

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 were 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
Cadres of the outlawed Purba Bangla 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 'Ara' (storehouse) at Kaliganj bazaar, 200 yards of 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.

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, Aizazman alias Ripon, Ali Akbar and Bulbul of the Janajuddho faction of PBCP (Purba Bangla 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 Affairs Secretary Shafiqul 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.

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

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 sugar-cane growers, have been agitating for withdrawal 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 grave for victims of self-immolation".

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

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 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.

The week will feature programmes designed to show American coopera-

Int'l Work Camp 2004 begins at Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A 10-day International Work Camp 2004 began at the office of Gano Unnayan Kendro, a local NGO, on Friday.

The inaugural function was followed by a discussion.

Presided over by Abdus Salam, Chief Executive of Gano Unnayan Kendro, the function was addressed by Abdur Rahman, Organising Secretary of Bangladesh Work Camp Association and Syed Azharul Huq, team leader of Rover Scout, Gaibandha Deputy Commissioner Tapan Kumar Majumder was the chief guest at the inaugural

function.

Twenty volunteers including resource persons from Canada, Holland, Korea, Germany and Bangladesh are participating in the work camp. They will also render voluntary medicare services to less privileged people in Gaibandha.

Local NGO officials and members of Rover Scout will help the volunteers during their stay and visit to remote areas of the district.

The volunteers will mainly work on health and sanitation.

The work camp is being organised jointly by Gano Unnayan Kendro, Gaibandha and Bangladesh Work Camp Association.

Two held with 600 kg sulphur in Ishwardi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police Friday evening arrested two young brothers - Kamal and Zamal - with 600 kilograms of Sulphur when they were loading the consignment in a bus near the Ishwardi police 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

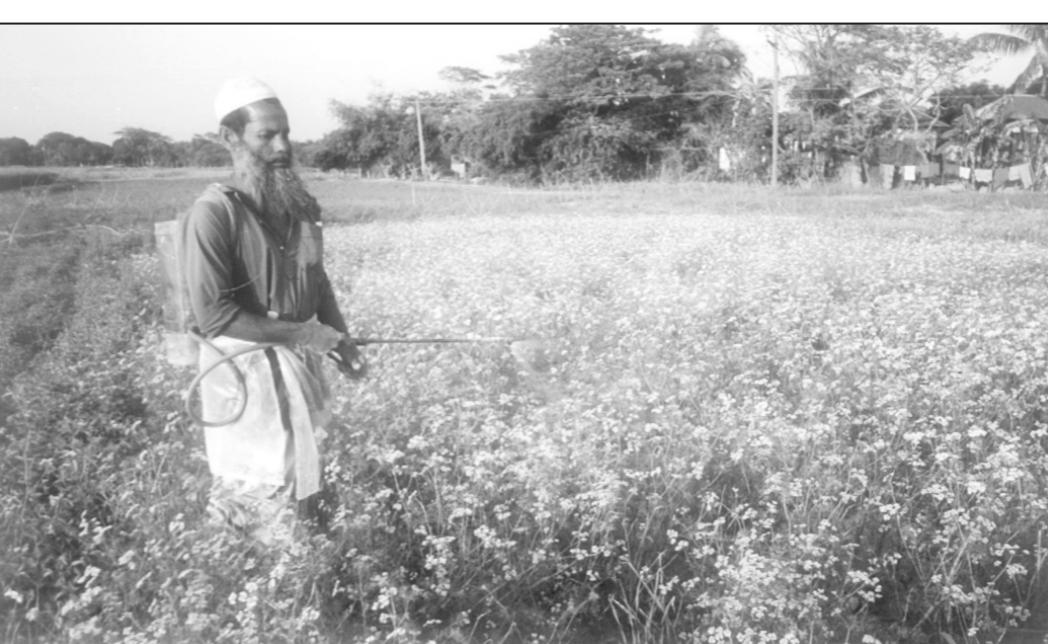
were taking the consignment to Pabna to sell it in different markets. Sulphur is used in preparing medicine, firecrackers and other purposes, they said.

Some local people who gathered there also said the two brothers in Shali Para in Ishwardi 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.

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.



'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.

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