

SNAPS

2 'outlaws' held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna  
Khulna thana police have arrested two alleged outlaws belonging to Janajuddho faction of PBCP from South Central Road and recovered 10 leaflets from them.

They are Arif and Ejajul. They were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital on Friday in critical condition after being assaulted by police and a mob.

Police said they were caught from an abandoned house where they and some others were hiding.

PBCP cadres kill BNP man in Natore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi  
The outlaws of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) murdered a BNP worker in Kaliganj area of Shingra upazila in Natore on Friday.

A group of 12 armed outlaws slaughtered to death a rice trader named Abdul Latif Mollah, 42, at his 'Arai' (storehouse) at Kaliganj bazaar, 200 yards off a police investigation centre.

The outlaws also cut down Latif's tendons and left the scene firing blank shots and chanting slogans.

Police said the PBCP cadres threatened Latif by post to kill him a few months back.

Toll demand by outlaws: Panic grips Assassuni

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Panic has gripped people of Assassuni upazila as outlaws have been demanding toll and threatening of dire consequence for failure to comply with their demands.

Janajuddha faction of the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) has become active again in the area.

PBCP cadres wrote letters demanding toll to shrimp cultivators Deben Mitra, Bhagi Rath Adhikari, Tarun Mitra, Rejaul Islam, Jahangir Kabir, Anowarul Islam, Haroon-ur Rashid, Mostofa and others of Mitra Tentulia and Tentulia villages in Assassuni upazila.

Police sources said outlaws armed with deadly weapons attacked Bhagi Rath Adhikari's house on February 22 after expiry of deadline to pay toll. They looted cash and valuables worth Tk 50,000 from the house. But police took no action, local people alleged. Many of them already left their homes, family sources said.

'AL killing people in name of hartal'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Awami League (AL) is killing people and destroying national property in name of hartal.

Minister for Social Welfare Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid, also Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islam told this at a public meeting at Aliya Madrassah compound here on Friday.

Gopalganj district Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Advocate Ajmal Hussain presided over the meeting while it was addressed, among others, by M H Khan Manju, President of Gopalganj district BNP, Haris Molla, Faridpur district Amir of the party, party leader Advocate Emdadul Haque of the Supreme Court and Maulana Emdadul Haque, Poura Amir of Gopalganj.

On the day the minister distributed cheques amounting to Taka 2,82,000 among 28 women acid victims and disabled persons. Gopalganj Deputy Commissioner Md Abdur Rouf, Police Super Md Shafiqul Islam and President, Gopalganj district BNP M H Khan Manju were also present.

10-day Muharram programme begins at Garpara

A 10-day Muharram programme has been chalked out to mark the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hasan (AS) and Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), at Garpara ImamBara in Manikganj, says a press release.

The programmes which began from Muharram 1 include milad mahfil, fateha, ziarat, niaz, marcia (narration of events of Karbala and Matam (mourning). Discussions on the lives of Pak Panjatan are being held after Maghrib prayers everyday.

Ashura (Muharram 10) will see culmination of the nine-day activities. A big procession will be brought out at 3 pm from the ImamBara, with tazia, Duldul, banners and flags in remembrance of Karbala. The procession will proceed towards Manikganj town where a discussion will be held to commemorate the memory of Karbala. The procession will return to the ImamBara at 10 pm for the concluding programme.

Khulna, Bagerhat, Jessore police put on red alert

Reprisal by outlaws feared: KMP lists 150 'bombers', godfathers: Fresh operation by joint forces and intelligence agencies soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police in Khulna, Bagerhat and Jessore districts have been put on red alert fearing reprisal following arrest of notorious outlaws including Abdul Gaffar alias Tushar, Aiuzzaman alias Ripon, Ali Akbar and Bulbul of the Janajuddho faction of PBCP (Purba Banglar Communist Party).

The three districts have been declared by intelligence agencies as 'highly risky' in view of some recent sensational murders and attacks on policemen.

A fresh list of outlaws belonging to different underground organisa-

tions have been prepared with a plan to launch a crackdown on them shortly.

According to a top official of Khulna Range police, all police stations and camps in the three districts have been put on 'red alert' after receipt of information regarding threats on political leaders and journalists and attack on police.

Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) has prepared a fresh list of 150 'bombers'. Godfathers who use these 'bombers' for murders have also been identified and listed.

Most of these 'bombers' tipped from slum areas are unemployed youths. They get small amounts of

money for throwing a bomb to kill a man, said DC Akbar Ali of KMP.

Use of bombs for committing murders is a new modus operandi adopted by underground parties, creating panic particularly among political leaders, journalists and businessmen, Akbar Ali said.

Operation Clean Heart, Operation Spider Web and the ongoing operation by Joint forces have failed to yield any positive result in crushing the miscreants, sources in intelligence agencies said.

The ongoing operation by joint forces in 382 units in Khulna division was launched on October 16 last year.

According to police records, 582 people including 46 politicians, 16 policemen, six elected representatives, three journalists and 164 extremists were killed in the South-Western region during last two years.

The other victims are businessmen, doctors and contractors.

