

The terrorist census

ABUL KALAM AZAD

DESPITE the efforts of BNP government, criminal activities like killing, extortion, mugging and invading properties are going on as before, in some cases escalating in the capital and elsewhere in the country even after the promised "100 days". And there is little hope of any vital improvement of law and order in near future.

People of the country hailed the ruling party when they announced a kind of war against terrorism, but the prevailing circumstance do not show any sign of progress. That

of notorious criminals are involved in the criminal offence. Most operate within the shade of gangs. If proper actions were taken, many of these criminals could be in jail for decades, at least regarding the cases that hang against them. But really few moves were taken.

Most of these criminals mainly belong to the two major gangs. One is called the "Five Star" and the other "Seven Star". The criminals may also have several sub-groups through which they carry out their activities but these have emerged as umbrella outfits.

Following are personal profiles of some of these notorious criminals

The terrorists who are used to leading a luxurious lifestyle from the money they got from drug, toll, commercial sex and other businesses have good links with the leaders of different political parties. The political leaders reportedly provide them shelters at times of emergency.

address is 131/L Adarsha Palli, Ibrahimpur under Kafrul police station. Both his parents are schoolteachers. Jahangir is one of the top eight national level terrorists who carry awards of taka one lakh each on their heads yet has never been arrested in his life. His father and mother teach at two separate schools at Dhunat, Bogra.

readily involved directly in two killing incidents - six murders in Chittagong and murder of Murad at the Dhaka University campus. He was titled as Freedom Sohel for his political allegiance to the Freedom Party, which was floated by the army officers charged for the murder of Bangabandhu.

Kamal Pasha alias Pasha, 30, son

of Trimoti Subrata Bain alias Shubhra. He has a gang of more than 100 followers, equipped with various sophisticated weapons that includes AK-47 rifles. He comes from Gournadi in Barisal district and is at present based in Mirbagh and Naytola, Baro Moghbazar areas under Ramna Thana. His parents had earlier converted into Christianity.

Bain was arrested but released on a High Court bail in 1999. He crossed the border along with some other top terrorists and is now staying in Kolkata after the government's order to arrest him.

Mollah Masud, 30, son of Amjad Hossain of Mohadevpur village under Jhalakathi sadar, presently Mirbagh Ramna Thana. Indicted in nine cases, he controls large parts of Moghbazar, Malibagh and Tejgaon. He moves around his operational areas in disguise and enjoys grudging respect for his cunning from all.

Liakat Hossain, son of late Momim Uddin Hawlader of Crokerchar village under Shibchar Thana of Madaripur district. A leader of AL's youth organisation Jubo League, Liakat has a residence at 14/C, Mona Tower of Eskaton. The only graduate among the listed terrorists, he came to the limelight in February last year when he opened fire on a BNP procession near Malibagh crossing. The then Awami League lawmaker Dr HBM Iqbal was leading an AL procession from which Liakat and his men opened fire, killing four people on the spot. Liakat is one of the top-most leaders of Five Star and was arrested in mid June last year, but was released within hours following a telephone message to police by some 'godfather'.

His brother Kamrul Hossain alias Hannan is also a listed terrorist and involved in multiple criminal activities in the city.

Mohammad Hannan alias Pichchi Hannan was a canteen boy of Zahurul Haq Hall of Dhaka University and had his basic training in firearms there. Hailing from Faridganj of Chandpur district, Hannan controls the areas of Karwan Bazar Katcha market, BFDC, Tejgunipara and made huge amount of money mainly by collecting tolls from the fish market as well as his other investment there.

Son of late Wajeeullah of Sontoshpur village of Chandpur district, Hannan presently has a residence at C-40, Arsin Gate under Shyampur thana and Motimiar Tinsed Basti at Free School Street under Danmondi thana. He has severe rivalry with Sweden Aslam, another notorious terrorist based in Razabazar areas. Aslam is now in the Dhaka Central Jail.

Prokash Kumar Biswas, son of Bimal Chandra Biswas of 417/3 South Paikpara, Mirpur. The then Awami League government announced an award of Tk 25,000 on May 1, 1997 for the arrest of Prokash who is now involved in cross-border smuggling through the Bangaon exit at Benapole.

