

Outlaws regroup in SW dists with 7-point plan

Plan includes bomb attack on law enforcers, extortion and recruiting new cadres

AMANUR AMAN, Kishitia

Outlawed parties in the country's southwestern region are regrouping with a seven-point programme to retaliate action by law enforcers and increase their strength.

Leaders of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML), the oldest and most powerful outlawed party, announced the programme at a meeting of the parties held in Jhenidah late last month, according to sources. The called for unity of all outlawed parties to launch 'action programme' immediately.

The programme includes bomb attack on law enforcers, educational institutions, passenger transports and important places in ten districts of the region, realisation of toll from businessmen, distribution of leaflets, recruiting new cadres, 'removing class enemies' and to average killing of party cadres in 'crossfire'.

In last one week outlaws blasted nine bombs, killed 10 people and demanded toll from many businessmen and in the area.

A high police official was also threatened with death for his

actions against outlaws, the sources claimed.

The police official is under security blanket, the sources said declining to elaborate.

The latest killing took place in Meherpur Sadar upazila on Saturday last in which Janajuddho, one of the factions of PBCP-ML, slaughtered one its rival party cadres at Shailmar village for allegedly betraying with the party.

The latest bomb blast took place at Badarganj village in Chuadanga Sadar upazila on Wednesday in which two Madrasa teachers and a businessman were injured. One Rajib, introducing himself as a Janajuddho leader, claimed responsibility for the bomb attack.

Some businessmen in the region seeking anonymity told this correspondent that outlaws were demanding toll from them over phone or sending 'slips'. Some of them negotiated by paying money.

Some sources including intelligence personnel said the latest programme of outlawed parties, particularly in southwestern region, is a desperate move to save themselves after drives launched

by law enforcers.

In a faxed message sent to Khulna Press Club and to some journalists last week, PBCP leaders said they want to recover their 'lost glory of struggle to establish a classless society'.

At least 483 alleged outlaws and criminals were killed in the 10 districts in 'crossfire' with police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) since June 2004. Those killed included some top leaders and important cadres.

The parties are now recruiting cadres. Outlawed parties are also distributing leaflets calling upon people to support them to establish a 'socialist state'.

On January 19, police arrested a PBCP-ML cadre in Chuadanga with posters. On January 22, PBCP distributed leaflets in several areas in Jessore, Meherpur and Jhenidah. Earlier, on December 15, police arrested a government employee while he was pasting PBCP posters in Chuadanga.

They are also holding secret meetings.

At these meetings, the leaders advise their cadres to save their life,

even by joining hands with political parties.

According to the sources, a good number of outlaws have joined Awami League, BNP and Jamaat-Islami in the region and they are working with political parties as their activists.

High police officials also said use of outlaws during election in southwestern region is an old practice.

Outlaws' activities declined in the later part of last year but increased since January.

A high police official in Khulna, when contacted, however claimed that outlawed parties do not have strength to their activities in a big way as their backbone has been broken.

At least 13 outlawed parties with about 5,000 cadres are active in the region and their cadres have several thousand firearms in their possession. The parties are four factions of PBCP-ML, Gono Bahini (GB), Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF), Banglar Communist Party, Socialist Party (SP), Piplobi Anuragi, Chinnamu Communist Party (CCP) and Sharbahara People's March.

31 extremists, listed criminals held in Khulna in 22 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Thirty-one extremists and listed terrorists were arrested from nine upazilas of Khulna district in combing operations from February 5 to February 27, Police Superintendent Belalur Rahman has said.

Besides, 32 illegal firearms and 140 bullets were recovered during the period, he told a press conference at his office here yesterday.

The police superintendent while admitting to rise of extremists in the district after long time said special combing operations is going on to 'crush them at any cost to ensure law and order'.

He said crimes rose due to unemployment problem caused mainly by last year's devastating floods and cyclone Sidr.

He however claimed that the situation will improve following he drives. Apart from law enforcing works, Khulna district police distributed cash money and relief goods among Sidr-hit people in Bagerhat district on humanitarian ground, he said.

He said that 16,000 members of community policing committees in the district have been linked with police to help maintain law and order. This will improve the situation.



