

Alarming rise in incidents of clashes, murders, robberies in Natore

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Dec 10: The law and order has deteriorated considerably in Shingra, Lalpur and sadar thanas in Natore district in last four months with the rise in clashes between rival groups and incidents of looting, killing and mugging. It is learnt.

According to witnesses and some knowledgeable circles, over five hundred hand-made bombs, petrol bombs were blasted, about one hundred rounds of bullets were fired and three persons were killed and about two hundred men including policemen and magistrates were injured in different incidents that took place in these thanas from August to November of this current year.

According to reports, police Sergeant, Nazrul Islam, on 1st August was mugged by a group of terrorists at the border area of Lalpur thana and lost his motor-bike and wireless set which were rescued after two days of the incident.

According to another report, a clash occurred between JCD and BCL workers on September 13 evening at Natore town. It left 7 persons injured.

Another report says, a disagreement over the leadership of Natore Bus Minibus Owners Samity caused several clashes in the town on 3rd and 4th August. Huge cocktails and petrol bombs were blasted during the clashes. A bomb attack was also made on the house of Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar, General Secretary of district BNP. Nobody was injured in this connection.

On September 20, a clash between local BNP and Awami League (AL) activists erupted following a dispute over a public meeting of State Minister for Social Welfare at Adbulpur under Lalpur thana on the day of a full-day hartal called by local AL demanding immediate arrest of the accused persons of a killing incident occurred on June 4, 94. The rival groups opened fire and clashed with different lethal and sharp weapons. The Adbulpur village then turned into a battle field with the repeated sound of firing and bomb explosions. Over 60 persons, including policemen and magistrates were injured in the clash.

On September 23, a violent incident occurred at Adbulpur and Natore railway station areas while Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament, Sheikh Hasina was on her 'train march' to drum up support for the 'caretaker government' issue. Some terror-



NATORE: Akalu, his wife, Maya Rani and their son Gopal were seriously injured in an armed attack by some miscreants in Paikerdol village recently. — Star photo

ists were then found moving with fire arms, lethal weapons, ram dao and Chinese axes. Gunmen fired 10 rounds aiming Hasina's train at Adbulpur railway station. About 20 persons were injured in this incident. Police remained silent during the violence.

According to another report, one Shahabuddin of Koshobpur village under Lalpur thana was killed following a trivial matter at North Bengal Sugar Mills gate on October 18.

Police recovered a dead body from the river Atrai in Natore. The victim was identified as Mobarak of Kashinagar village under Shingra thana. The JCD leaders Mostafizur Rahman Shabeen, ex NS of Government College and Babu, a JCD worker were seriously injured while a rival group attacked them with Chinese axes and lethal weapons on October 19. Following this incident, an armed clash took place in the town on the same day.

A report says, the mentionable armed clash of recent days occurred at Kapuriapotty in the town on November 12. About 25 workers of JCD, AL and its front organisations were injured when gunshots were fired and crackers hurled at a procession brought out in the town supporting the opposition called of November 13 nationwide hartal. About 20 rounds of gunshots were fired during the clash. Of the injured, four of BCL and one per-

son of JCD received serious bullet-injury. A case was lodged with sadar thana police. But nobody was arrested.

Another report says, at least 3 men were injured in a bomb explosion near Natore Press Club on 13th November night. None could be suspected responsible for this incident.

Three men of a family of Paikerdol village under sadar thana were seriously wounded in an armed attack reportedly by a group of hired terrorists on November 20. The attack was made on Akalu 50; his wife, Maya Rani, 35, and their son Gopal, 15, following a wrangling over the ownership of a date tree.

A case was filed with sadar thana accusing Tipu, Dulal, Adhir Master, Sushil, Bishwanath and Rone of the same village. The accused persons of this case managed to get bail from the court before being arrested. The family of Akalu was reportedly under threat to withdraw the case, it is alleged.

It is also alleged here that Tipu, the terrorist is accused in different cases like snatching, mugging, and highway robbery. Once he was arrested for assaulting a court police.

