

# REVENGE, SABOTAGE THREATS BY PBCP-ML All police stations in 4 SW dists on alert

AMANUR AMAN, *Kushtia*

All police stations and outposts in 4 southwestern (SW) district of Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur and Jhenidah have been alerted following 'threats' of sabotage given by the cadres of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) party on Thursday.

The cadres also vowed to take revenge of killing of 80 leaders and activists including their founder president Mufakkarul in 'crossfires.' Khulna range of police was alerted. Additional forces were deployed at different key installa-

tions. They started raids at different hideouts of underground operatives in the areas. Policemen were asked to monitor the security measures and combing operations round-the-clock.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a top leader of PBCP-ML, Sakhawat Hossain from Firoja Manjil of Adarshapara in Jhenidah town. He is believed to be guiding his party cadres to create anarchy in the areas. Rab also recovered a rifle, two pistols, a foreign made revolver, one short-gun, four hand bombs and 54 bullets from his possession.

The threats were given at a meeting held on the occasion of Charu Majumdar's 32nd death anniversary in Chuadanga town.

PBCP posters also flooded different areas in the districts.

High officials of the law enforcement authorities told this correspondent they have confirmed holding of such meeting from different unanimous sources. The outlawed party held the meeting in between 8:pm to 11:pm when there was no electricity in the town for three hours. Sources said the cadres disconnected electricity line to hold the meeting. The posters were also pasted on the

wall at that time, sources said.

A top leader of another outlawed party, on condition of not to be named, confirmed here about holding of the meeting.

Sources said, 152 outlawed party cadres of different parties were killed in 'crossfire' with police, Rab and Kobra in four districts since June last year. Several drives like Operation Clean heart, Operation Spider Web were launched but all the drives ended in failure.

At least 10,000 cadres of outlawed parties are active in southwestern districts for the last 30 years.

## Freedom fighter cremated sans state honour

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

An incident of cremation of a freedom fighter (FF) without state honour has created commotion among the freedom fighters and conscious citizens alike.

Harendra Nath Roy, 65, son of late Gayendra Nath Barman of South Chapra village under Chaora Borogachha union in Sadar Upazila fought valiantly in Sector No 6 for the independence of Bangladesh in 1971.

It is a tragedy that after independence of the country, he was turned into a day labourer. During his life-time he was harassed in many ways. Even he was not officially enlisted as a freedom fighter. He moved from door to door to get his freedom fighter's allowance but in vain. Out of frustration he became mentally perturbed. He kept himself aloof from all the official functions of Muktiyodhya Sangsad and government.

Ultimately, Haren died of heart attack without treatment on July 23 night and was cremated without state honour at 10 in the morning on July 24.

The unfortunate freedom fighter left his widow Tultuli Rani, 60, two sons Hori Das, 35, a rickshaw-puller and Odhir, 25, a day labourer besides his daughter, Bharati Rani, 30.

It was learnt that his widow was not at all aware about the regular state practice of showing honour to any freedom fighter after his death.

However, Nilphamari Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) K M Masuduzzaman blamed the district Muktiyodhya Office for the 'gross' mistake. Because the administration officials were misinformed by the Muktiyodhya Office about the time of his cremation. The UNO said he along with a team of police went to the house of the freedom fighter when he came to know that he had been already cremated earlier without state honour.

The commander of the district unit of Moktiyodhya Sangsad, Shamsul Haque Joba said to this correspondent he was deeply shocked at the incident.



PHOTO: STAR

Chittagong Deputy Commissioner Syed Nesar Ahmed Rumi (cross marked) goes round different stalls of a Fruit Tree Fair after its inauguration at Agrabad in Chittagong on Friday. The Department of Agriculture Extension organised the fair.

## 'Quality pry edn must for poverty alleviation'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The speakers at a seminar here yesterday called upon the government to take effective measures to improve the standard of primary education for alleviation of poverty.

The Campaign For Popular Education (CAMPE), a national NGO and Satkhira Unnayan Sangstha (SUS), a local NGO jointly organised the seminar on 'Equality including Standard : Primary Education Agenda under Education Watch Report 2003-04'.

Held at Sadar upazila auditorium, the seminar was presided over by SUS director Sheikh Eman Ali while Satkhira Deputy Commissioner Md Elias was present as chief guest. Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer SM Ashrafuzzaman and acting District Primary Education Officer Ashrafur Alam were special guests.

The speakers told that quality primary education is a must for the poor to get rid of poverty. They lamented that despite achievement of tremendous success in primary school enrolment, quality education is still a far cry. They stressed on a consensus of policy makers as well

as government to improve the quality of education.

Education Watch researcher and chapter contributor Samir Ranjan Nath presented a report of the findings of the research and policy related recommendations at the seminar.

The seminar was addressed by, among others, Principal Sheikh Abdul Wadood, Education Watch group member Dr M Matiur Rahman, assistant education officer Ruhul Amin, Bina Das, journalist Kamruzzaman, Palash Kanti Halder and Prof Mobashwerul Haq.

## Two journos murder cases transferred

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Murder cases of two journalists were transferred to different courts in two days.

**Our correspondents from Khulna and Jessore report:** Journalist Humayun Kabir Balu murder case was transferred to Senior Special Judge Court from Khulna Speedy Trial Tribunal yesterday.

It was transferred due to delay in submitting police report on implication of two accused Khorha Nazu and Zahidul Islam in the murder case.

