

# Outlawed parties in S-W districts regrouping

Jailed activists likely to be released soon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Outlaws in 10 districts of south-western region of the country are regrouping themselves before the next Jatiya Sangsad elections.

Activists of underground parties who surrendered to police are likely to be released soon under general amnesty.

The government declared general amnesty for the outlaws who surrendered from June 1, to July 31 1999, in a bid to improve law and order situation in this region.

Responding to the call of the government nearly 300 armed cadres of underground parties from Jessore, Jhenidah, Khulna, Kushtia and Chuadanga surrendered.

It is most interesting to note that activists of the outlawed parties deposited old and obsolete fire arms hiding their most sophisticated guns.

A group of Biplobi Communist Party, Purba Banglar Communist Party and JASAD Gana Bahani challenged this move of the government.

Subsequently police arrested most of them. As per condition of surrender, 700 of the arrested criminals had been inducted in Ansar Battalion. But many

of them fled away after completion of the training. In the meantime, a good number of arrested outlaws have come out from the *hajat* on bail and they have taken up their old profession.

Some political parties, have become very active to release these outlaws on bail from the custody in an attempt to employ them during the election period.

It is alleged that a number of MP candidates are trying hard to win their support by getting them released.

Their only purpose is to use them as their armed cadres.

Another source said that those who are being contacted to be released on bail include Saillen, Sabuj, Ratan, Gazi, Kamal and 25 others of Purbo Banglar Communist Party, and Simul, Moin Khan, Bidhan, Syed, Sakil and 40 others of Biplobi Communist Party.

Peace-loving people of this region have become panic-stricken at the reported conspiracy of such so-called political leaders who are out to release the outlaws again.

Police said that law and order situation in this region would deteriorate after their release endangering people's life and property.



Child artistes enthral the audience at a cultural programme arranged recently in Faridpur to celebrate the 102nd birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam by Faridpur Shilpakala Academy at its auditorium.

## NEWS SNAPS

### Tk 5cr house bldg project undertaken

**UNB, Rangamati**  
Rangamati Works Department has undertaken a project to construct multistoried building for the housing of government officials and employees of the district at a cost of Tk 5 crore.

As part of converting the 61 tin-shed quarters into multistoried buildings the department has got budgetary allocation of Tk 1.0 crore initially to construct 10 buildings this year. Work order to construct four buildings has already been issued but the problems have cropped up when the ownership of land arose. The Bazar committee raised the problems and the authorities were forced to refund the money this year as the work could not be started due to the dispute.

### 28 including six policemen sued

**UNB, Sherpur**  
A robbery case was filed with the cognizance court in Sherpur against 28 people, including two Sub-inspectors, four constables and two ansars of Kotwali thana, on Thursday.

Majeeda Begum Suva, wife of Afazuddin of Pakuria village in sadar upazila filed the case. Taking the case, the court directed first class magistrate Delwar Hossain to conduct a judicial inquiry into the matter. According to the case, SI Abdul Motaleb, SI Habibur Rahman, constables Haroon, Mamataz, Mahmudul and Ranjit and two ansars, in connivance will some people of the same village, entered into the house of the plaintiff on the night of May 18. They allegedly looted 175 maunds of paddy and other valuables worth over Tk 1.0 lakh, assaulted the inmates, including the women.

### Cash, valuables worth Tk 3 lakh looted

**UNB, Bogra**  
Robbers looted cash and valuables worth Tk 3 lakh from the residence of a lawyer at Phoolta near Bogra town early Tuesday.

Police said the gang numbering 7/8 wearing half pants entered into the residence of advocate Panna by cutting window grills and took away 30 tolas of gold, clothes and cash after tying the inmates of the house. A case was filed with the police.

### People alarmed at report of killer's bail

**UNB, Bagerhat**  
People were alarmed at the report of bail granted by the High Court to Kala Kuddus, the main accused of the murder of Awami League leader Kalidas Boral.

The bail order reached the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Bagerhat on May 22. The district officials said they were trying to ascertain that the High Court granted him bail. Kala Kuddus was arrested from Dhaka in November in connection with killing of advocate Boral. Kuddus was also accused of bank dacoity in Chitalmari.

