

## 18 four-party alliance leaders, activists sued under PSA, sent to jail

AKHTERUZZAMAN BABLU,  
Sirajganj

A total of 18 central and Sirajganj district level leaders and activists of the four-party alliance were sent to jail custody on Sunday by the Additional District and Sessions Judge Khondoker Kamaluzaman Miah.

Earlier, they were charge-sheeted by Belkuchi police under Public Safety Act (PSA). On Saturday they surrendered to the court.

They included Jatiya Party Joint Organising Secretary, Monjur-e-Matin Raju, Jamat-e-Islami district Ameer, Moulana Ali Alom. District BNP member and Belkuchi upazila BNP President and General Secretary Hajee Jamaluddin Bhuiyan, Golam Mostafa, former Bordul UP Chairman and leader of Belkuchi upazila BNP Abdus Satter Saiful Islam and Abdul Monnaf, Jubo Dal leader Amirul Islam, Reza, Sapla, JCD leader Saidul Islam, Keramat Ali and Shibir Leader Ariful Islam Sohail and four other activists.

Court sources said on November 27 last year, the activists of four-party alliance brought out a procession at Mukondagati Bazaar in Sirajganj. The processionists were urging all to maintain sanctity of the holy month of Ramadan which began on November 28. At one stage the processionists attacked a hotel and a medicine shop of an

Awami League leader and set on fire all the belongings and materials of the hotel. Ultimately the medicine shop was burnt to ashes. An investigation of the incident was made.

Following the attack owner of the medicine shop Awami League leader Fazlul Hoque filed a case on November 28 accusing 49 opposition alliance leaders and activists under PSA with Belkuchi police.

After investigation the inquiry officer submitted the charge-sheet against the 4-party alliance leaders. Following submission of the charge-sheet, the opposition leaders termed the matter as misuse of PSA. Belkuchi upazila BNP President Haji Jamaluddin said that the ruling party violated the existing rule of the country. He also accused that the ruling party terrorists on November 27 attacked the opposition 4-party procession with firearms and lethal weapons.

According to him, the ruling party terrorists set on fire the aforementioned shop including 20 more houses, three cinema halls, several others shops and looted all the goods. They also attacked and injured 50 activists of the opposition 4-party alliance.

But he alleged that police did not take action against them and no case was received at the aforementioned police station. Meanwhile, the 4-party leaders condemned the charge-sheet and demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident.

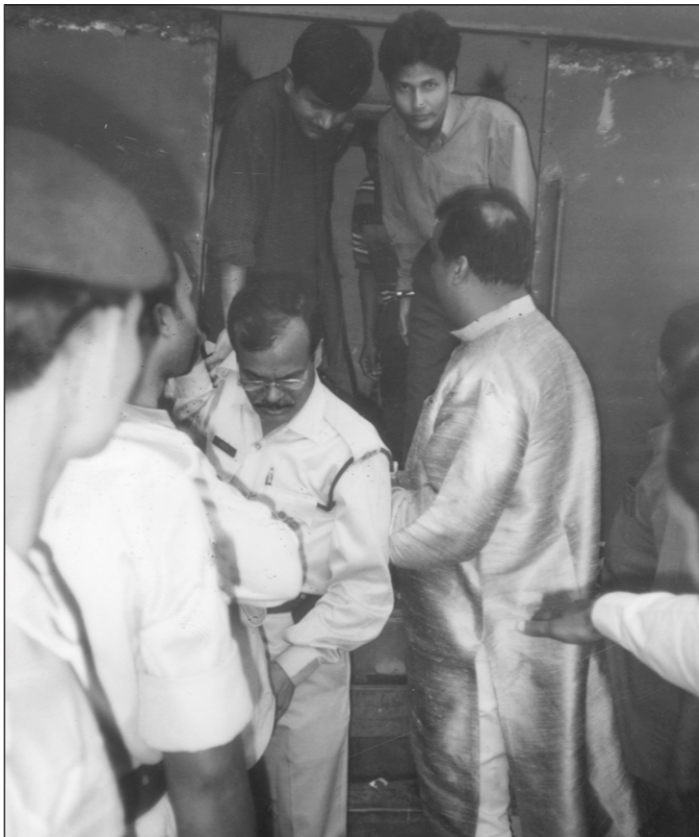


PHOTO: STAR

Four-party alliance leaders are being escorted out of Sirajganj Additional District and Sessions Judge Court by police following rejection of their bail prayers recently. All of them were sued under Public Safety Act (PSA).

