

19 top outlaws out of 20 in SW districts still at large

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Back
From Chuadanga

KUSHTIA: Nineteen out of 20 top outlaws of underground parties in Chuadanga and some other southwestern districts are yet to be netted though the government announced Tk 20 lakh bounties for their arrest.

A fresh joint combing operation by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) launched about a week ago showed little success.

The government on October 23 last year announced bounties varying from Tk 20,000 to Tk five lakh for information leading to arrest of the hardened outlaws including Tapan Malitha who created a reign of terror in the area.

But most of them are still at large in their respective areas.

They are doing party activities and collecting toll through grass-

roots cadres. Some of them are controlling party activities staying in a neighbouring country, the sources said.

The wanted hardened outlaws include Abdur Rashid Malitha alias Tapan alias Dada Tapan, Jamal Uddin alias Rabi alias Nuruzzaman, Abir Hasan, Rony Biswas, Sahjahan, Azad, Thandu, Amirul, Habibar alias Oltu, Mizanur alias Major, Rabiul, Mozammel alias Moka, Sahidul, Khorshed, Shomser alias Sama, Tomsel and Kismat.

Sources said Jamal is now the chief of PBCP-ML after the death of its founder Mofakkarul Hossain in crossfire on December last year.

Dada Tapan leads the Janajuddho faction of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) and Rony Biswas heads the PBCP-Communist War.

A bounty of Tk 5 lakh was

declared for arrest of Tapan Malitha, Tk one lakh each for Rony and Abir. Others carry bounties varying from Tk 50,000 to 20,000.

The sources claimed that the outlaws are active in Hatbolia, Atharo Khoda, Bhangbaria, Asman Khalai, Enayetpur, Hardi, Polkadanga and Jadabpur villages in Alamanga upazila; Loknathpur and Swandeshpur in Damurhuda upazila and Munshiganj and Kodikhali villages in the Sadar upazila in Chuadanga district.

In Alamdanga, some locals said two top leaders of PBCP-Janajuddha, wanted in at least 25 murder cases each, are often seen in their areas.

Police sources in Chuadanga seeking anonymity said crimes including murder increased in the district in the last three months. They recorded 12 murders in January, 10 in February and 13 in

March. Outlaws were behind most of those, they said.

"Law enforcers are trying to net the criminals and we hope to succeed," Chuadanga police superintendent said when contacted over cell phone.

Kushtia SP Masud-UI-Hasan expressed the same view.

Two outlaws with Tk 50,000 bounties each were killed in 'crossfire' with police and Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) in Chuadanga in last two months. They are Somsher Ali alias Sama, 35, of Iswarchandrapur village in Darshana upazila in Chuadanga and Rezaul Haq alias Kalu of Dorbeshpur in Meherpur Sadar upazila.

Sama of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) was killed on February 12. Kalu of PBCP Janajuddha was killed on March 31.

According to data available from

law enforcing agencies, at least 12 outlawed parties with about 10000 cadres and a huge quantity of illegal firearms are active in the southwestern districts.

Several anti-crime drives including the Operation Clean Heart and Operation Spider Web were launched earlier but there has not been any significant success in rooting out outlaws.

Law enforcers alleged that the outlaws are operating under the shelter of a section of leaders of major political parties. This is the main problem, they said.

Outlaws in the region are used by political parties during election, mainly to rig vote. They are also used for personal gains or hired for murder.



Crowds after the rally at Satkhira town gather in front of Deputy Commissioner's office to hand over a memorandum for arrest of the Jamaat MP.

COALITION RIFT IN SATKHIRA BNP-backed rally demands arrest of Jamaat MP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

People under the banner of newly formed Chhatra-Shikshak-Shramik, Janata Oikya Parishad (students-teachers-workers-people's unity council), held a big rally at Shaheed Abdur Razzak Park and brought out a procession in the town protesting the abusive words against Satkhira BNP Vice-president Abdur Rouf, made by Jamaat-e-Islami leaders at a rally at the park on March 29.

They also handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding arrest of the Jamaat leaders for tarnishing the image of BNP by hurling abusive words against its leaders.

Yesterday's rally, organised by BNP-backed organisations in the district, signalled a virtual split in the ruling coalition in Satkhira as the two parties are fighting for alliance nomination in the Sadar constituency in the next parliamentary election.

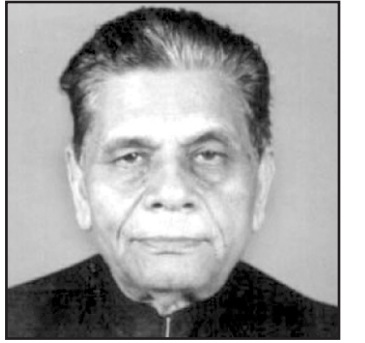
Sources said the March 29 Jamaat rally at the same venue capped the row between BNP leader Abdur Rouf and Jamaat

lawmaker Abdur Khaleque, both contending for alliance nomination. Rouf is also Chairman of Alipur Union Parishad.

Earlier, on March 27, fifteen activists of BNP and Jamaat were injured in a clash at a 'mehfil' (religious gathering) at Pachani village in the Sadar upazila over criticism of Jamaat Ameer Maulana Matiar Rahman Nizami.