Khandakar Tanver Islam alias Joy, son of Khandar Nazul Islam of Baniara village under Mirzapur thana of Tangail district, at present 43/8/16 Indira Road under Tejgaon thana.

Titon, son of Fakruddin Ahmed, 219/5 Sultanganj Road, Rayerbazar under Hazaribagh thana. Haris

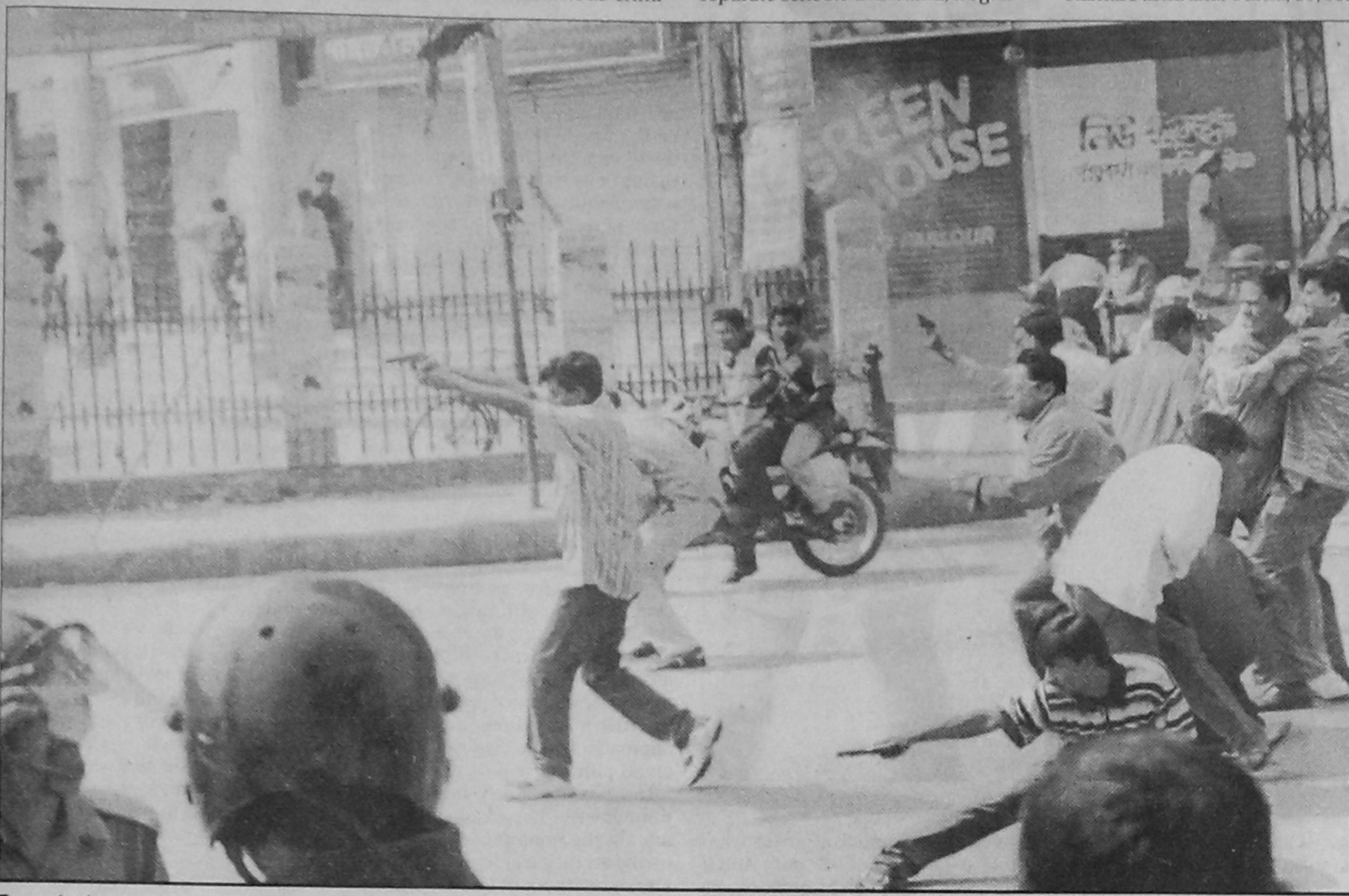
Mohammadpur thana. Mohammad Alauddin, son of Tara Miah of 29 Uttarbari under Tejgaon thana. Shamim Ahmed alias Aga Shamim, son of Shamsuddin of 41 Abdul Hadi Lane under Kotwali thana and Zafar Ahmed alias Manik, son of Abdul Halim of 271, North Shahjahanpur areas.

