

# Nothing tames Janajuddho outlaws in Jhenidah

## 3 more killed in a day despite special drives and 'crossfire' deaths

HOSSAIN SERAJ, back from Jhenidah

Despite several anti-crime drives and death of at least 16 Janajuddho cadres in 'crossfire' incidents, there is no sign of let-up in killings and attacks by the outlawed party in six upazilas of Jhenidah district.

In their latest attacks on Saturday (October 7), they killed three people including a Jubo Dal leader within a span of 9 hours.

Police and locals said, Jubo Dal leader Lutfar Rahman Shanto was shot dead at around 11 am when he was reading newspaper at a shop at Chandipur Bazaar in Jhenidah Sadar upazila.

Two armed men appeared and opened indiscriminate fire on Shanto, killing him on the spot.

After the incident, one Dipok Roy, identifying himself as a Janajuddho leader, called some local journalists on cellphone and claimed his party's responsibility for the killing.

In the same evening, a Janajuddho gang shot and slaughtered two persons near a canal at Parbotipur village in Harinakundu upazila.

The victims are Sagar, 22 and Altaf, 30 of Parbotipur village.

Rahul Raj, on behalf of Janajuddho, told some local journalists over cellphone that they murdered them as they were thieves and used to harass people.

On October 5, outlaws killed farmer Mahabul, 25, of Dhalaraha Chandra Para village in Shaikupa upazila.

On September 28, Jhantu Mian, a member of Daulatpur Union Parishad in Harinakundu upazila, was shot dead by some armed assailants. After the murder, one Akkas introduced himself as a 'regional commander' of Janajuddho and told newsmen over cellphone that Jhantu was killed as he was a police informer.

According to 'Janajuddho publication' and leaflets distributed by the outlawed outfit, the outlawed party killed at least 25 people in the district between January and October this year, branding them 'class enemies' and police informers.

The victims included public representatives, political leaders, businessman and rivals belonging

to other outlawed parties.

The outlawed party carried out at least 31 incidents of bomb attack in the district since February 2004, killing at least six people including an ASI (Assistant Sub-Inspector) of police and injuring 36 others, according to data available from police, intelligence agencies, newspaper reports and 'Janajuddho leaflets'.

A source close to Janajuddho leaders claimed that the bomb attacks were made on instruction from its top leader Abdur Rahsid Malitha alias 'Dada Tapan'.

Eleven of the bomb attacks were made in 2004, 12 last year and eight so far this year.

Janajuddho claimed responsibility for most of the bomb attacks. The bomb attack victims include ASI Zahidul Islam of Harinakundu Police Station, businessman Fazlur Rahman, alleged police informer Abu Bakar and BNP leader and Union Parishad member Md. Shafiuddin.

According to police and intelligence sources, Janajuddho operations are sheltered by leaders of major political parties.

"Not only Janajuddho, most of

the outlaws are sheltered by the two major political parties for use in election", a high ranking police official in Jhenidah told this correspondent seeking anonymity.

At least 25 special drives including 'Operation Clean Heart', 'Operation Spider Web' were launched in south-western districts including Jhenidah. But most of the drives turned futile due to leakage of information, law enforcers claimed.

Police however arrested four people in connection with the murder of UP member Jhantu.

"Police have taken all-out measures to curb criminal activities by outlaws in the district and peace will be maintained at any cost", Jhenidah Police superintendent Shahriar Rahman told this correspondent over cell phone.

This correspondent also talked to Janajuddho leader Dipok Roy who responded to a cellphone call from his hideout.

"Peace-loving innocent people are not our target. Our struggle is to establish a society where the poor and labourers will enjoy fundamental rights."

## FACTIONAL CLASH BNP council uncertain in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Internal feud in Netrakona BNP took a new turn after two rival factions of its poura committee clashed Tuesday night in front of the press club, leaving at least 10 people injured.

A council of the pourasava unit, scheduled for today became uncertain after the clashes, party sources said. The council was deferred twice earlier, on Septem-ber 11 and September 14.

The party in the district town is divided into two factions, one led by Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan and the other by Masudul Aziz Titu, former president of poura BNP unit. The feud intensified as both are vying for the post of president of the poura unit, the sources said.

Netrakona district BNP MA Karim Abbasi, vice-president president Abdul Mannan, assistant secretary Imran Khan Chowdhury, and publicity secretary Shafiqul Kader Suja back the Wahab group.

On the other hand, district BNP secretary Mahfuzul Haque, vice-president Nuruzzaman Nuru, and joint secretary Mostafa Chunnur back the Titu group, party sources said.

Police were deployed in several areas of the district town as tension mounted after Tuesday's clashes.



PHOTO: STAR

The bridge at Hizolia in Ukiya on Teknaf-Cox's Bazar highway collapsed on Monday, snapping border town Teknaf's road link with rest of the country.

# Bridge collapse snaps road link with Teknaf

## 30 more bridges linking Cox's Bazar 'risky'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Teknaf's road link with Cox's Bazar and rest of the country is snapped since October 9 after a bailey bridge collapsed at Hizolia in Ukiya upazila on the Cox's Bazar Teknaf highway.

Ten people were injured as the bridge collapsed when a loaded truck was crossing it, sources said.

