

# Police, Rab launch drive as outlaws threaten to 'avenge'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) have started a special drive in the four districts on Monday night while all police stations and outposts in southwestern Chuadanga, Kushtia, Meherpur and Jhenidah districts have been alerted following threat by outlawed Purbo Bangla Communist Party (PBPC-ML).

On Saturday, PBPC-ML set posters and distributed leaflets in Chuadanga, vowing to 'avenge the killing' of the outfit's founder Mofakhhkar Hossain alias Mahmud Hasan.

Mofakhhkar, a top outlawed political think-tank, was killed in 'crossfire' with Rab on December 17, 2004 in Kushtia.

Chuadanga police filed a case against four people including Chuadanga Pouro BNP president, also former Chuadanga municipality chairman Ohidul Islam Biswas, for their alleged involvement with the PBPC's 'avenge campaign'.

The others included in the case are top PBPC leader Jamal Uddin, BNP activist Akram Kazi and Iqbal Hossain.

Iqbal was arrested on Saturday

night when he was pasting posters and distributing leaflets in different areas of Chuadanga town. Police also recovered 41 posters from his possession.

During interrogation by police, Iqbal, an MLSS of Chuadanga district cooperative office, admitted his involvement with PBPC and gave important information about the outfit's recent 'Action Plan' for subservient activities before the Eid.

Sources said PBPC's 'Action Plan' includes killing of 'social enemies' and bombing in different areas of Khulna Division.

Iqbal also named BNP leader Ohidul Islam Biswas and PBPC leader Jamal Uddin as his instructors to paste postures and distribute leaflets.

Ohidul Biswas, brother of former BNP leader Iawmaka from Chuadanga-2 (Alamganga), left the district on January 20 this year, police said.

Ohidul, one of the Chuadanga district political leaders who are on the list of 'patrons of criminals' made by law enforcement agencies in 2004, is also a close aid of detained outlawed party leader Sirajul Islam alias Kosai Siraj, sources said.

An inter-district drive to nab the

criminals have already launched, Kushtia Superintendent of Police Mosleh Uddin Ahmed said.

"None will be spared if proved to be involved with acting against the law and order," Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of police of Khulna M Asaduzzaman told this correspondent over phone yesterday.

A total of 462 crossfire killings took place in ten districts of southwestern region since the start of the 'extra judicial killings' in June 2004. Of them around 200 were men from outlawed PBPC-ML and their faction Janajuddin.

Meanwhile, all types of crimes recently marked decline in ten southwestern districts - Meherpur, Bagerhat, Magura, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Jhenidah, Narail, Jessore, Khulna and Satkhira, according to law enforcement agencies and newspaper reports.

In November, 14 people were murdered in the ten districts while at least 40 murders took place in October and 43 in September. Four murders took place in the region during the first 16 days of this month.

Crimes like abduction, robbery, bombing, mugging and rape also declined.

'Another factor which contrib-

## LACK OF BUYERS Dull trading in Tangail cattle markets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Trading in cattle markets here is yet to gain momentum due to lack of buyers.

Although sacrificial animals have started coming to different markets but those are dearer in comparison with that of last year. As a result, purchase of sacrificial animals is not worth mentioning.

Cattle traders have claimed that prices of sacrificial animals increased this year due to short supply of animals, price-hikes of cattle-feed and other essentials. Besides, high transport cost has also attributed to its last year, they said.

They also apprehended that the cattle markets might not buzz with activities like that of previous years.

However, cattle traders did not complain about extortion at the market or on the way this year.

Major cattle markets are situated in Govindashi and Shikhlai in Bhupur, Deolee and Rupshi in Delduar; Soya and Elenga in Kalihati; Karatia, Jugni and Ainapur in Sadar; Deohata in Mirzapur and Baby Stand in Tangail town.

This correspondent visited several cattle markets in the districts including Govindashi and Karatia recently.

While talking to this correspondent at Govindashi cattle market in Bhupur cattle trader Ruhul Amin of Sirajganj said cattle prices might soar as their supply is insufficient due to tight security measures taken on the Indian borders this year.

'Another factor which contrib-

uted to price-hike of sacrificial animals is rise in price of cattle feed,' he said.

Prices of sacrificial animals increased by 35 percent this year in comparison with that of last year, said Nurul Amin and Anwar Hossain Talukdar, leaseholders of Karatia cattle market in Tangail.

This year, price of a big size cow increased on an average from Tk 20,000 to 25,000; price of a middle size cow increased from Tk 10,000 to 10,000; and price of a small size cow increased from Tk 3,000 to 5,000 in comparison with that of last year, they said.

Many people could not rear animals this year due to price-hike of cattle feed this year, they said.

Cattle trader Joinal Abedin at Karatia market said a cow of Tk 20,000 this year was sold at Tk 15,000 last year.

Many of them are unable to recover the rearing cost, he claimed.

Abul Hossain at Kakutia village in Tangail Sadar upazila came to Karatia animal market to sell his two cows (per cow of about two maunds). He is demanding Tk 15,000 for each cow which he sold at Tk 10,000 last year, he said.

Mosharaf Hossain of Adalat Para in Tangail town came to Baby Stand cattle market yesterday to buy a sacrificial animal. But Mosharaf returned home empty-handed.

Members of the middle class community are the worst sufferers this year, he said.



JOY OF FISHING IN WINTER: With receding water in a water body beside Rajshahi-Dhaka highway in Puthia upazila, villagers queue up with polo as they prepare to catch fish.

## RESULT DEBACLE

# Affiliation of 10 Gaibandha madrasas cancelled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Affiliation of ten madrasas in Gaibandha has been cancelled as those institutions suffered result debacle for several consecutive years.

Five-four madrasas in Rajshahi division have also faced the same fate.

No student of 165 dakhil madrasas all over the country came out successful in Dakhil examination (equivalent to SSC) in

2007. Results of those institutions in the past years were not satisfactory too, education department sources said.

Madrasa education board and concerned departments asked the superintendents of 113 such madrasas to explain the reason of their result debacle.

Quite a few of the institutions did not make any reply while the replies from the others were considered 'not satisfactory' and consequently, the authorities cancelled affiliation of all the 113 institutions.

Ten such madrasas in Gaibandha district are Khatiamari Dakhil madrasa, Samujpara Dakhil Madrasa, Kurniradanga Dakhil Mohila Madrasa, Kazla Dakhil Madrasa, Gobindagnaj Dakhil Madrasa, Zohora Adam Dakhil Madrasa, Nayapur Dakhil Madrasa, Sreepur Dakhil Madrasa and Belka Bepipara Dakhil Madrasa.

## Mayor Tayebur produced before court in 2 cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Detained Khulna mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman was produced before the Court of Khulna District and Sessions Judge Monday in two cases for keeping arms and liquor. Police submitted separate charge

sheets in the cases on November 25. Charges of these cases will be framed against him on January 2 in the same court, said Public Prosecutor advocate Mina Mizanur Rahman.

The two cases were filed on November 4 as arms and liquor were found in the mayor's Khulna residence on November 3.

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