The sources said three intelligence agencies have been directed to assist joint forces in right earnest in all operations against extremists and recovery of illegal arms.

Step down, Sajeda asks govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Awami League (AL) Presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury has asked the BNP-led Alliance Government to step down immediately as 'it failed miserably during its two and a half years' rule'.

She was addressing a public meeting organised by the party's district unit at Manikganj Government High School ground on Friday.

She claimed that the immediate past Awami League government had improved the law and order, maintained price stability and enhanced the country's image abroad.

The scenario has changed after takeover of the present government which includes anti-liberation forces, she told the gathering.

Chaired by the district Awami League President Golam Mohiuddin, the public meeting was addressed by, among others, by AL presidium member Tofael Ahmed, Youth and Sports Affair Secretary Shafiul Arefin Tutul, former district unit president and secretary Mosleuddin Khan Habu Mia and Gazi Kamrul Huda Selim.

Tofael Ahmed alleged that the BNP-Jamaat Government is trying to cling to power through repression. They are closing down industrial units one after another, turning people jobless, he told.

Other front-ranking leaders called upon the people to unite under the banner of Awami League and launch a greater agitation to oust the government.

Curtain falls on Rangpur Sugar Mills

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The curtain has finally fallen on Rangpur Sugar Mills.

A notice was hung Friday on its gate, declaring its lay-off from March 31.

Signed by its Managing Director Ashraf Ali, the notice said, "It (lay-off) is a government decision. Accordingly we also declared pay-off category of employees and all necessary papers are being prepared in this respect."

With the closure of mill, over 925 employees will become jobless and over 50,000 sugarcane growers in Mohimaganj will be affected, leaders of workers unions said.

The mill workers and employees, joined by local people and sugarcane growers, have been agitating for withdraw of the lay-off decision,

resulting in clashes with law enforcers. At least 70 people were injured in clashes on Wednesday. The workers also declared a "self-immolation" programme earlier. On Friday, police dispersed workers when they gathered in front of the mill to protest and dig a "mass graves for victims of self-immolation".

The workers hurled brickbats at police, injuring one of them named Shaficul Islam.

On-duty Magistrate AZM Nurul Huq said the situation was under control.

Called by the Federation of Sugar Mills Workers and Employees Union, sugar mill workers across the country are scheduled to stage sit-in demonstrations in front of all sugar mills today to press withdrawal of the lay-off decision.

'Reserve forest reserved for thieves'



PHOTO: STAR

Part of the Sonar Char forest in Galachipa from where thieves have taken away many trees.

Md SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

An organised gang is stealing valuable timber trees from reserve forests in coastal areas of Kalapara and Galachipa in the district.

They are running their illegal activities in connivance with a section of forest officials and law enforcers, local people alleged.

Scores of valuable trees like Sundary, Kewra, Garan, Karai are being taken away from reserve forests in Fatra ban, Char Gangamoti, Sonar Char, Nishan Baria and Kaschopakhali lake every night. These are loaded in trawlers and sent to different

places of the country including Dhaka and Chittagong. Parts of these are also sold at nearby sawmills.

Forest officials sometimes recover timber and arrest people, but this is only an eyewash, they alleged.

When contacted, sources at Patuakhali Forest Division said they are trying their best to stop the illegal felling of trees.

"On 17 February we recovered about 500 cft Sundary timber from three trawlers and arrest 15 people from Kalagachia in Pathakhali-Galachipa waterway route", one official said.

American Week begins in Rajshahi today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

American Week, featuring activities of the US embassy and US agencies in Bangladesh, begins in Rajshahi today.

US Ambassador Harry K Thomas will inaugurate the week, which will continue till March 3.

Thomas will also inaugurate a two-day conference of the Bangladesh Association of American Studies (BAAS) on March 3. He along with USAID Mission Director Gene George will open an anti-trafficking film festival, co-sponsored by the American Centre and Action Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (ATSEC), at the District Council auditorium at 10:00am on March 3.

The American Centre, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the US Trade Centre and the Peace Corps, among others, will take part in the events.

The week will feature programmes designed to show American coopera-

tion with Bangladesh in a number of areas.

The The US Trade Centre (USTC) will arrange a catalogue show during the week at the Parjatan Motel. The show will remain open from 12:00 noon to 7:30pm everyday. NGOs and some private companies will also take part in the programmes.

Deputy Chief of Mission Judith Chammas will visit the World Fish Polyculture at 9:00am on March 1. She will also visit a Rajshahi-based JOBS project named Thanapara Swallows on March 2 at 9:00am.

USAID Mission Director Gene George will address a news conference at 12:00noon on March 1 at the Parjatan Motel, highlighting USAID development activities in Bangladesh.

American vocalist Lee Alison-Sibley will perform at 7:00pm on March 1 at the District Council auditorium.

A booth to assist students interested in pursuing higher studies in the US will be at the Parjatan Motel.

Two held with 600 kg sulphur in Ishwardi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police Friday evening arrested two young brothers --Kamal and Zamarl - with 600 kilograms of Sulphur when they were loading the consignment in a bus near the Ishwardi post office gate.

The Sulphur was packed in six bags.