## Hides being smuggled into India thru' Satkhira borders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Huge quantities of raw hides of animals, sacrificed on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, are being smuggled into neighbouring India through various bordering points in Satkhira district.

According to an unofficial estimate, some 35 per cent of the hides of cows and goats do not reach the tanneries of the country.

Local people said bootlegger, backed by influential people, are smuggling the cow and goat hides into India where the items are in great demand.

Local people also said few days ahead of Eid-ul-Azha many Indian traders and middlemen have invested a huge amount of money in advance through their Bangladeshi 'agents' in the bordering areas to purchase hides and skins.

Prices of cow hides ranged between Taka 750 and Taka 1,300 depending on sizes while a goat hide sold between Taka 150 and Taka 180 this year.

A source close to hides and skins business said that some Indian traders opened up depots in the bordering villages for purchasing only the hides and skins from

Bangladesh.

Most of the hides and skins are being smuggled through Kalaroa, Debhata, Kaliganj, Shyamnagar and Sadar upazila border points.

**UNB from Kushtia adds:** Storing and processing of raw hides of sacrificial animals in residential areas in Kushtia town caused extreme sufferings to the dwellers as well as pedestrians.

Bad smell from the hides and wastage is causing health hazards to people in the town.

Obnoxious scene of salted raw skins became a general view in open space of residential areas and roadsides.

Sources said the situations worsened since the unscrupulous skin dealers became active collecting raw skins and preserving it in different areas of the town after the Eid-ul-Azha.

To keep the raw hides they also constructed sheds in residential areas polluting the environment.

Local people alleged that the processing goes for days together ignoring public sufferings.

People of this thickly populated town urged authority concerned to take steps against the unscrupulous hide traders.

## NEWS SNAPS

### Gunmen kill one

UNB, Noakhali

A youth was killed and three others were injured when gunmen swooped on a function and fired gunshots at Chandhi Dighirpar village in Chatkhil upazila in Noakhali last week.

Police said the armed assailants all on a sudden attacked the function due to previous enmity, leaving Khokon, 33, dead on the spot. Of the injured, Jinnat, 27, and Shahidullah, 25, were rushed to Sadar Hospital and then moved to Dhaka in critical condition. A case was filed.

### Baby roasted alive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

One baby roasted alive and 17 others were injured in a fire incident on Saturday at Chak Sialkhole village under sadar upazila in Sirajganj.

Nine houses were gutted by the fire originated. Police and fire brigade sources said fire originated yesterday from about 1:30pm at Chak Sialkhole village under sadar upzila Fazar Ali's house kitchen room and soon engulfed the surrounding areas 9 house were gutted in a fire one 5 years babies Taslima a daughter of Fazar Ali who took shelter under the bed (Machal) and she was burt to alive on the spot and 17 others injured 3 critically and admitted to Sirajganj general hospital. Fire also destroyed another neighbouring Abdus Salam house.

### Two killed in road mishap

UNB, Sylhet

Two people, one of them a minor girl, were killed and 30 others injured when a bus tumbled into a roadside ditch on Jakiganj-Sylhet road in Sylhet Wednesday.

The deceased were identified as Reazuddin, 22, and Fateha Begum, 8. The injured were admitted to a local hospital. A case was filed.

### Boy killed in road accident

UNB, Noakhali

A two-year-old boy was killed and 20 people were injured in a road accident in upazila area on Sonapur-Kabirhat road in Noakhali Wednesday.

Witnesses said the accident took place when a bus went down a roadside pond. Three of the injured Imam Hossain, 2, Feroza Begum, 40, and Abdul Mannan, 45 were admitted to a local hospital in critical condition.

### Three commit suicide

UNB, Chuadanga

Three people including a woman allegedly committed suicide in Damurhuda upazila in Shunadanga on Sunday.

Chhabi Khatun, daughter of Molla Aziz of village Gopalpur, hanged herself from a mango tree while Khunta, 30, son of Liakot of Kutubpur village, took his own life by taking poison. In another incident, Angura Khatun, 18, a housewife of Dalairpur village committed suicide by taking poison. Family feuds were the causes behind the unnatural deaths.

