

63 killed by outlaws in 10 southwestern districts last month

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushia*

At least 63 people were killed by the outlawed party cadres in 10 southwestern (S-W) districts last month. The districts are Khulna, Kushtia, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Jhenidah, Magura, Jessore, Narail, Bagerhat and Satkhira.

Eighteen people were killed in Kushtia, 9 in Khulna, 8 each in Chuadanga and Jhenidah, 6 in Magura, 5 each in Satkhira and Bagerhat, 4 in Jessore, 2 in Meherpur and 1 in Narail.

High police officials seeking anonymity said the Janajuddho faction of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) was responsible for the killings.

Of the victims, 22 were outlawed party rivals, 17 were leaders and activists of political parties, 8 were businessmen and 16 innocent

people.

Janajuddho claimed that their cadres had killed 8 BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami leaders and activists for what they said to take revenge of 'crossfire' killings.

The businessmen were killed for not paying illegal toll while rival party men were killed following internal feud in the outlawed parties as well as to establish supremacy in the areas.

Earlier, 53 people were killed in September, 41 in August, 46 in July and 42 in June.

Sources said, about 10,000 cadres of 13 outlawed parties have become active in the region in last several months. They are reorganising themselves by recruiting fresh cadres.

The parties are Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho), PBCP-ML, PBCP-

Red Flag and PBCP-Communist War, Biplobi Communist Party (BCP), New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP), Banglar Communist Party (BCP-Laitu) Gano Mukti Fouz (GMF) and Gano Bahini (GB), Socialist Party (SP), Biplobi Anuragi, Chhinnomul Communist Party (CCP) and Sharbahara People's Mancha (SPM).

At least 8 incidents of bomb blasts were reported within the period which killed two people.

In September, 24 incidents of bomb blasts were reported while the figure was 14 in August.

Police seeking anonymity admitted the fact of deterioration of the law and order in the region.

However, they said the situation would improve soon because of intensification of their anti-crime drive.

10 die of diarrhoea, pneumonia in Panchagarh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

Ten people including three children died of diarrhoea and pneumonia which broke out in an epidemic form in Panchagarh in last seven days.

The deceased are Aklima Khatun, Anjuman, Sharmeen, Jahura Begum, Askhar Ali, Jamir Ali, Abdul Hakim, Shafiqul, Joy and Anwar Hossain. Two of them died of pneumonia. All the victims hailed from Atwari, Panchagarh Sadar, Ruhia and Tetulia upazila.

About 300 others are suffering from the diseases. They are now undergoing treatment at the upazila health complexes in Tetulia, Debiganj, Boda and Atwari.

However, Panchagarh Sadar

Hospital officials claimed that 8 people had died in last 7 days.

Panchagarh Sadar Hospital sources said the disease broke out due to hot weather at daytime and cold weather at night. Children are the worst victims, they said.

Md Masud Karim, a doctor at Panchagarh Sadar Hospital said they are facing acute accommodation problem. Besides, there is shortage of oxygen cylinders in the hospital, he said.

However, Panchagarh civil surgeon (CS) Md Shakhawat could not be contacted for his comments despite several attempts made by this correspondent.



Flood damaged Post Office Road in Derai upazila of Sunamganj. The road is yet to be repaired although 3 years passed after the deluge. PHOTO: STAR

PANIC GRIPS VILLAGERS

Violent clashes in 3 Magura villages

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Magura*

Panic gripped hundreds of villagers at Shatrujitpur, Kalupara and Dharmadah villages in Sadar upazila following violent incidents of clash and plunder in the last two days.

During a visit to the villages, about 12 km off Magura town, this correspondent found yesterday that many villagers had already fled their homes fearing further clashes and police harassment.

Sources said a long-standing rivalry to establish supremacy at the local Shatrujitpur Bazaar prevailed between the chairman of Shatrujitpur Union Parishad (UP) Munshi Mashui Azam Bachchu and member of the same UP Abdul Motalib.

On Monday night, supporters of Bachchu Munshi and Motalib locked in a clash following an altercation injuring 14 people, three of them seriously.

Both the groups used lethal weapons during the clash.

The three seriously injured were identified as Sagor Biswas, 25, UP member Jamal Sikder, 35 and Azim Sheikh 50.

Police from the local camp rushed to the spot and brought the

situation under control.

On Tuesday morning, both the groups again locked in a fierce clash injuring at least 35 people and went on rampage in the villages which continued till evening. The seriously injured were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital and different clinics.

Police and locals said, supporters of both the feuding groups swooped on the houses of their rivals and looted valuables as well as foodgrains, cattle and poultry birds.

Above one hundred houses of Shatrujitpur, Dharmadah and Kalupara villages were destroyed in the attacks and counter attacks.

Police reportedly reached the spot too late during the clash and plundering on Tuesday. None was arrested till filing of this report at 4.30 pm yesterday.

Despite repeated attempts, the officer-in-charge (OC) of Magura Sadar Police Station could not be reached for his comments.

Superintendent of Police (SP) of Magura Mian Lutfur Rahman Choudhury, however, said he ordered deployment of police in the villages to bring the situation under control. He assured proper action against the culprits.

Moulvibazar AL 'inactive'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

The district Awami League has become virtually inactive due to lack of its full-fledged committee for the last four months.

The situation has frustrated many party leaders and workers.

The ongoing agitation for reforms in caretaker system and Election Commission (EC) is going on under the banner of the 14-party Combine.

The district AL council was held here on July 7. AL Presidium member Tofail Ahmed presided the council. Former chief whip of the opposition in parliament Md Abdus Shaheed was elected president and former organising secretary of the party, Nesar Ahmed was elected general secretary of the executive committee by direct vote of councilors. But other posts of the committee remained vacant due to internal feud in the party.

Nesar Ahmed participates in all the programmes of 14-party Combine while Abdus Shaheed keeps himself away from the activities.

However, Jubo League, youth wing of the party, is very active here. Its activists brought out a motorcycle rally and held a public meeting on the last day of the BNP government.

Chhatara League, student wing of the party, is also active. It brings out processions and rallies in the

town almost everyday.

A party leader, seeking anonymity, said if the internal conflict persists, AL might face a debacle at Moulvibazar-3 constituency (Sadar-Rajnagar).

On contact, Nesar Ahmed said a full-fledged committee of the party will be formed within the next few days.

Md Abdus Shaheed said he is busy in Dhaka for the party's central programme.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

Habibunnesa Chowdhury, mother of Jamil Ahmed Chowdhury, registrar of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), died of old age ailments at her 'Longla House' residence in Anbarkhana here yesterday.

She was 95. Wife of Abdus Salam Chowdhury, a former agriculture officer, Habibunnesa left 5 sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

Her first Janaza was held at the Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) shrine mosque after Esha prayers. Her second Janaza will be held at Langla of Kulaura upazila in Moulvibazar at 9-30 am. Afterwards, she will be buried at her family graveyard there.

3X3

7X3

5X3

8X3

6X3

2.5X2

2X2