Speakers at yesterday's rally demanded arrest of Jamaat leaders including lawmaker Abdur Khaleque, alleging that they were behind the March 27 attack. They urged all democratic forces and professional groups to join hands to root out Jamaat as it is sheltering militants who carried out blasts across the country.

On March 29, the district unit of Bangladesh Madrasa Shikshak Parishad, a front organisation of Jamaat, held a rally at Shaheed Abdur Razzak park and brought out a procession in the town. Speakers at the rally bitterly criticised Abdur Rouf for his role against his coalition partner.



Abdul Mannan's first death anniversary today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The first death anniversary of Awami League leader Abdul Mannan, an organiser of the Liberation war and a close aide to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, will be observed here today.

To mark the day, Abdul Mannan Smriti Parishad will organise koran khani, milad mahfil and destitute feeding in Tangail. It will also hold a discussion meeting on Tangail Shaheed Minar premises tomorrow. Former minister and AL Presidium member Tofail Ahmed and Chittagonj City Corporation mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury will be attended the meeting, the organisers said.



Houses being built on silted up Naroshonda river (left) and makeshift shops and structures on a bridge on the rivers in Kishoreganj town.

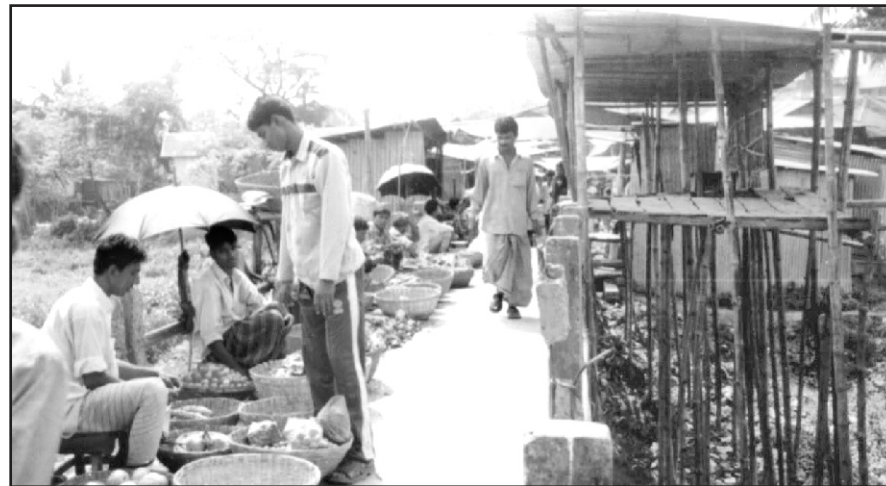


PHOTO: STAR

Boy, man hurt as bomb found in dustbin goes off

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A 12 year-old boy and a man were seriously injured when a bomb went off at Damurhuda Bazar in Damurhuda upazila in Chuadanga district yesterday.

Police later recovered two bombs from a dustbin.

Police said scavenger Beltu, 12, collected some iron chips and left over items including a small container wrapped with black tape from dustbins at the upazila headquarters.

He went to sell those at a shop at

Damurhuda Bazar at about 4.30 pm. When Beltu and shop owner Aziz, 30, tried to open the container, it exploded.

The explosion caused serious injuries in the right hand and the left leg of Beltu two eyes of Aziz.

They were taken to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital. Beltu's condition is critical, doctors there said when contacted over cell phone.

Damurhuda police, acting on information from Beltu, recovered two more bombs from a dustbin.

Lifeline of Kishoreganj being clogged to death

Agitation to save Naroshonda river falls on deaf ears

MOKLESUR RAHMAN LITON,
Kishoreganj

Once a lifeline, the Naroshonda river is now a sorrow for people in Kishoreganj town and nearby haor (waterbody) areas.

The lively river has turned into a narrow stream due to encroachment and deposit of silt.

The town now faces an environmental hazard as encroachers clogged the river flowing through it, seriously affecting the drainage system.

Depending on the river, Monipuri Ghat, Ekrampur, Akhrabazar, Awaraghat Gowranga Bazar, Baro Bazar, Puranthana Bazar and

Kachari Bazar areas in the town were once flourishing trade centres. Big boats could anchor there with merchandise from haor areas and also from Mymensingh. But those days are gone.

Originating from the Brahmaputra, Naroshonda falls into Ghorautra river.

It started drying up when a dam was built across the river at Kawna in Hossainpur upazila during Pakistan period despite protests by local people.

Different socio-cultural organisations held demonstrations in the town under the Naroshonda Bachao Karmoshuchi (save Naroshonda programme) to save the river from

encroachers.

They demanded re-excavation of the river, removal of all illegal structures on banks and stopping dumping of garbage. Human chains were formed, rallies held and sit-in programmes organised on several occasions with participation of all classes of people but the authorities including the municipalities remained unmoved.

Kishoreganj district is geographically divided into haor areas and plain lands. The Naroshonda links haor areas with plain lands. So ecological balance in the district depends on survival of the river, local people said.

8X3

3x2

5x2

10X3