### Students go on rampage

UNB, Bogra

A group of students went on a rampage at gov't Azizul Haque College in Bogra town Monday demanding their admission into honours courses.

According to sources, the admission seekers led by some student leaders had been pressing the college authorities for their admission into its honours courses on the basis of party quota. They went berserk on the day blasting crackers and marring admission tests when the authorities turned down their demand.

## Separate incidents claim 16 lives in six districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 16 persons were killed in separate incidents in Kishoreganj, Patuakhali, Barisal, Pirojpur, Jhalakati and Pabna districts recently.

UNB from Kishoreganj reports: Three people were killed and at least 20 others injured in separate incidents in Kishoreganj district on Wednesday and Thursday.

Of time, Montaj Khan, 60, was killed and at least 10 people were injured over a trouble during bullfight at Abdullapur village in Austragram upazila Thursday.

Rivals hit Montaj by a 'ballom' a sharp weapon killing him on the spot, according to a spot account.

Seven of the injured were admitted to local Upazila Health Complex. On the same day, Haris Mia of village Pattha in Sadar upazila stabbed his brother-in-law Shahabuddin to death over a family feud. Haris was arrested.

On the previous day (Wednesday), a violent gunfight between two rival groups near Majichar bazaar of Bajitpur upazila left Meer Hossain, 38, dead and at least 10 people injured.

The deceased, Hossain was an absconding convict in an arms case. Police arrested injured UP member Rabi and Mahub from Zahurul Islam Medical College hospital where they were undergoing treatment.

The body was sent to Kishoreganj Hospital morgue for autopsy. Separate cases were filed.

Meanwhile, Rashid 50, of village Satal succumbed to his injuries at the local hospital on the Eid day after a sacrificial bull hit on his belly by its sharp horns.

Rashid came under attack when he was bringing the bull from a local market on Monday (March 5).

BSS from Barisal reports: At least 11 persons were killed and 37 injured, 11 of them in critical condition, in the four southern districts under Barisal division in different incidents from March 5 to 8, police said.

Kamal Khan, Amena Begum and Abul Kashem were killed and Rehana Begum was critically injured by the hit of a sharp weapon of Forekan at Suth Aliapur village under Sadar Upazila of Patuakhali district on March 5. Rehana Begum was admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) in a critical condition. Dowry was the cause of this incident, according to police.

Sohag, Manam and Mahmud Hossain drowned in different ponds on Wednesday at Barisal sadar, Bakergonj of the district and at Bhandaria of Pirojpur district.

Shipan killed Liton Akon and Abul Hasan by sharp weapons at Mehendigonj of Barisal district on the same day. Love affairs were the cause of the incident, police said.

Tipu succumbed to his injuries on March 7. He was critically injured in a road accident on the day at Bamrail under Wazipur Upazila.

Lucky Begum died at Jhalakathi Hospital on March 8. After taking poison she was admitted to the hospital in a critical condition.

Shahed Ali died when he became excited on March 8. He was suffering from high blood pressure.

Separate cases were filed with the respective Police Stations. Police arrested Forekan and Shipan in connection with killing cases.

Meanwhile, 25 persons were injured in a clash due to catching fish in Bauphal Upazila of Patuakhali district and six people were injured in another clash in Bakergonj Upazila of the district.

Besides, three persons were

injured in a motor cycle accident at Baliatala-Bablatala Road of Kalapara Upazila of Patuakhali district on March 8.

One SSC examinee was raped by three miscreants, Juman Akon, Afsar and Rahim, at Char Dumurtala village under Muladi Upazila on the same day, police said. None was arrested.

UNB from Pabna adds: Two young men were murdered by unidentified assailants in separate incidents in Pabna district recently.

Police and family sources said former outlawed activist Atiqul Islam, 33, of Dilalpur Pathartala in Santhia upazila was missing for some days.

Police recovered his burnt body packed in a sack from under Sholakia Bridge near Nagbari ghat terminal after two days. The hands and legs of the body were tied.

Police said Atiq was a BNP activist since 1996 and later he joined the underground party and finally surrendered along with 38 outlawed activists in 1999.