### Robbers loot Tk 2 lakh, ornaments

**UNB, Narayanganj**  
Robbers looted Tk 2 lakh in cash and gold ornaments from the passengers of two auto-rickshaws in Rugganj and Arai-hazar upazilas of Narayanganj district on Friday and Saturday.

Witnesses said a gang of muggers numbering five looted Tk 1.50 lakh in cash and ornaments from three businessmen. Kutubuddin, Ratan Biswas and Khokon Miah at Kohorgaon in Arai-hazar on Friday night. Another gang of armed robbers stolen a Narsingdi bound auto-rickshaw from Dhaka and looted Tk 75,000 in cash and gold ornaments from businessman Mustafa Bakht and his wife at Aduria in Rugganj upazila on Saturday.

### Seminar on adverse impact of polythene

**UNB, Gazipur**  
A daylong seminar on adverse impact of polythene was held at the local PTI auditorium in Gazipur on Saturday.

Bangladesh Association for Social Advancement (BASA), a local NGO, organised the seminar in a bid to create awareness among the people about environmental hazards on the indiscriminate use of polythene bags. Presided over by Mostafa Kamal, the seminar was addressed, among others, the BASA Project Officer Syed Zahid Hossain, Dr Ali Akbar, Abdus Salam, Nasir Ahmed, Zakir Hossain and Hamayun Kabir. The seminar was followed by a discussion, which was held in south Chhayabithi area in the town in the afternoon.

### Village in Munshiganj gets electricity

**UNB, Munshiganj**  
Kolkata Bhogdia village in Louhajang upazila of Munshiganj district has been brought under rural electrification network.

Local MP Shegufa Yasmin inaugurated the programme, involving Tk 40 lakh, switching on the main switch at a local primary school Saturday. Every house of the village has been given power connection. Ichhapur and Dugot villages in Sirajdikhan upazila were also brought under the same programme on Thursday.

### Fugitive arrested

**UNB, Manikganj**  
Saturia police in Manikganj district arrested a fugitive convict from the area recently. Police said Ismail Hossain, 35, of Shimulia Bagbari village, was awarded life imprisonment for killing his wife in 1997. He was been absconding since the killing. Hossain was sent to jail.



Rashida Muhiuddin, a central leader of Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote (an alliance of cultural activists) speaks at a meeting at Daogaon union under Muktagacha upazila in Mymensingh district which was arranged recently by the local unit of Russel Smriti Sangsad (a committee to preserve the memory of Russel) at Daogaon.

### 10 hurt in Manikganj road mishap

**UNB, Manikganj**  
At least 10 people were injured in a traffic mishap on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Manikganj district on Thursday.

Police said the accident took place in the noon when an Aricha-bound truck hit a bridge at Jagir while trying to overtake a speeding coach. Five of the injured were rushed to Manikganj Sadar Hospital. Rests were released after giving first aid.

### Kutchra latrines threaten public health

**UNB, Khagrachhari**  
Large-scale use of kutchra latrines in Khagrachhari town has been causing serious health hazard to the dwellers.

The house owners in the densely populated areas of the town mostly constructed the unhygienic kutchra latrines beside their dwellings violating the surrounding atmosphere. Besides, there are innumerable such latrines by the side of the public thoroughfares in different areas of the town causing problem to the pedestrians. These open latrines create obnoxious situation, especially during the rainy season.

### Goods, cash looted from four trucks

**UNB, Bogra**  
Armed dacoits putting up barricade on Bogra-Natore Highway on Bogra district looted goods and cash of at least four trucks and a van early hours Monday.

Police said dacoits barricaded the road at Purbokuchai in Nandigram upazila at 2:30 am on Monday and looted the trucks and van of a pharmaceutical company at gunpoint. Patrol police rushed to spot and opened fire at the bandits who managed to flee unhurt.

# Rangpur road accidents kill four, injure five

UNB, Rangpur

Four people, including two minors, were killed and five others injured in separate road accidents in Rangpur district Wednesday.

Police said an unidentified girl, aged about 11, and her 18-month-old nephew, Rafique, were crushed under the wheels of a speeding minibus in front of Taraganj upazila parishad on Rangpur-Dinajpur Road while they were crossing the road in the afternoon.

In another incident, an unidentified woman was killed and four people were injured at Mithapukur upazila headquarters when a

speeding truck dashed another truck and a rickshaw.