About 30 bridges on Cox's Bazar Teknaf route in Cox's Bazar district are too dangerous for use due to their dilapidated condition.

Everyday, thousands of people including tourists visiting border-

ing Teknaf and numerous trucks are forced to use the vulnerable bridges, which were officially supposed to be replaced 10 years ago.

Executive Engineer of Cox's Bazar Roads and Highways Department (RHD), when contacted yesterday, admitted that the bridges are risky but can not be replaced or renovated due to fund constraint.

"The bridges are unfit for plying of vehicles, especially heavy ones", he said.

Sub-assistant engineer Monir Ahmed, who looks after the Teknaf-Cox's Bazar routes, said only one bridge out of 12 in his area is in good condition.

He said 11 other bridges need immediate replacement or renovation.

Condition of the bridges is turning from bad to worse every day as loaded trucks cross the bailey bridges, defying restriction, as there is no alternative road to Teknaf.

Trucks up to 30-ton capacity cross the bridges quite often while RHD permits only five-ton-capacity trucks on those.

Abul Kashem, a businessman in Teknaf, said they are to travel risking life as most of the bridges are in dilapidated condition.

"Crossing the bridges is a big challenge for us since most of them are not fit use," said bus driver

## Zia Fertiliser silent again because of 'mechanical fault'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Urea production in Ashuganj Zia Fertilizer Factory remained stopped since Sunday morning due to mechanical problem.

It will take one more day to resume production, official sources said yesterday.

The factory grinded to a halt at 6 am as a leak developed in the tube of ammonium plant.

Its engineers and technicians are trying to repair the leak, General Manager Md. Ali Akkas said.

The factory is now incurring a production loss of 1500 tonnes of urea a day.

Overhauling of the factory was done at the cost of Tk 60 crore in August this year but the cooling tower damaged in a violent storm in 2004 could not be renovated properly, sources in the factory said seeking anonymity.

In last two months after the overhauling, the factory stopped production four times, the sources said.

Till yesterday, the factory remind stopped for 39 days in the current financial year, incurring a production loss of 57,000 tonnes of urea.

Overhauling of the factory was started on July 10 and was completed in 35 days.

Engineers tried to operate it on August 14 but could not as there were some more faults. It took 11

more days for repair and production resumed on September 24.

On August 31, the factory again came to a halt as the boiler tube exploded, which needed two days for repair.

The factory stopped production again on September 14 when the compressor tube in the ammonium plant blasted with a big bang. Engineers repaired it the same night.

The factory has a production target of 4,50,000 tonnes of urea in the current financial year.

The ammonium plants and cooling tower go out of order frequently due to their dilapidated condition, the sources said.

The frequent disruption affects urea supply in its six districts under its command area. The districts are Brahmanbaria, Comilla, Chandpur, Netrakona, Kishoreganj and Sunamganj.

## Take action against JCD cadres

BAUBCL demands

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday gave an ultimatum to the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) authorities to take action against the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadres responsible for the attack on its leaders within seven days.

Otherwise, an indefinite strike would be enforced at the university, the BCL leaders said at a press conference at the Mymensingh Press Club.

They said the JCD cadres ransacked some 15 rooms of BCL leaders at Ashrafal Haque Hall in the early hours of Monday. The BCL leaders informed the university authorities of the incident, but no action was taken against the attackers, they added.

The BCL leaders said the JCD men have driven away some 250 BCL leaders and activists from the campus since the BNP-led four-party alliance government assumed office in 2001.

They are still staying away from the campus, resulting in a serious setback to their academic career, the leaders added.

Sarwar Morshed Akanda, Atiqzaman Royel, Tapan Sarker and Anwar Hossain spoke at the press conference.

## Robber lynched

A CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An armed robber was lynched while three others were beaten up by mob at Jalalpur Bazar near Pabna Cadet College in Sadar upazila on Tuesday morning.

Local people said robbers belonging to 'Jamal Bahini' attacked the crowded bazar at about 10.30 am. They looted cash and valuables worth Tk 60,000 from a jute trader. When the robbers were fleeing, mob chased them and caught four of them along with firearms.

The robbers are Anis, 32, Ripon, 30, Asadul, 35, and Akhter, 32. Severely beaten up, they were handed over to Rapid Action Battalion (Rab). Ripon who was shifted to Pabna General Hospital in a critical condition, died at noon.



PHOTO: STAR

Marma community members at Wagga festival in Khagrachhari town.

## Wagga celebrated in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

The Wagga festival of the indigenous Marma community concluded here yesterday.

Wagga means freedom. Before the festival, Buddhist Banty (chief of prayer hall) stays at least 3 months at a place with reputation.

To mark the occasion, a cultural function was held at Masterpara. Hundreds of men, women and children of Marma community joined the programme.

The Buddhists prayer hall locally known as Keyang was nicely decorated with flower and colourful paper. Marma women made cakes while young people, wearing tradi-

tional dresses, sang, danced and played different games.

A discussion was also held. Speakers said Buddhism is for peace, truth and honesty. Wagga is observed to uphold the religion, they said.

On the concluding day yesterday, children took part in various programmes including recitation of poems, art and general knowledge competition.

Panchha Sowami, Banty (chief of Buddhist prayer hall) chaired the function while Khagrachhari Press Club president Chowdhury Ataur Rahman Rana was present as chief guest.

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