Some inhabitants of Paikerdol informed The Daily Star that Adhir Master, a teacher of Teghari Primary School, rears some terrorists like Tipu and Dulal for continuing his illegal businesses easily. Police, however, are not informed

about this allegation.

According to another report, on November 26, a group of terrorists launched an attack on the house of S M Manzurul Hasan, General Secretary of Natore Press Club, at Mollikhati in the town. Hasan was not in house at the time. The group also attacked on the house of the neighbour, Ikhtiar Hossain. Rushi, a six year old girl was injured in this incident. The terrorists damaged the doors and windows of the two houses. Hasan lodged a case with sadar police accusing Liton, Mamun, Babu, Bulbul, Pintu, Samad and Rokeya of Kandivtua village of Sadar thana. Police failed to arrest anybody in this connection so far.

Chand Mia, son of one Abdul Hamid of Sultanpur under sadar thana was killed on November 26 following a quarrel concerning a piece of land. A case was filed with sadar thana accusing five persons.

The inhabitants of Natore district have been passing their days in fear as they may be victim of terrorism at any time. Witnesses said, in most cases, the rivals use lethal weapons, dao, ram-dao, hocky-sticks, Chinese axes, cocktails, petrol bombs and different kinds of fire-arms during clashes.

The source also said that most of the activists are school-going boys. Some people who witnesses the incidents told this corre-

spondent that "wireless sets were found in bands of some activists for communication with their leaders during the clashes.

However, when contacted a police officer said that they are trying their best to curb crimes. But, he added, sometimes we have to face problems.

Police launched several raids in the town on November 26 and arrested five JCD workers and uprooted some drug house in the town.

Police has arrested two persons on charge of filing a false case in Shingra thana under Natore district recently.

According to police sources, due to previous enmity, Professor Abdul Hai and UP member, Abdul Aziz of Kakkial village under Shingra thana beat Shahajul of the same village and filled a de-coity case against him with Shingra PS. Shahajul was then going to Shingra Hat buy cow with Taka six thousand on him. Police, while investigating the case, found the case false and arrested the two. More investigation is going on in this connection.

According to a statistical report, the number of crimes in Natore district was increasing from 1987 to 1993. But, in 1994 (up to November) the number has reduced to 652.

The number of committed was 449 in 1987, 485 in 1988, 589 in 1989, 570 in 1990, 618 in 1991, 728 in 1992, and 874 in 1993.

Another statistical report said, about 856 crimes were committed at six thanas of the district during December, '92 to November, '93. And during December, '93 to November, '94, the number of crimes reached 733.

Though the total number of crimes has been reduced this year, the number of killing and women oppression including rapping has increased.

About 50 murders and 15 incidents of women oppression were committed during this year while about 35 murders and 13 incidents of women oppression was record in the previous year.

The report also said that about 16 per cent of crimes has been reduced this year compared that of the previous year.

Local people appealed to higher authorities to ensure peaceful atmosphere throughout the district as well as to protect our young generation from violence.



BARISAL: KSA Mahiuddin Manik Bir Pratik addressing the seminar on "Oppression: threat to democracy" at the BDS auditorium. — Star photo

'Law, order still not ensured in society'

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 10: Justice K M Sobhan has said that the main obstacle for flourishing democracy in our country is oppression on people.

To establish institutional formation of democracy the law and order situation must be ensured, but it is still uncertain, he said.

Justice K M Sobhan, Chairman, Bangladesh Human Rights Commission was presenting his keynote speech at the seminar — 'Oppression: Threat to Democracy' at the Barisal Development Society (BDS) auditorium Friday.

The seminar was organised by Bangladesh Human Rights Commission, Dhaka.

Chaired by KSA Mahiuddin Manik, Bir Pratik, the seminar was also addressed by Advocate Hemayetuddin Ahmed, President, Human Rights Association, Barisal Branch, Journalist Manabendra Batbyal, Mamataz Begum Parul, Chairman, Jagua Union Parishad, Rani Bhattacharje, President, Mahila Parishad, Barisal branch and Mannan Syed Manu.

M A Rashid, Divisional Commissioner, Barisal attended the seminar as chief guest while Akram Hossain Chowdhury, Secretary General, Human Rights Commission, Dhaka delivered address of welcome.

