

LEAFLETS IN RAJSHAHI

# PBCP threatens to kill 18 'class enemies'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Purbo Banglar Communist Party (ML-Lal Pataka), in a leaflet circulated on Sunday, identified 18 people as 'class enemies' and threatened to kill them.

They include Deputy Minister, Ministry of Land Advocate Ruhul Kuddus Talukder (Dulu), Nadim Mustafa MP, district BNP general secretary Shish Muhammad, Taherpur municipality chairman and BNP president Shamsur Rahman, Bagmara upazila BNP general secretary Prof Mokhlesur Rahman, Bhabaniganj municipality BNP president Abdur Razzak and secretary Prof Ashraful Islam.

Others are different union council chairmen and grassroots level leaders of BNP, Awami League (AL) and Jamaat-e-Islami.

The leaflet threatened members of law enforcement agencies for arresting one Uzzal, 18, with some copies of leaflets from Goalkandi Bazaar in the evening.

Uzzal, however, claimed police caught him for collecting the leaflets

from the roadside.

The outlawed party circulated the leaflets in restive Bagmara saying PBCP guerrillas would kill their 'class enemies' whenever they get chances.

"Our party guerrillas will kill them in protest against killing people in name of 'crossfire' and by the cadres of Bangla Bhai," the leaflet said.

"We shall take revenge for killing of our leaders by the cadres of Bangla Bhai and Rab members. We have decided our course of action, you will see everything in time."

The leaflet identified eight persons as 'associates' of 'class enemies' and six persons as 'traitors'. They said action would be taken against them.

The leaflet called upon all PBCP workers to get united and be ready for regular meetings and trainings.

In another leaflet circulated in different areas of Rajshahi and Natore districts on Saturday, PBCP said preparation is going on to avenge 'continued oppression' by Bangla Bhai's men and some police officials.

"We are taking preparation to

take revenge on Dulu Bahini, a group loyal to the Deputy Minister for Land and so-called police supers and Rab commanders,' the leaflet said.

The leaflet also said the drives for killing 'class enemies' were suspended for 'change in style of war.' 'We shall start operations at an appropriate time with more manpower and arms and ammunition,' it said.

It also asked people to shun the game of voting and fight for a revolutionary government.

The leaflet headlined 'News of a Confirmed Victory and Next Activities,' was circulated by the 'Ka' area (Rajshahi, Natore, Naogaon and Chapainawabganj) organisational committee of the party.

"The contents of this leaflet differ with those of previous leaflets", said a senior police official.

"It might be the work of the activists of Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh as they wanted to stage a comeback," he said.

Postmaster held for Tk 16 lakh 'misappropriation'

A CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The postmaster of Rajafoir post office in Kalihati upazila was arrested on Tuesday on charge of misappropriation of Tk 16, 49,000.

According to police, postmaster Shamsuzzaman Khan misappropriated the money through 404 fake money orders within the period from March 19, 1998 to June 8 this year.

He was brought to remand for three days. During interrogation, he admitted to have misappropriated the amount in collaboration with the post office inspector of Madhupur sub-division, Swapan Kumar Guho. He alleged that Swapan took bribe from him on several occasions. Now he had brought the allegation against him by pursuing the divisional postmaster general (DPMG) when he refused to give him Tk 2,00,000 as bribe which he had demanded recently, he said.

Pirates pose as police,loot trawlers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Pirates in the disguise of police looted goods worth about Tk two lakh from 12 trawlers and fishing boats in Mehendiganj on Lata and Gazaria rivers, tributaries of the Meghna and the Arial Khan, in the early hours of Sunday.

Being informed by one of the victims, Manir Hossain, police arrested Shah Alam Gharami from Char Lata, Riadul Islam and Kajol from Char Hogla area later in the day and recovered some lethal weapons.

The trawlers were looted on the rivers in Lalkharabad and Bazid Kha areas, police said.

PRESS CLUB DEMOLITION

Removal of Shaghata UNO demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Bonarpara journalists in a meeting held on Sunday demanded removal of Shaghata Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Salauddin for demolition of Bonarpara Press Club building without prior notice.

They demanded its reconstruction.

The press club was housed in a two-storey building on an abandoned property after taking lease.

They alleged that it was demolished because of publishing 'negative stories' against the UNO.

The demolition has been criticised by local leaders of different political parties.

Old man drowns in Comilla

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

One person drowned and three others are missing when an engine boat capsized in river Paathalia in Meghna upazila in Comilla district on Sunday.

The dead has been identified as Haji Ashraf Ali, 60, of Char Paathlia village in the upazila.

