nasir Shaikh, 28, son of Samad Shaikh of Kalikabari village in Morrelganj upazila. Bagerhat Police Superintendent M Mostafa Kamal said that Nasir Shaikh was involved in the August 17 bomb blasts in Bagerhat town.

He was carrying out an assignment to regroup JMB cadres in different areas in Bagerhat district.

Killings decline, robberies increase in Jhenidah

Outlaws sheltered by political leaders responsible for most of the crimes, police officials say

HOSSAIN SERAJ, back from Jhenidah

Incidents of murder marked a decline in six upazilas of Jhenidah district last year but those of abduction hovered around the previous year's figure, according to police, newspaper reports and other sources.

Robberies increased but incidents rape, extortion and tender manipulation declined, police records say.

Forty-nine people were murdered in the district last year against 67 in 2004 and 56 in 2003. The victims included political leaders, public representatives including a municipality chairman, Union Parishad members and businessmen.

According to police, 48 incidents of robbery took place last year against 21 in 2004 and 26 in 2003. Police recorded 17 rape incidents during period against 40 in 2004 and 57 in 2003.

Police and newspaper records

show that 45 people were abducted last year against 47 in the previous year.

As the incidents of murder, rape, extortion and tender manipulation mark decline, police officials in Jhenidah claimed that it was an improvement in the overall law and order in the crime-infested district because of vigilance by law enforcers.

"All out steps have been taken to check crimes and there has been some success. We are hopping more success in an area where outlaws unleashed a reign of terror for the last 32 years", Jhenidah Police Superintendent Akram Hossain told The Daily Star.

A high ranking police officer not willing to be named however said, "It will not be easy to root out crimes overnight as most of the outlaws and criminals behind murders, abduction for ransom and extortion are sheltered by leaders of both ruling and opposition parties here".

A section of leaders of big political parties always shelter the criminal gangs and outlaws in the district because they use them to establish their supremacy in their areas and to rig vote during election which is an old tradition here, he said.

According to police and intelligence sources, at least 11 outlawed parties with over 1000 armed cadres are active in the six upazilas of the district. They have over 500 illegal firearms, used in crimes, the sources said.

The outlawed parties active in the district are newly floated Purbo Banglar Communist Party-ML Communist War, Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML), PBCP-Janajuddho, New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP), Biplobi Communist Party (BCP), Banglar Communist Party (BCP-Laitu), Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF), Jasod Gono Bahini (JGB), Socialist Party (SP), Biplobi Anuragi (BA) and Chhinnomul Communist Party

(CCP).

The most active among the outlawed outfits are PBCP-Janajuddho, PBCP-ML, NBCP and Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF).

"Deaths of outlaws and hardened criminals in 'crossfire' with law enforcers have also helped in improvement in law and order. They (outlaws) were mainly responsible for a slide in law and order", another high police official said seeking anonymity.

According to the police official, 30 hardened criminals were killed in 'crossfire' from November 1, 2004 to August 30, 2005.

Of the 'crossfire' victims, 27 were top leaders and cadres of outlawed parties, two were bandit leaders and the other was an extortionist, he said.

Of the 'crossfire' victims, 13 belonged to PBCP-Janajuddho, 11 to BCP, one each to GMF and JGB and two were bandit leaders, he said.

JHALAKATHI JUDGES' MURDER Two more JMB men chargesheeted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Jhalakati police submitted a supplementary charge sheet accusing two more JMB (Jamaatul Mujahideen, Bangladesh) leaders in the judges' murder case, filed under the Explosives Act.

Sohrab Hossain, officer-in-charge of Jhalakati Sadar thana and investigation officer (IO) of the two cases lodged in this connection, filed the supplementary charge sheet on Thursday with the Jhalakati Sadar Magistrate Court.

JMB leaders Molla Omar and Khaled Saifullah were accused in the

supplementary charge sheet on the basis of statements of witnesses.

With the two, the number of chargesheeted accused in this case rose to eight including the alleged killer Mamun, his associate Sultan, both in Barisal Jail now. The rest are JMB trainer Ataur Rahman Sani and Abdul Awal, now under remand in Dhaka; JMB chief Shaekh Abdur Rahman and JMI chief Siddiqur Rahman Bangla Bhai, both absconding.

Hearing of the case for charge framing is scheduled for tomorrow in Barisal STT. The date was shifted four times earlier.

Jamaat 'bans' cultural activities in Jaldhaka!

2 businessmen on the run for suing Shibir men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Two businessmen of Jaldhaka are on the run as they filed a case against some Islami Chhatra Shibir activists allegedly for attacking and damaging their shops for playing music there ignoring Jamaat-e-Islami's 'ban' on music and songs in the upazila.

Taking the advantage of alleged police indifference, the accused Shibir activists are moving in the area and threatening the businessmen to withdraw the case.