RMCH rent collector faces misappropriation charges

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Dec 10: The Bureau of Anti-corruption has filed eight criminal cases against the rent collector of the Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH), Lutfar Rahman on the charge of misappropriation of a huge amount of money of Taka 43 lakh.

According to the allegation, the accused rent collector during his long tenure of service in the same post for past 12 years had misappropriated huge amount out of money from the rent collected from various sections of the hospital.

In doing this sort of misdeeds peacefully, he anyhow managed to escape from the audit hazards in the previous years. Unfortunately this year, his long concealed corrupt acts have been un-earthed by an audit team which was ultimately forwarded to the Bureau of Anti-corruption to start cases against the rent collector.

It is most surprising that the accused rent collector is still in service in the same post in RMCH although he has been sued on corruption charges.

Young girl beaten to death

JHENIDAH, Dec 10: A minor girl of Berashola village in sadar thana was beaten to death by her brother on Saturday, says UNB.

Police said, Ayesa, 12 had an alleged love affair with one youth of the village. Her brother Azibor Rahman became furious when he came to know the matter from the villagers.

On returning home in the evening Azibor Rahman started interrogating her and at one stage beat her to death.

A case was filed with the police.

Meanwhile, an unidentified body of a teenaged boy was recovered from a sugarcane field at Rangerpota village in sadar thana on Monday.

The body was sent to Jhenidah morgue for autopsy.

Kidnapped girl manages to escape

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 10: A school girl Shilpi, 15, kidnapped on November 29 from Daulatpur bus stand was rescued from launch ghat.

The girl in her statement to police said she was abducted by one, Sirajul Islam, 28, at arms point and taken to Faridpur. She, however, managed to escape from the hide-out where the accused and his two associates violated her several times.

Police said accused Siraj, a professional criminal, is also wanted in connection with some other cases. He is still absconding.

Four awarded life-term for murder

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 10: Four persons were awarded life term imprisonment and fined Tk 3000 each in default or to suffer six months' Rigorous Imprisonment.

Fourteen other persons were awarded two years' Rigorous Imprisonment each in a judgement delivered by ATM Fazle Kabir, District and Sessions Judge, Sirajganj in connection with Shahadat murder case of Shahzadpur thana. Life term imprisonment were awarded to Hossain Ali, Abu Sayed, Alam and Abdur Razzak.

According to the prosecution story, on April 10, 1992, the convicted persons killed Shahadat Hossain of village Banagram in Shahzadpur thana following a feud over a fair held at Bawagram high school ground.

Police, offer investigation, submitted chargesheet against 18 persons.

The Judge, after examining the witnesses and evidences awarded aforesaid punishment to the accused persons.

Posts of doctors in health centres remain vacant

NAOGAON, Dec 10: About one hundred posts of doctors have been lying vacant in different thana health complexes and union sub-centres of the district since last one year, says UNB.

Official sources said, 46 out of total 80 posts in 10 thana health complexes and another 50 posts in union sub-centres are lying vacant.

Moreover, patients are deprived of proper treatment facilities as the thana health complexes are beset with manifold problems. Many patients are to go back disappointed every day due to shortage of accommodation, bed and scarcity essential drugs.

The Health Minister had announced two years back that the 50-bed sadar hospital would be turned into 100-bed, but the decision is yet to be implemented.



This building was first used by the Freedom Fighters in Chuadanga. Later the building was used as the control room to monitor activities of the Freedom Fighters and plan any attack on the enemy. On April 15 the Pakistani army attacked Chuadanga. The Freedom Fighters had to leave this building since then. — Star photo



During the Liberation War, Chuadanga, the southwest war front, was made the provisional (temporary) capital of Bangladesh. A four member advisory committee was formed. One of the committee members was Dr Ashabul Haque, the then MP from Awami League, the Chief Advisor. Dr A Hoque used to talk to foreign and local journalists inside this building during the war. On April 15 the enemy finally captured Chuadanga. — Star photo

Frequent power failure in Sherpur

SHERPUR, Dec 10:

Frequent power failure and voltage fluctuations have become a regular feature here causing immense suffering to the town dwellers, says UNB.