Police said, the engine boat with about 20 passengers was going to Daudkandi from Alipur. It sank soon after it left Alipur ghat. Police could not identify the missing person.

The rest of the passengers swim ashore.

# Work on 2 Ashuganj gas compressor plants from Nov

SHEIKH SHAHIDUL ISLAM, B'baria

Work on setting up of two natural gas compressor stations in Ashuganj is likely to begin in November.

The stations will be built at the site of the proposed NGL Fractionation Plant, which is being shifted to Kailashtila in Sylhet.

Survey work for the costly compressor plants has been completed and other preparations are being done now.

The work will be completed by October 2007, according to highly placed sources in Gas Transmission Company Ltd, a sister company of Petrobangla.

The decision to set up the two stations was taken early this year, the sources said.

Mentionably, the decision taken earlier to shift the fractionation plant from Ashuganj to Kailashtila had triggered violent protests by local people, in which many people were injured in clashes with law enforcers.

The two compressor plants are being set up to supply gas to the National Grid. It is part of an ambi-

tious plan to take gas to Khulna through a proposed 419 kilometre pipeline.

The two compressor plants and the 419 kilometre pipeline will cost 80 million US dollars, to be provided by Asian Development Bank (ADB), the sources said.

The 20-inch diameter pipeline will be laid in phases. In the first phase, a pipeline will be laid from Ashuganj to the eastern side of Jamuna Bridge, they said.

To ensure availability of gas, five new wells will be dug in five gas fields-- Titas Gas Field, Rashidpur Gas Field, Kailashtila Gas Field, Sylhet Gas Field and Bakharabad Gas Field, they said.

After completion of the two compressor stations, Ashuganj will turn into a prime spot in the gas transmission network. The two stations will create employment for many people in the area, they said.

Setting up of the NGL Fractionation Plant in Ashuganj was decided in 1990 and some preliminary was done.

The decision has been revised partly in view of pilferage of huge quantities of condenset at numer-

ous points in the 175-kilometre pipeline from Kailashtila to Ashuganj.

Condenset worth about Tk 100 crore was pilfered from the pipeline through holes made by organised gangs in last 10 years, it was revealed at a meeting of high officials, held at Brahmanbaria Circuit House in September last year.

At least 40 cases were filed with police in Ashuganj, Sarail, Brahmanbaria, Habiganj and Mulvibazar and security was beefed up but the pilferage could not be stopped.

But the local people have not backed out from their demand for setting up of the fractionation plant in Ashuganj.

They have formed an 'all-party action committee' to continue agitation for setting up of the plant there.

Talking to this correspondent, Isa Khan, convener of the committee, said Ashuganj on the bank of Meghna river is ideally located for both the fractionation plant and the two compressor stations.

Adopt separate dev policy for northern dists

Rangpur Chamber demands

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Leaders of Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) have placed a number of demands to Commerce Advisor Barkot Ullah Bulu for development of northern districts.

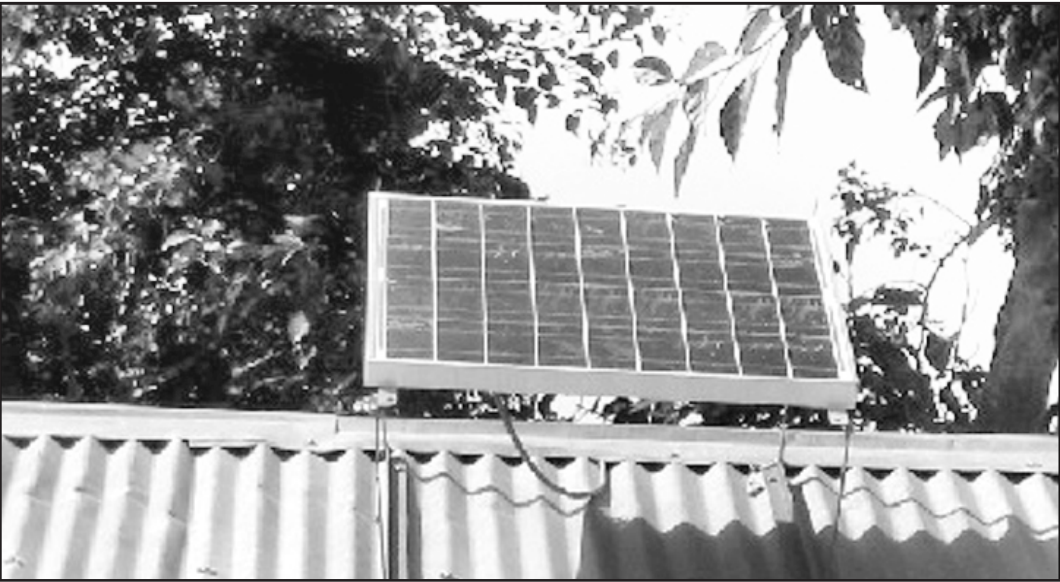
These include pipeline gas supply, four-lane road communication with Dhaka, immediate operation of Baropukuria Power Station, direct rail link from Mongla to Uttara EPZ in Nilphamari and development of Syedpur airport. Development of the airport will increase export of vegetables and fruits.