Police claimed that the Sulphur was seized because it could be used for making explosives.

But the two arrested persons told newsmen on the spot that they have been trading on the item for long and

were taking the consignment to Pabna to sell it in different markets. Sulphur is used in preparing medicine, firecrackers and other purposes, they said.

Some local people who gathered there also said the two brothers in Shali Para in Iswardi are engaged in the trade for long.

When asked police said they have no record that the two brothers were involved in any crime or anti-social activities.

Ishwardi police filed a case under the Explosives.

'We will make Netrakona drug-free'

Conscious Young Generation launches campaign but drugs flow in "freely" through border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

The number of drug addicts is rising alarmingly in the district as drugs are flowing in through the border almost freely.

But some groups of youngsters under the banner of Conscious Young Generation have raised a hope. They have launched a campaign against drug use.

In the last few days, they held several gatherings and processions in different areas of Netrakona town and launched an anti-drug campaign through wall writing and poster. They also song anti-drug songs and organised drama to create awareness among the people.

But the campaigners say drug trading is rising as police are playing a mysterious role. Police say they have launched anti-drug raids and arrested 25 drug addicts and traders in last one month. But the campaigners say it is only an eyewash.

"It is mysterious that police arrest

drug addicts but traders and peddlers are doing their business. Is it possible to run the business without the knowledge of police?", a campaigner who is a college student told this correspondent.

The campaigners claim that about 30 per cent of youths are addicted to drug like phensidyl, hemp, country made wine, Indian wine and heroin, smuggled in almost openly. Most of the drug addicts are youths, students and political activists.

The drugs flow in through numerous border points in Kalmakanda and Durgapur upazilas. Gobindapur, Langura, Baruakona, Panchgao and Moheshkola in Kalmakanda and Gopalpur, Bijoypur, Rankong and Barnari in Durgapur are safe points for smugglers, local people say.

The drugs smuggled allegedly in connivance with a section of border guards are then supplied to the ten upazilas of the district.

The drug trading spots in Netrakona town are known to all.



PHOTO: STAR

'Drug is your mother's tears and your father's deep sigh'. Wall writings like this ion Netrakona town by the Conscious Young Generation impressed many but not the law enforcers.

20 'miscreants' held from party attended by Pabna BNP leaders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police arrested 20 suspected miscreants from a grand feast hosted by 'listed criminal' Abul Kalam Azad at a field at Pushpa Para at Atikula on Friday.

But the host escaped when police encircled the venue, police said.

Other sources said a good number of top BNP leaders of Pabna also attended the function

attended by over 1000 guests. They said 17 cows were slaughtered for the feast arranged marking circumcision of Azad's son.

Police encircled the venue when the lunch was almost over and Azad sat in a meeting with some of his men.

They rounded up 20 people. Police said, among the 20, there are several people wanted in various cases.

10 SSC exam centres in Ctg vulnerable

Video camera to be set up at all centres

CU CORRESPONDENT

Ten Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination centres under Chittagong education board have been identified as most vulnerable.

The centres are: Kutubdia Government Girls' High School, Moheshkhali Government Girls' High School, Rajshahi Paindong Para Government High School, Rangamati Bhubanjoy Government High School, Mohalchhari High

School, Khagrachhari, Panchhari High School, Khagrachhai, Dighinala Government High School, Khagrachhari, Jurachhari High School, Ruma Government High School, Bandarban and Roangchhari High School, Bandarban.

Board sources said, video camera would be set up at all vulnerable centres.

The copy-prone centres would be cancelled instantly and the examinees would be shifted to any other centre at district headquarters if they are found engaged in copying.

One hundred one vigilance teams have been constituted. Seventy eight vigilance teams are general and 23 teams are special teams.

About 700 members of vigilance teams will be on duty at 107 centres under the board.

Poverty takes away talented student's life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Poverty has taken the life of a talented student of Khulna City College on Thursday.

Because of father's inability to pay the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination fees under Jessore board, Shadhin committed suicide at Teligati village in Khanjahan Ali thana.

According to police, Shadhin asked for Tk 1,500 for the purpose from his father Pulin Bihari, a vegetable vendor, but he was unable to give him the money.

At once Shadhin went to his bedroom and committed suicide by hanging from a beam of the roof. He was declared dead when shifted to Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH).

While narrating their woes, the ill-fated boy's parents told this correspondent that polite Shadhin was a meritorious student.

Memo given for PSTU VC's removal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Teachers, students and officials of Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) yesterday brought out a joint procession on the campus and submitted a memorandum to its Chancellor through the Acting Vice-chancellor for removal its VC Dr Prof AKM Abdul Hannan Bhuiyan.

They also burned his effigy.

Earlier, they held a rally, addressed by, among others, AKM Mostafa Zaman, Convenor of Teachers Parishad, Niyan Udding, GM Jahangir Kabir, Arifur Rahman, Moniruzzaman Hiron.

After the rally, they marched to the office of Acting VC Dr Prof Abdul Latif Masum and submitted the memorandum to him.



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

Even coriander we take as a spice is not free from harmful insecticides. A farmer is spraying the medicine in a field in Nilphamari. The photo was taken last week.