Power disruption occurs at least four to five times a day and continues for half an hour to one hour. Production in mills and factories is being hampered greatly, local people said.

Many electronic gadgets have already been damaged due to voltage fluctuations. Town dwellers alleged that due to many unauthorised connections electricity supply is being hampered in the town.

Some dishonest people with the connivance of some unscrupulous officials are giving illegal connections to the interested people. They realise fees on monthly basis from them.

Mill and factory owners said they are incurring huge loss due to frequent power failure and are forced to retrench the workers.

They urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to ensure uninterrupted power supply in the town.

Consumption of adulterated sugar, salt, five die

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 10: People are being attacked by various intestinal diseases due to consumption of adulterated sugar and salt, now being sold in local markets, civil surgeon said, report UNB.

The diseases claimed five people and affected some 1,000 others in the past two months. Health office sources said.

At least 50,000 bags of smuggled Indian sugar and salt were brought by train through bordering Iswardi and Rajshahi, a couple of months ago, local people said.

The smugglers through their agents are selling these adulterated items to the villagers at low price. Poor people are the main customers of these items.

A great job, we all should follow them

NATORE, Dec 10: Natore

Palli Biddut Samity-2 (PBS-2) installed power lines in 729 villages in five thanas of Natore and Rajshahi districts since its inception in 1981, says UNB.

The samity has also set up two sub-stations providing 33,000 subscribers with power supply, according to a report revealed here recently.

Of the total connections, 20,045 are residential, 3,698 commercials, 614 for industrial units, 111 for deep tube-wells, 22 for pump owners, 544 for charitable institutions, 174 for street lights and the rest for normal subscribers.

Power for industrial and irrigation purposes have recently been increased creating new job opportunities in the Samity.

The samity has been able to reduce system loss to 14.13 per cent and saved an amount of Tk 7.63 lakh during the last

three years. It has so far earned Tk 85.63 lakh.

The Biddut Samity also introduced 'Hot-Line' technology to render better service to its subscribers and saved Tk three lakh. But the technology could not be used extensively due to technical limitation.

The rate of bill collection, including its outstanding, stands at 100.84 per cent. It has outstanding of Tk 1.5 crore, the officials said. Most of the overdues have been collected by snapping power lines of the subscribers forcing them to pay back or on agreement to pay it on the basis of instalment.

The report has been presented at the annual general meeting of the Samity with its President M Amzel Haq in the chair. Deputy Commissioner Aziruddin Ahmed was present.

A total of 100 consumers have been awarded for paying bills regularly.

Felling of date trees threaten output of "gur"

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Dec 10: The production of molasses from the date juice has been decreasing in Jhenidah district due to felling of date trees at an alarming rate since last 5 years.

There are large number of date trees in six thanas of Jhenidah district. Date trees were abundant in Saikupa, Harinakundu, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur, Mohepur and Jhenidah sadar thanas where juice was available in plenty.

According to an unofficial survey, there were more than three lakh date trees in the district in 1985. Molasses, which is locally known as 'gur' is produced on an average of 5 thousands maunds or six kgs of gur from a tree. Earning from the sale of gur reached Taka 4 crore 50 lakh at the rate of Taka 15 per kilogram, the source said.

Jhenidah sadar, Mohepur,

Kotchandpur and Kaliganj thanas were famous and noted for the marketing of gur. People from different places of the country gathered in these places to purchase the gur. The demand for molasses or gur was wide and it was a profitable item as the gur was exported to the far flung areas of the country from these places.

Molasses of Mohepur and Kaliganj had a great demand for speciality in crystal and colour as well as scent.

There are still some families in village Khalishpur in Mohepur thana of the district known for their skill in the profession. More precisely, date cake which is locally known as 'pataly' is a legendary brand. It is like a hard-nut outside but meets with supreme palatable fragrance in mouth.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Professor M Eusuf Ali, Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University is inaugurating the book sales centre of Bangla Academy at the varsity campus recently. — Star photo