

Outlaws close ranks, regroup in southwestern districts

Hold several meetings in last 20 days

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Four rival outlawed parties and groups in four southwestern districts have closed ranks and are regrouping, sources said.

Leaders of Biplobi Communist Party (BCP), Gono Bahini (GB), Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF) and recently floated Mukti Bahini led by notorious criminal Mukti, held several meetings in Kushtia and Chuadanga in last 20 days, intelligence sources said.

Outlaws belonging to the parties are active in Kushtia, Jhenidah, Chuadanga and Meherpur. Leaders from the four districts attended the meetings.

The meetings decided to sink differences on issues like supremacy in their respective areas, local leadership and toll collection.

This correspondent also contacted some leaders who talked from their hideouts. There is no 'war' between them now, they said.

Sources said, the first meeting was held at Udaypur village in Kushtia on July 30. Top leaders of outlawed parties attended the meeting. They included GB's second-in-command Mandar, BCP's Bakhtiar, GMF's Choto Mukul and Mukti chief of Mukti Bahini, the sources said.

A good number of regional leaders also took part in the meeting. They included Liton, Keramat and Chatur of GB; Kalimuddin and Mamtu of Mukti Bahini; Icha, Faraz, and Rofez of GMF and Ketu, Uzzal, Danesh and Biru of BCP.

Outlaws belonging to different parties usually had rivalry over toll collection from businessmen and rich farmers in the areas. They often clashed over establishing supremacy in the respective areas, which led to murders.

Some intelligence sources however claimed that they have sank differences and are trying to regroup to save themselves.

According to official sources, at least 150 outlaws including some 'regional leaders' were killed in 'crossfire' with police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in the four districts in three years since June 2004.

At least 500 cadres belonging to 14 outlawed parties are active in the southwestern region.

Police said they are aware of the meetings and have increased their vigilance in some areas of Sadr upazilas of in Kushtia and Jhenidah.

Police in a raid arrested two top cadres of outlawed GMF and BCP from Khezurtala village in Kushtia Sadar upazila on August 1.

The raid was done acting on a tip-off that some leaders of two former rival outlawed parties were holding a secret meeting there.

Later, the arrested cadres—Basir Ahmed and Zamarat Hossain—were killed in 'crossfire' on the same night after police took

them to Khejurtatala village to retrieve firearms.

In another incident, villagers caught GB cadre Abdul Kuddus of Kalicharanpur village in Jhenidah Sadar with a rifle and five bullets from a house at Jhodia village in Kushtia Sadar upazila when some outlaws were holding a meeting there on August 11. Three others managed to escape.

Kuddus is a close associate of most wanted of GB chief Azibor Rahman.

According to different law enforcing agencies, outlaws are trying to capture some water big bodies including Nandia, Uzangram and Chypaygachi in the districts. They earlier fled from the areas following tougher action by law enforcing agencies.

Pistol missing from mal khana, 2 cops held in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A deposited pistol and bullets have been lost from Sarail Police Station.

Two policemen were suspended and arrested while an arms case was filed against them here yesterday.

The arrestees are Sarail Police Station second officer sub-inspector (SI) Abu Bakar and constable Prodip Sutradhar, the then Munshi of the police station who was transferred to Jhenidah, police said.

Sources said, Sarail upazila Awami League (AL) vice-president Md Iqbal Azad, also a renowned businessman, in response to a government order, deposited his licensed 32 bore pistol along with 30 rounds of bullets to the on-duty police at Sarail Police Station on December 26, 2006. He also filed a general diary (GD) in this regard.

Later, Azad prayed to the police station to return his pistol and bullets. But, the on-duty police official told him they could not find his pistol in the 'Mal Khana' (Store House).

Then Azad submitted a prayer to the inspector general of police (IGP) on June 19, 2006 in this regard. At once, the IGP ordered Brahmanbaria superintendent of police (SP) to look into the matter for recovery of the arm and ammunition.

Following a primary investigation conducted by a probe body headed by Brahmanbaria additional SP, SI Abu Bakar and constable Prodip Sutradhar were found guilty. They were suspended and arrested while an arms case was filed against them. The police authorities are taking preparation to send the two to jail custody, police sources said.

Senior teacher alleges 'illegal' action by Ruet authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi



Dr M Yakub Hossain

(against the junior teacher) but was repeatedly ignored. I could not arrange the hearing without the complaint. For this, Ruet authorities blamed me for disobedience", Dr. Yakub said.

Meanwhile, the RU authorities rewarded the junior teacher by granting him education leave to go abroad.

Breaking norms of seniority and without issuing any notice, the Ruet authorities in January last year removed him from the post of chairman only a couple of months before completion of his two-year term and Dr Ruhul Amin was posted in his position, Dr. Yakub said.

He said he challenged Ruet decisions in High Court on February 5 last year. The HC stayed the Ruet decisions but it violated the court order, Dr. Yakub claimed.

"I sought a copy of the complaint

In May last year, the authorities asked for an explanation from him against some allegations. He said he replied but the 13th Syndicate meeting 'arbitrarily' blamed him for not even receiving the official letter, the senior teacher claimed.