The injured one of truck drivers and his helper, the rickshawpuller and a passenger were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Besides, Amikha Charan, 60, was killed at Bamondighi in Taraganj upazila when a minibus knocked his cycle down in the morning.

Yet in another incident, Mosheer Rahman, 20, a student of Rangpur Carmichael College was injured when a truck hit his motorcycle on Rangpur-Badargonj road at Nagirahat in sadar upazila.

He was rushed to Rangpur

Medical College Hospital. UNB from Bogra reports: Three people were killed and five others injured in an accident at Garidah on Bogra-Dhaka highway on Wednesday.

Police said the accident took place at about 4 am when a Dhaka-bound truck rammed into a tempo leaving a man dead on the spot and injuring seven other people.

Tempo driver Shahiruddin, 30, died on the spot while two other tempo passengers Rubel, 22, and Yusuf, 25, succumbed to their injuries at Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital.

The injured were admitted to the same hospital a case was filed with the police in this regard.

# Bumper potato brings bad luck to Kurigram farmers

BSS, Kurigram

Potato growers of Kurigram district are in distress due to abnormal low rice of their bumper produce this year.

Thousands of maunds of potato are rotting at their houses increasing their woes and sufferings as there are no buyers this year. Inadequate preservation facilities also do not permit them to store their produce, farmers said.

According to sources in the local Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), a target of producing 30,000 metric tons of potato

from 3,000 hectares of land was fixed in nine upazilas during the last (2000-2001) season. But farmers brought 4,490 hectares under potato cultivation and got a production of 44,900 metric tons.

There are only two cold storages in the district which can not store all the produce this year.

So, the farmers have no other alternative than their houses to preserve their produce.

Affluent potato grower Abdus Salam of village Shibram (Kanthalbari) under sadar upazila said that he produced 1,000 maunds of potato this year. About 200 maunds have already rotted and about three to four maunds are

rotting daily at his house. He said the present market price of potato is Tk 60 per maunds, which is less than the production cost. "Till now, there is no buyer," he said.

Similar problems were mentioned by another affluent potato grower, Dr Mohamad Ali of village Paikpara under Rajarhat upazila.

A large number of potato growers said that there must be good management at government level to provide fair price of potato to the farmers, otherwise, they might not cultivate the crop in future, they said. They suggested making arrangements for exporting potato abroad.

# Alleged thief beaten to death

UNB, Bogra

An alleged thief was beaten to death at Thonthonia in Bogra town Wednesday.

Police said local people caught Rana, 27, son of late Hazrat Ali of Malgram village in Sadar upazila, when he went to steal electric wire. They handed him over to police after a good beating. Police took him to a local hospital in a critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries. As case was filed.

# Rivals' clash leaves 16 injured

UNB, Manikganj

A clash between two rival groups of people at village Charnayabari in Singair upazila of Manikganj district left 16 people injured Wednesday.

Police said the clash was a backlash to a dispute between two rival groups. Six of the injured Masum, 25, Hashim Member, 55, Mamun, 20, Lovely, 19, Chunnun Miah, 32, and Sbdus Salam, 45, were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

# Slow pace of distribution of khas land in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

Distribution of khas land district is progressing at a slower-than-expected pace despite a strict government order to speed up the process.

According to officials, they have been able to distribute only 50 per cent of khas land in the district since the takeover of the present government.

As part of its election manifesto, the government had issued an order in 1997 for quick distribution of khas land among genuine landless people.

Accordingly, khas land distribution committees were formed at district and upazila levels with government officials, public and NGO representatives across the country, and the committees invited applications from the landless people.

Officials said some 20,187 applications were submitted since April last for 2335.69 acres of khas land of

the district.

After scrutiny, upazila committees found 14,873 of the applications valid and sent 5,544 cases to the Deputy Commissioner office.

The district committee later approved only 3,791 applications and distributed 539.56 acres of khas land among 2,134 landless people with documents since April this year. Each applicant got 25 decimals of land.

But no applicant from Bera upazila received khas land officially.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Dilip Kumar Roy, who is in-charge of the land distribution, told that the remaining cases would be settled soon.

"We have been able to distribute 50 per cent of khas land among the applicants applied since April last. So, the committee again invited applications from the landless for the third time for which June 30 is the last date," he said.