Maize fields have turned Jamuna shoals into vast greenery. The photo was taken from Gabsara in Bhuapur upazila.

Sandy Jamuna shoals turn greens

Farmers eye good profit from rabi crops under army-assisted project

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A massive agriculture rehabilitation programme is going on in Jamuna shoals in Gabsara, Aurjuna and Nikrail unions under Bhuapur upazila in the district under which farmers under supervision of army are raising rabi cash crops on hitherto uncultivated sandy lands.

The programme has raised hopes among farmers who lose crops almost in every wet season.

It is a different scene now with hundreds of acres on sandy Jamuna shoals full of greens and alive with people working in fields.

The 12 Lancer Battalion of 19 Padatik Division and 98 Composite Brigade from Saheed Salahuddin Cantonment in Ghatail, Upazila Agriculture Extension Department and Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) are implementing the programme.

Farmers have grown rabi crops including maize, mustard, wheat, different varieties of pulse, china nut, sugarcane, potato, sweet potato, chili, onion, garlic and vegetables in the current season.

Bhuapur upazila AED sources said.

Among the greens, hybrid maize on about 110 acres in Chandipur, Rehai Gabsara, Rulipara and Kalipur in Gabsara unions will easily draw anybody's attention.

The army with help of agriculture officials supply insecticides and provide irrigation to the lands, cultivated by farmers' cooperatives.

With the crop in shoals, lands under maize cultivation increased to about 1,400 acres this year from last year's 270 acres in the upazila, AED source told this correspondent during a recent visit.

Besides, there are China Nut on 3600 acres, wheat on 2196, mustard on 1593, sweet potato on 1679, potato on 719, sugarcane on 430, winter vegetables on 961, pulse (khesari kalia) on 4100, mash kalia on 2952, mashur on 1366, chili on 976, onion 818, garlic on 810, ginger 18, turmeric on 40 and sweet coriander on 185 acres.

Commanding Officer of 98 Composite Brigade Brig Gen Nasimul Gani, Lt Col Shakil Ahmed Biswas, Maj Sirajul Islam and Tangail AED Deputy Director

Mohammad Hakim Uddin visited the lands recently.

Abdul Latif, a farmer of Chandipur village and general secretary of the newly formed farmers' committee, said over 100 maunds of maize worth about Tk 60,000 at current market price may be produced per acre if there is no natural calamity.

President of the farmers' committee Nurul Islam said, "The (maize) yield per acre may be three times the quantity normally grown".

Abdul Mannan, sub-assistant agriculture officer in Bhuapur, said they are providing all technical support and advice to farmers.

Only hybrid maize cultivation can make shoal farmers self-reliant by recovering the losses, he added. Maj Asif Iqbal, responsible for hybrid maize cultivation project, told The Daily Star that it is possible to change the lot of poor farmers with a little effort if they can be organized.

The project was taken up on the directive of GOC of 19 Padatik Division Maj Gen AKM Mujahiduddin, he added.

Pichchi Hannan's close aide held in Chandpur

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

An alleged associate of top listed terror Pichchi Hannan was arrested Sunday night from Nayahat Bazar in Faridganj upazila of the district, police said yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by OC Belal Chowdhury of Faridganj police station arrested Mohammad Badsha, 45, when he was going to his village home from Comilla. He hails from Govindapur village in the upazila. Her had long been evading arrest under a fake name, police said.

He faces four murder cases and three others for hijacking and kidnapping, lodged with Tejgaon and Ramna police stations in Dhaka, police said. There are seven warrants of arrests against him.

Badsha was sent to Chandpur yesterday and will be sent to Tajgaon police, OC Belal said.

WITHDRAWAL OF SCC CEO Special meeting on April 3, letters sent to high-ups

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A special meeting of ward commissioners has been called on April 3 to press immediate withdrawal of chief executive officer (CEO) of Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) Kazi Abdul Noor.

SCC acting mayor Azam Khan has brought the matter to the notice of secretary of LGRD division. Besides, copies of the notice have also been sent to the establishment secretary and the chief advisor's office, sources said yesterday.

Twenty-nine ward commissioners earlier brought serious charges of corruption and irregularities against CEO and expressed 'no confidence' against him.

