

SATKHIRA, ADJOINING DISTRICTS

Outlaws regrouping ahead of next polls

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

Members of outlawed parties are regrouping and reorganising themselves ahead of the next parliament elections in Satkhira and adjoining districts.

The parties are closing ranks with two motives--- to avenge 'crossfire' murder of their leaders and to realise benefits from prospective candidates and their parties.

Satkhira and adjoining districts were once safe haven for activists of Purba Banglar Communist party(PBCP), Biplobi Communist Party(BCP), New Biplobi Communist Party (BCP), Purba Banglar Communist Party (Janajuddha faction), Shramjibi Mukti Andolon, and SarbaharaParty.

Several drives by law enforcers in the last three years put them in a

disadvantageous position. Most of them fled their dens in Tala,Assassuni and SatkhiraSadarupazilas.

Sources close to outlaws and in police said mid-level leaders of the parties held a meeting at a house in Kheshra union in Tala upazila recently and formed a coordination committee to forge unity.

Outlaws used to play vital roles in parliamentary and Union Parishad elections.

It was hard to file nomination paper or to win election in the areas without 'managing' leaders of these outlawed parties.

It was a tradition to engage outlaws in elections.Demands ofoutlaws increases ahead of elections, according to records in the last two decades.

Police sources said they are now regrouping to return to their places with the help of local influential

political leaders of different parties.

They are having contacts with the leaders to know what to do in the next parliamentary election, the sources said.

Earlier, hiring of armed cadres from these groups to influence voting process was an an open secret.

Armed cadres of the outlawed parties were active in the last parliamentary and Union Parishad elections also.

According to local people in outlaw infested areas of Satkhira, the groups actually do not have any political ideology of their own. Most of them are engaged in terrorist activities now. They realise toll from affluent people through letters.

Talking to this correspondent, some local people also expressed their concern over the reported regrouping of outlaws.



PHOTO: STAR

Several thousand people brought out a procession in Manikganj town yesterday protesting grab of about 7,000 acres of land in Padma shoals by musclemen from Faridpur.

7000 acre charlands grabbed in 7 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Armed people from Faridpur district have grabbed around 7,000 acres of cropland in Jamuna shoals in Lesraganj union under Horirampur upazila in Manikganj district in about a week.

Thousands of people from the areas yesterday brought out a procession and held a rally at Bijoy Mela ground in Manikganj town protesting the landgrabbing by people from another district.

Advocate Golam Mohiuddin, Mosharraf Molla, Moksed Munshi, Abdul Hossain, Liakat Hossain, Abed Ali and some other victims addressed the rally.

They said the landgrabbers also beat local people when they protested the landgradding in Notakhola, Rustumpur, Bramhankanda, Bhagabanchar, Bhabani, Kazikanda, Niloxminee in Harirampur upazila.

The protesters submitted a memorandum to Manikganj Deputy Commissioner SM Shamsher Zakaria to take immediate steps to restore the charlands and allot those to landless people in Manikganj district.

Kishoreganj AL leader shot dead

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Shingpur union Awami League (AL) president Abdul Qaiyum,45, was shot dead by rivals in a feud over possession of Guna 'jolmahal (water body) at Niklee thana Sunday night.

Police sources said, Qaiyum was attacked by Mukhter Hossain, ex-chairman of Shingpur Union Parisad (UP) in front of his house at about 11 pm. Mukhter was accompanied by son Kawsar and his gang.

The body was brought to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital for post-mortem on Monday.

Qaiyum was the legal leaseholder of the water body, but most of the time of the year it was illegally in possession of Mukhter.

A case was filed with Niklee thana against Mukhter and his gang. But none was arrested.

Niklee thana Awami League brought out a procession Monday morning.

New aman variety to ease monga

RAFIQUE SARKER, from Rangpur

Monga (pre-harvest joblessness) can be removed to a great extent in northern districts by cultivating BRRI Dhan-33, an aman paddy, claims the Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS), an NGO.

The NGO said its experiments and filed trial along with Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) showed that the variety of rice that can be planted and harvested at least 50 days ahead of BR-11 or any other aman varieties.

The experiments were done for years at RDRS' research centre at Uttom.

The NGO hopes to introduce the variety to farmers in northern districts in the nextAmon season.