On Wednesday night, a group of Shibir activists led by Rawson Ali and Masum Molla damaged a VCD shop named 'Fami VCD' at

Matha vanga area in the town for playing music, violating the restriction in cultural activities. The Shibir activists also assaulted Rabiul and Dulal, two employees of the shop. Their cries drew the owner of a nearby betel leaf shop, Tauhidul Islam, who was also beaten by the Shibir activists and his shop was also ransacked, the victims alleged.

Owners of the two shops also alleged that the attackers looted Tk 20,502 from their shops. While leaving the place, the Shibir activists threatened them that Jaldhaka

municipality area is a stronghold of Jamaat and music and song will not be allowed there.

VCD shop owner Shamim Ahmed lodged a case with Jaldhaka thana accusing seven Shibir activists.

Meanwhile cultural activists in Jaldhaka alleged that Jamaat MP Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury imposed an 'undeclared ban' on cultural activities in the municipal area.

Talking to this correspondent, Golam Murtuza and Rustom Ali Hira, two leading artists of 'Spondon Shilpi Gosthi' and 'Muktangan Natyo Charcha' respectively, alleged that Jamaat-Shibir activists imposed restriction on cultural activities, he said. They blamed Jamaat lawmaker Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury for this.

The Jamaat-Shibir action has created resentment among people in the town, particularly cultural activists.



The four-member Japanese team from Kumamoto International Education Programme now visiting primary schools in rural areas was accorded a reception by Rangpur Chamber of Commerce Industries at its office yesterday.

Advertisement for Titas Gas Sales and Distribution Company Limited. Includes company name, address, and a table of services and prices.

Killings by BSF up in south western border areas

16 killed, over 100 injured in four and a half months till December

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

The Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) killed at least 16 Bangladeshi citizens and injured over 100 at different border points in the southwestern region in four and a half months from August 17 to December 31 last year.

This figure of killings is higher than any other period in last several years, sources said.

They said BSF also abducted at least 70 Bangladeshis during the period.

Of them about 40 were still in different jail in India and the rest were released.

According to data available from BDR, police and newspaper reports, BSF killed eight people in earlier eight months from January 1 to August 17 last year.

Killings by BSF in the border areas increased after the August 17 countrywide serial bomb blasts in Bangladesh by Islamist outfits.

After the August 17 incident, BSF was put on high alert and ordered to take any measure to 'restrict' entrance of Islamist militants into Indian territory", BDR sources said. Some innocent Bangladeshis including traders, particularly cattle traders, became victims as the Indian border guards shot any body they saw near the border, they said.

BSF also reinforced its strength in all border outposts and increased patrol. It did not allow any adult

Bangladeshi near the border even during day time. BSF also erected at least 15 kilometers of barbed wire fence along the border in Chudanga, Kushtia, Meherpur, Jessore, Jhenidah and Satkhira and is using searchlight at night to check cross-border movement.

Of those killed, seven were in Chudanga border, five in Kushtia, two Satkhira, one in each in Jhenidah and Jessore border.

This correspondent talked to high officials of BDR during a recent visit in different border points in Meherpur, Chudanga and Kushtia.

BSF stops barbed-wire fencing in Akhaura border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhabra

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Thursday stopped erection of illegal barbed-wire fencing on No Man's Land at Bautola village in Akhaura upazila after holding a flag meeting with the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR).

According to BDR sources, BSF had been erecting illegal fencing near Border Pillars 20204 (45) and 2024 (55) at the village.

Being informed, the BDR authorities requested the BSF to hold a flag meeting at Bautola Zero line.



Processionists in Salonga demanding arrest and punishment of the killers of Niloy.

Punish killers of Niloy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Different socio-cultural, political and non-government organisations brought out a joint a procession in Salonga in Sirajganj district yesterday demanding trail of the killers of school boy Niloy.

Niloy, 8, a student of class two at Bina Academy in the capital, went to his grandfather's house in Bhoromohoni village with his parents to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha.

A gang of criminals abducted him on January 12 from the courtyard of his grandfather's house and slaughtered him as his father declined to give them Tk 6 lakh ransom.

Niloy's father Abdul Halim filed a case with Solonga police, who arrested three suspects-- Rintu, Suzon and Ershad-- from the same village.

Acting on their confessional statements, police recovered

Niloy's body from the safety tank of a latrine of Abdul Khalek's house of the same village on January 14.

The demonstrators held a rally at Solonga bazar with Abdus Sattar in the chair. The speakers included Khandoker Maruf, Hasan Khokon, Hedayetul Islam Ayub, Abdul Halim and Jahan Lipi.

They alleged that police are trying to save the killers and delaying the investigation.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Invitation for tenders for construction of machine room for passenger lifts. Includes details of project, budget, and tendering process.