Meanwhile, Additional District and Sessions Judge of Jessore Md Mahbubur Rahman on Sunday transferred journalist Shamsur Rahman murder case to the Speedy Tribunal Court in Khulna.

The additional Judge sent the case docket to the concerned court.

After a long investigation, the criminal investigation department (CID) submitted a charge-sheet accusing 17 persons including five journalists. But prime accused Asaduzzaman Litu of Khulna was killed in 'crossfire' with police. The charge was framed against 16 persons including the five journalists recently. The public prosecutor (PP) pleaded for exclusion of names of journalists from the case. They are Fakir Shaukat, Mizanur Rahman Tota, Farazi Azmal Hossain, Nova Khandaker and Benjin Khan.

Balu was killed in bomb attack on June 27 last year in front of his house on Haji Ismail Road in Khulna.

Shamsur Rahman was gunned down by unidentified assailants in his Jessore office on July 16, 2000.

## ATTACK, ARSON IN BARISAL 5 JCD activists held, 7 fugitives' property seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Five Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists were arrested on Tuesday in connection with two cases relating to arson and attack on a Christian Palli here on Saturday and Sunday.

The arrested persons are Jasim, Firoz, Nasir, Rubel and Sohan alias Shaon. Movable property of seven fugitives Kalu, Susai, Sajal, Sabuj, Sohel, Mamun and Samir Baroi were also confiscated by Kotwali police following a warrant issued against them by Sadar upazila magistrate court on Monday.

With the latest arrest the number of arrested rose to 10.

Barisal Kotwali police station officer-in-charge (OC) Mizanur Rahman said the 5 JCD activists were arrested for interrogation and investigation as they were involved with the crime. But their names were not included in the FIR, he said.

A complaint lodged over a youth's love proposal has led to arson and attack on the residential area in Ward No 29 of Barisal City Corporation. As a result one person was critically injured and property worth over Tk 5 lakh was damaged when four shops were gutted in two days.

# 20x3

# Gazikhali river reborn

## UNDP project creates new opportunity for prosperity in Saturia, Dhamrai

Z A M KHAIRUZZAMAN, back from Manikganj

They call the Gazikhali a 'blessed river'. The river has created a new opportunity to attain economic prosperity in remote villages of Saturia in Manikganj and Dhamrai in Dhaka after its excavation by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The small river remained dry most of the time of the year except the rainy season for the last 15 years. It was due to accumulation of silt in the riverbed for a long period. There had been little water for irrigation in the dry season. Even people could not wash their cattle due to lack of water. They did the job using tube-well water. During monsoon, the surrounding areas got flooded in moderate rain resulting in severe damage to crops and vegetables.

Ganoshasthaya Kendra, a major non-governmental organisation (NGO), took an initiative to resolve the perennial problem of about 1,50,000 people of the area. Being a partner NGO of UNDP, Ganoshasthaya Kendra submitted a project proposal of merely Tk 57 lakh to the global organisation to excavate the 11-kilometre river flowing through Dhankora and Saturia Sadar unions in Manikganj and Gangutia of Dhamrai in Dhaka. UNDP allocated fund for the project under its Cash for Work (CFW) programme. The project work began in the middle of May. Within two-and-a-half months, Ganoshasthaya



PHOTO: STAR

The Gazikhali during excavation, left, and after excavation, right.

Kendra implemented the project with the help of associated organisations like Development Centre International (DCI), Dinmojur Kalyan Samity (DKS), Socio-Economic Development Society (SEDS) and others through involvement of local community.

While visiting several sites at Kaulipara, Brahmanbari and Barobaria in Dhaka and Manikganj districts on Thursday, UNDP assistant resident representative (ARR) Dilruba Haider saw the river capable of providing necessary water for

fish culture, duck rearing, irrigation and other economic activities. The happy villagers told her they hope for a good yield of crops and vegetables this year. The river will be able to sustain the economic activities of the entire area, they told her.

At Kaulipara, the Gazikhali joined a tributary of the Dhaleswari. At this point a dam was erected by dumping sand filled plastic sacks on the river bed. The sacks are being protected by big plastic sheets. When asked, Ganoshasthaya Kendra

field supervisor Jolly termed it an appropriate technique. She told seven such dams were erected along the 11-kilometre long river. She showed another such dam at Brahmanbari in Saturia. 'The dams will help the river to preserve sufficient water in the dry season while the excess water of the rainy season will cross into the Bangshai river automatically,' told Jolly. The dam will also serve as a bridge between the two banks of the river, she explained.

However, the excavated

Gazikhali will also serve important environmental purposes. It will protect people from the scourge of flood.

In the meantime, enthusiastic villagers have made preparations to embark on economic pursuits like fish culture and duck rearing. They also formed development committees for its future maintenance work.

During her trip, UNDP official Dilruba told this correspondent, the CFW programme has created a scope for income earning in the lean season while women labour force finds an opportunity to work in this project.

She said the aim of the project is to provide assistance to flood stricken poor people, with particular focus on women and the most vulnerable people. The project was initiated in December 2004. Now it covers 24 districts, 61 upazilas and 500 unions. Its activities include mound extension, homestead plinth area raising and maintenance, rural road maintenance, road cum embankment maintenance, rural market place improvement, cluster village development, school, college, madrasa ground raising, mosque, temple, graveyard ground raising, canal, irrigation drainage excavation, pond excavation and flood shelter raising. The activities will also reduce the risk of flood in future, the UNDP official added.