"Monga during the Bangla months of Ashwin and Kartik in grater Rangpur and Dinajpur districts can be removed to a great extent if farmers

cultivate BRRI Dhan- 33 during aman season," said RDRS Agriculture Co-coordinator MG Neogi while talking tot this correspondent.

Neogi explained that the life span of BRRI- 33 is around 100 days and it becomes ready for harvest in the first week of Arshwin. Other Amon varieties take 120 to 140 days, he said.

As there is no work in fields in northern districts duringArshwin and Kartik, about 90 percent day labourers remain jobless during the time.

Neogi said, cultivation of BRRI Dhan- 33 in the region will create jobs for farmers as well as day labourers duringArshwin and Kartik.

RDRS has also published a prospectus of BRRI-33 that says the variety reduces cultivation cost by 30 per cent because unlike other Amon varieties, it can be sown directly in field and does not need transplantation.

2 'robbers' lynched in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Two alleged robbers were lynched by villagers during a dacoity at Chargacha Bazaar in Koshba upazila in the district in the early hours of yesterday.

At least 20 villagers were also injured in an encounter with the dacoits.

Police and witnesses said a gang of armed dacoits looted some shops at the market at about 1 am. They also entered the local Krishi Bank, broke the strong room and took away Tk 79,000 and 14 ounces of gold.

Sensing presence of robbers, one man made an announced over a mike at a mosque in the market. Shopkeepers who were sleeping in their shops and villagers from around came and encircled the dacoits. They caught two of them and beat them to death. The victims' identities could not be known. Others fled away.

Brahmanbaria Police Superintendent AKM Masudul

Alam visited the spot in the morning. A case has been filed.

The injured villagers have been admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital and Koshba Upazila Health complex, police said.

Schoolboy abducted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Criminals abducted a schoolboy from Chak Shialkhol village in Sirajgonj Sadar upazila yesterday and demanded Tk twolakh ransom.

The victim is Mehedi Hasan, 12, son of Babu Mia.

Police and the victim's family said a gang picked up Mehedi when he was going to a mosque near the house for Fazar prayer. Later they demanded Tk twolakh for his release.

When contacted, SI Rabiul Alom at the Sadar thana said, a general dairy has been filed and they are trying to rescue the boy.

JMB 'commander' Shamim to be shown arrested in Satkhira

4 sent to jail after remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

JMB 'Chittagong area commander' Shamim Hossain alias Galib, arrested in Chadpur on October 6, will be brought to Satkhira soon and shown arrested in a case filed here in connection with the August 17 blasts.

The case was filed with the Sadar thana on October 1 under Section 19(8) and 20(3) of the Special Powers Act, 1974.

Police sources said, preparation is on to show him arrested in the case and a prayer will be submitted to the court of Magistrate Saidur Rahman, they said.

Shamim Hossain hails from Itagachha area in Satkhira town. He became a member of JMB (Juma'atul Mujihideen Bangladesh) in 2001 and he used to train youths.

He used the North Itagachha Ahle Hadith Jame Mosque as a training centre, sources said. He was assigned by JMB high command to recruit youths in Satkhira and adjoining districts, a source close to the investigation authorities said.

He also worked to organise JMB in Khulna and Bagerhat districts.

Shamim was seriously injured

when a bomb he was carrying blasted at a hotel in Chittagong in 2003. He was arrested but released on bail after three months.

Police said his elder brother Selim Hossain is also a hard core JMB cadre who took part in several acts of violence along with Harkatul Jihad chief Mufti Hannan, now in custody.

Selim Hossain is in custody since 2004 after his arrest in connection with a bomb blast at a BRAC office in Faridpur.

Four JMB activists arrested in Satkhira earlier were sent to jail yesterday after expiry of three-day remand. They are Reaz Uddin of Banshdah in Sadar upazila, Alamgir Hossain and Mamunur Rahman of Shetpur in Assassuni upazila and Alhaj Reaz Uddin of Banshdah in Sadar upazila.

Investigation officials said it was difficult to extract information from the detained JMB activists as they started zikr and recitation from the Quran to avoid questions.

Sadar thana OC Golam Mohammad however said during interrogation the detained JMB cadres gave important information about August 17 blasts but declined to give details in the interest of investigation.