Three days after suspension, the letter seeking explanation was withheld and new charges were leveled against me, Dr. Yakub said. "I replied again in time", he said.

"But the authorities informed the Syndicate only about the allegations against me, not my replies. I was put on forced retirement at the 19th Syndicate meeting".

Two Ruet Syndicate members—RU vice-chancellor Prof Dr M Allaf Hossain and Prof Dr M Shaif Uddin Mia, dean of civil engineering at Ruetgave notes of descent against the decision, saying service rules were not followed in the decisions, he claimed.

Ruet vice-chancellor Prof Dr AFM Anowarul Haque declined to talk to newsmen on the matter.

Ruet public relations officer Golam Mortuja in an email to newsmen said the decision against Dr Yakub was taken in a proper way following allegations against him.

But Golam Mortuja did not elaborate the allegations. In the email he termed Yakub's press conference seeking justice a 'bid to create anarchy at Ruet'.

Indo-Bangla land survey ends in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A joint Indo-Bangla team of land record and survey concluded their visit to Shyamnagar border here yesterday.

The Indian land record and survey team consisted of five members. Land record and survey department officials of Bangladesh accompanied the Indian team, sources said.

During their visit, they saw the standard of border demarcation pillar at Bhetkhali, a border village in Shyamnagar upazila.

Later, they met the officials of Bangladesh team at Kaliganj upazila auditorium in the afternoon where they discussed ways to make the survey a success.

Mahfuzur Rahman, Director General (DG) of Bangladesh Land Records and Survey Department led the Bangladesh side. Other members are Khulna zonal settlement officer Abdur Rab and Satkhira ADC (Revenue) Mahmud Hasan.

Director General (DG) GK Rath of West Bengal Land Record and Survey Department led the Indian side. The Indian team left for India.

On contact, Satkhira ADC (Revenue) Mahmud Hasan said it was a routine visit of the Indian team. They came to observe the border pillars, he said.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Sammilito Sanskritik Jote distributing relief among flood victims in Savar yesterday.

ACC probes assets of Khaleda's advisor in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) in Brahmanbaria has started investigating into assets of former lawmaker and BNP chief Khaleda Zia's advisor Mushfiqur Rahman and three party men.

The three others are Akhaura upazila BNP organising secretary Abul Mansur, Arif Hossain and Kasba upazila JCD president Kamal Uddin. ACC sources said they have started the probe following an order from the head office in Dhaka. They said there are several complains against the BNP leaders that they amassed wealth during alliance government rule by misusing power.

Other sources claimed that Mushfiqur Rahman along with his family flew to Canada after takeover by the caretaker government. He is yet to return home.

The source said that the leaders maintained some separate files called 'tadbir files' and earned money by lobbying for promotion, jobs and other official work in different government offices during the tenure of the former government.

Abul Mansur Mishan, Arife

Hasan and Kamal Uddin worked for the former lawmaker in such matters, the sources claimed.

Mushfiqur Rahman faces four extortion cases filed in last few months, police said.

On be half of 500 landless fishermen three persons — filed four extortion cases in the court against ex-MP of BNP Mushfiqur Rahman and his 12 supporters and 20 to 25 unnamed supporters.

The cases were filed by Satchu Mia, Mizanur Rahman and Abdur Rauf according to officers-in-charge of Koshba and Akhaura police stations AHM Enayet Uddin and Md. Shahjahan Kabir respectively.

When contacted, ACC Assistant Director in Brahmanbaria Shahinara Mamta said the ACC head office in Dhaka ordered the local office to investigate moveable and immovable properties of the four BNP leaders including former lawmaker Mushfiqur Rahman.

She said the probe will be completed in 10-12 days and a report will be submitted.

BAU founding day observed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The 47th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) in Mymensingh was observed in yesterday through different programmes.

The programmes included a colourful rally on BAU campus attended by teachers, students, officials and employees and other socio-cultural organisations, children's painting and essay competition, blood donation organised by Bhadan, tree plantation and releasing fish fry and special prayers. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Musharrif Hossain Mian inaugurated the programme in the morning.

Speaking at different programmes the VC said the university has produced thousands of Science graduates in last 47 years, who are serving the country.

For its excellence in producing Agri-scientists, BAU is regarded as one of the best technical institutions in Asia, he said.

The BAU authorities also distributed relief materials among flood victims.

Some 4800 students including 900 female ones and 26 overseas students study in six faculties of the university.

Land grabber Mukrarram remanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Alleged land grabber Mukrarram Hossain Daradi alias Mega Mukarram, owner of Mega Fisheries in Bhaluka, was placed on three day's remand yesterday.

He was produced before court of a first class magistrate Shefali Begum in Mymensingh.

Police said he will be taken to Bhaluka police station for interrogation.

Mukarram Hossain was arrested on Wednesday.

Mukarram Hossain leased 155 acres of water body in different areas of Bhaluka including Bhaluka municipality for 10 years in 2006 for fish cultivation. But he started to fill the land in March to start a real estate business this year. He filled up three acres of water body.

5.5X2

14X3

3X3



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Many areas of Sirajganj town were inundated afresh as the Jamuna water level rose in last two days.