Of the criminals, government rated Kala Jahangir, Freedom Sohel, Subrata Bain, Pichchi

such activities in their respective villages or areas.

Which is more interesting is that the terrorists are not well known in their villages or localities. Those who know them consider them as "good boys" as they never committed crime in their own ancestral areas.

Control over some city markets for extortion, dollar business in the kerb market and smuggling



Terror in the street

means a large number of 'identified' criminals responsible are allowed to go scot-free. A positive change can take place in this regard only after the criminals are arrested and neutralized.

As per information available, there are several organised gangs active in the capital city. Hundreds

nals who are freely roaming around despite the government's 'strict order' to arrest them. These terrorists also include the recent list of most wanted criminals prepared by the government.

Kala Jahangir, 26, son of Golam Rahman of Bananigaon village under Bogra sadar. His present

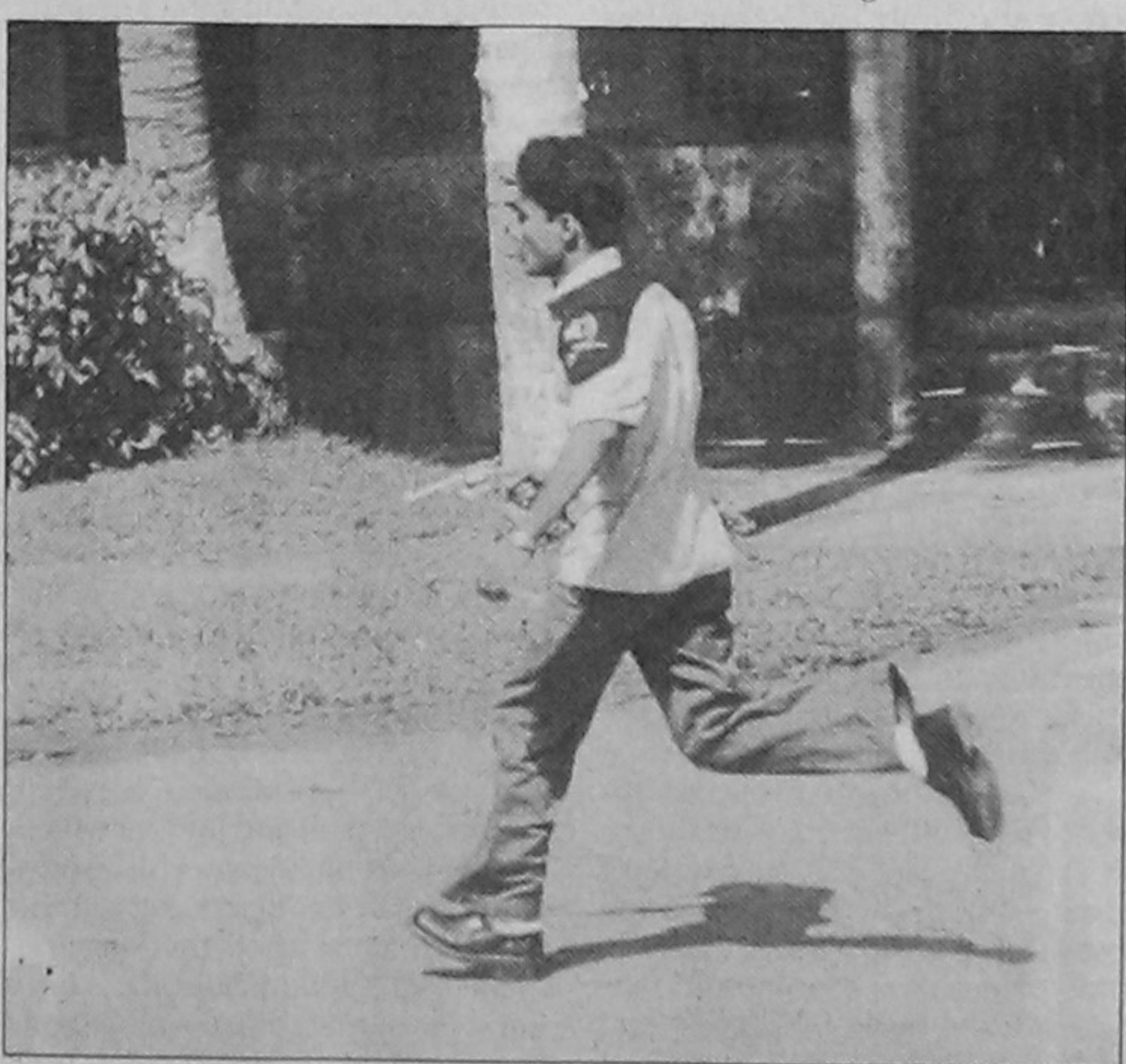
Jahangir has a big gang in the city equipped with modern weapons, including AK-47s.