At a meeting with the Commerce Adviser at Rangpur Circuit House on Sunday, they also demanded a separate policy for northern districts to promote investment because the area is less developed compared to others areas of the country.

Barkot Ullah Bulu is also president of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, youth front of ruling BNP.

RCCI President Mostafa Azad Choudhury Babu, vice- president Mohammad Zahangir, Rangpur BNP President Rahim Uddin and secretary Habib-un-Nabi Khan Soheli spoke at the meeting, among others.

Bulu assured the chamber leaders that he would place all these demands to the government high-ups, meeting sources said.



A solar unit installed on the roof of a house in Baje Fulchari in a remote Jamuna shoal area in Gaibandha.

# Solar power changes life in remote Jamuna shoals

REZAUL HOQ, Gaibandha

It was beyond the imagination of poor isolated shoal people in Jumana river basin to have electricity in their small houses.

A kerosene lamp was the only means to light their huts after sunset. They could not expect more than this.

But this has changed. They now have electricity from solar power, thanks to the initiative by Oxfam.

The international NGO has introduced solar power in Kunderpara and Tengrakandi flood shelters and in Baje Fulchari market in Fulchari upazila in Gaibandha district.

Two local NGOs -- Gano Unnayan Kendo (GUK) and Samaj Kallyan Sangstha (SKS) -- implemented the programme as partners

of Oxfam. On February 12, GUK set up a solar panel at Kunderpara flood shelter, a remote shoal in the Jamuna basin with financial assistance from Oxfam. It cost Tk 60,000.

In another programme, SKS set up two solar units at Baje Fulchari market and Tangrakandi flood shelter at a cost of Tk 1.25 lakh.

Out of 42 shops in Baje Fulchari market, 17 now have electricity supply from a solar unit. They also enjoy television programmes.

Earlier, life stopped after sunset in the remote shoals. Now people from nearby areas come to the market in the evening and enjoy TV programmes till late night.

"My earnings from the shop has increased since I took solar power connection. I pay a little as tariff", said shop owner Rowshan Ali at Baje Fulchari market.

Earlier, the market used to wore a deserted look in the evening, but now people stay there till late night for shopping, watching television and gossiping, said Abdul Gafur, Chairman of Fulchari Union Parishad.

There is a huge demand for solar power in the areas, he said.

They have formed a committee to realise Tk 3 per day from each shop owner as tariff. The money is deposited in a bank for maintenance of the solar panel.

While talking to this correspondent, Rasel Ahmed Liton, Coordinator of SKS said they have a plan to extend the facility in other shoals gradually.

This will help people during flood and other natural disasters and will change their lifestyle gradually, he added.



Several hundred people joined a human chain followed by a procession in Bandarban town yesterday organised by CHT Bangalee Chhatro Parishad demanding a fair development policy for the area.

# ‘Fair and equal’ CHT dev policy demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Hundreds of people on Monday formed a human chain in front of Bandarban Press Club to protest 'unfair development policy' of the government in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Organised by Chittagong Hill Tracts Bangali Chhatro Parishad, the programme was preceded by a big

meeting. Its president H M Samrat presided over the meeting.

The speakers demanded a 'fair and equal' policy for both indigenous people and Bengali people in taking and implementing development projects by government, donor agencies and NGOs.

They threatened 'attack' on the local offices and luxury transport vehicles of donor organisation like

UNDP, ADB, MSF and WFP if the existing situation is not improved without further delay.

They further alleged the donor organisations are yet to appoint any Banagli people in their offices. They condemned the government for not taking any step in this regard.

They warned that the government would be held responsible

for any destructive programme to be chalked out by them in near future.

Among others, the meeting was addressed by its central committee organising secretary Safi Islam Suman, its Chittagong University branch president Sirajul Islam, Sama Adhikar Andolon Parishad president Prof Osman Goni and Atiqur Rahman.

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