Police also said he was wanted in connection with several cases including two relating to murder.

In another incident the assailants gunned down Tipu of Char Chanpania recently.

Family sources said the assailants a few months back killed his elder brother Eskon and after the murder frightened Tipu fearing his life left the village and was living in the capital city.

But recently he returned to his village and took shelter at his aunt's house in the same village. On getting information the hoodlums attacked the house and shot him dead at about 6 am.

### Six IU BCL activists sued under PSA

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Six activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Islamic University (IU) unit including president and general secretary were sued under Public Safety Act (PSA) with Saikupa police on Monday.

The accused persons are BCL, IU unit President BM Rassel, General Secretary (GS) Mannan Joarder, members Abdul Halim, Anisur Rahman, Anwar Hossain and Sagar, according to police sources.

Police said the accused persons snatched away Taka 1.39 lakh and a motor bike from Shahjahan Mollah, a contractor of a construction work of the university when he refused to pay toll to them. The incident took place at Saikhpara bazaar near IU under Saikupa upazila.

### 3 shops gutted

UNB, Manikganj

A devastating fire gutted three shops at Tepra Bazar in Shibabaya upazila in Manikganj Tuesday.

Local fire brigade office quoting the witnesses said the fire originating from a quilt shop soon engulfed two other shops at non destroying valuables worth lakhs of taka.

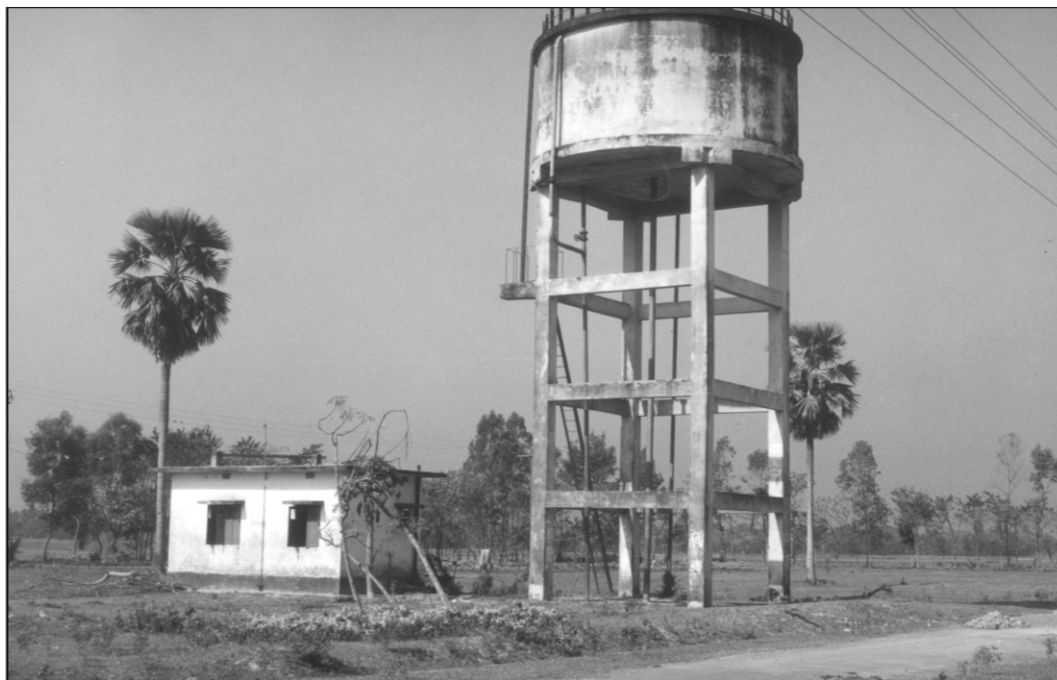


PHOTO: STAR

Jhenidah BSCIC estate has been turned into a grazing ground. Only two entrepreneurs are active here in two plots out of allocated 34 plots. BSCIC has prepared 98 plots on 15.70 acres of land at Dhanbaria in Sadar upazila of Jhenidah district. Since 1995 the BSCIC authorities have been allocating the plots. Many prospective entrepreneurs have alleged that due to activity of illegal toll collectors they do not feel secure to establish their industrial units in the estate. But who cares?