Freedom Sohel, son of Habibul Haq of Rajapur village under Degonbhuiyan of Feni district. He is based in Khilgaon area. His present address is 106/3 Malibagh Bazar Road under Khilgaon thana. He was

of Liakat Ali Miah of Jabrajan village under Kalihati thana of Tangail district, presently C/O Intiaz Khan Babul, D-3 Housing Quarter, Kazi Nazrul Islam Road, Mohammadpur thana. With a reputation as a cold-blooded killer, Pasha is the principal accused in the sensational 'two-brother murder case' that happened in Mohammadpur. He called out two brothers Jewel and Rivel - from their house and killed them within 15 minutes on May 5 last year. He went into hiding after the killing but came out a couple of months ago. He now freely roams in Mohammadpur area and is alleged to be sheltered by former Awami League lawmaker Mockbul Hossain and local ward commissioner Sentu, both power players of the area.

Police said Pasha is also implicated in at least seven cases, four murders and three under the Arms Act pending in different thanas of the city. He is FIR-listed accused in the Shamim and Masud murder case, who were both killed at PWD office at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, and also in the Ashique murder case. Ashique, a contractor, was killed at the Shahbagh-area. Pasha was also accused in the Palash murder case who was killed in Mohammadpur.

Subrata Bain, 35, son of Bimol Bain, recognised as a professional killer of Paikpara of Mirpur area. Reportedly he has converted to the Islam lately. He has taken the name Fateh Ali and is sporting a beard to disguise himself to evade arrest. The real name of Subrata Bain is



Terror anywhere



Terror on the campus

Mansur of 364/B Siddeswari Lane under Ramna Thana. Imam Hossain, 35, son of Abdul Mannan of GP-Cha-39, Mohakhali Wireless Gate, Gulshan Thana. Jabbar Munna, son of Abdus Sobhan of Atpara of Netrokona district, at present 18 Razia Sultana Road of Mohammadpur Thana.

Abbas Ali (Killer Abbas), son of Shahabuddin of 188 Ibrahimpur under Kafrul Thana.

Arman, son of SM Ainul of 603 Boro Moghbazar under Ramna Thana. Moshir Rahman Rachi, son of Moklesur Rahman of DMC-261, Malncha (third floor), Ibrahimpur under Kafrul Thana. Imamul Hossain alias Helal alias Pichchi Helal, son of Abdul Jabbar of Dasani village under Motlab Thana of Chandpur district, at present 'PC' Culture Housing of

Hannan, Molla Masud, Liakat Hossain and his brother Hannan, Prokash and Tokai Sagar as most-wanted ones and announced awards of TK one lakh for the person helping arrest them.

Criminal records of these terrorists revealed that most of them turned to hardened criminals gradually as they advanced in their skills in using in lethal weapons, arms and explosives at some secured places, including the dormitories of Dhaka University and some other leading educational institutions in the city.

Family records show that most are not well educated and migrated to the capital during their adolescence to make a living. They are not traditional criminals as is sometimes the case as none of their parents have had any links with

through the Zia International Airport are the reasons behind the rivalry between the city two leading crime rings, the Five Star and Seven Star. The battle has been going for long.

Both the groups have strong links with top political leaders at the decision-making level and enjoy their blessings. Although wanted in connection with multiple crimes, all the members, however, enjoy unofficial immunity.

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Azad is a reporter of The Daily Star

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