Two weeks ago, they also demanded immediate steps against the CEO, a BCS (Admin) cadre official sent to SCC on deputation.

The commissioners also submitted a memorandum to the acting mayor for withdrawal of the official.

Small factories in Rajshahi to remain shut on Sundays

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

All small industries and factories in Rajshahi region have been asked to keep shutters down on Sundays to save power for its supply for Boro irrigation.

Rajshahi divisional Power Development Board (PDB) yesterday circulated a notice in this regard.

The notice said, all small industries and factories will remain closed on Sundays.

Shops will be closed after 8 pm and welding factories at 5 pm everyday, the notice said.

Decision for Rangpur University hailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Different socio-cultural organisations of Rangpur hailed the caretaker government for amending Rangpur University Ordinance to set up a separate public university.

As per the ordinance promulgated during the previous BNP-led government, Carmichael University College was to be upgraded into a full-fledged university.

The council of advisers in a meeting on Sunday amended the ordinance to set up a separate public university at Rangpur.

"We thank the government for taking the decision at the right time but we also request them to requisite land and prepare a project for the proposed university immediately," Rangpur Nagorik Committee convener Mohammad

Afzal said.

Despite declaration by the earlier government, proposed university at Rangpur was not set up. Mukul Mostafiz and Akbar Hosen, president and secretary of Shushashoner Jonney Nagorik Rangpur district unit, said in a joint statement.

People want to see that the caretaker government takes practical steps to set up a university in Rangpur, they said.

President of Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mostafa Azad Choudhury, senior vice-president Mohammed Jahangir, vice president Mostafa Ahmed, executive member Moazzem Hosen Lablu hailed the government for taking initiative to set up an autonomous university in Rangpur.

No ad hoc appointment since my takeover: RU VC

RU CHANCELLOR

Rajshahi University (RU) Vice Chancellor Prof Altaf Hossain yesterday said the RU authorities closed all the ad hoc and daily basis appointments in the university after the present administration took charge.

RU authorities have stopped lobbying for recruitment, the RU vice chancellor said at a view exchange meeting with the journalists working on RU campus.

RU Public Relation director Shafi Uddin Ahmed read out a statement on behalf of the vice chancellor at the view exchange meeting at the latter's residence.

The RU authorities formed a powerful audit cell for establishing a financial discipline in the university. Prof Altaf said, adding that the RU authorities has taken initiative to collect money from the teachers who stayed abroad for longer periods violating university job rules.

The university authorities have also taken steps for creating new resources to increase their own income sources, he said.

Most of the departments are now free from session jans, examinations are taken in scheduled time and results are published in time, he said.

During the view exchange meeting, Prof Altaf Hossain also presented the achievement on sports, cultural activities and education and research during his tenure.

Urging journalists to publish positive and authentic report on the university, the vice chancellor said all the departments and section offices of the university will be instructed to provide required information to newsmen.

Meanwhile, controversially appointed fourth class employees of RU protested the vice chancellor's remark on their appointment and demanded immediate regularisation of their jobs.



Illegal teak being rowed through Shankha River at Thansi in Bandarban ignoring a ban on transportation of timber from Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Correct info in draft voter list by tomorrow EC deadline in SCC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Election Commission (EC) authorities will receive applications for correction, addition or omission in the draft voter list of Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) till tomorrow.

All necessary official formalities for correcting the draft list is likely to be completed by March 16, official sources said.

EC published the draft list on February 18.

The number of voters stood at 2,54,000 this time against 1,82,000 of 2003 when the first city corporation election was held, said Sylhet divisional deputy election com-

missioner Khondaker Mizanur Rahman.

Voters have been asked to correct faults and mistakes, if any, in the draft list. They may send objections, correction and omission by March 5. The list will be finalised on March 24, Mizanur Rahman said.

The deputy election commissioner of Sylhet and additional deputy commissioner (general) will look into the disputes and do the corrections in the list. They will complete the work by March 16.

Right plan can prevent Jamuna erosion

FOREIGN SPECIALISTS SAY

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

River specialists from Netherlands yesterday urged starting work with right and specific plan to prevent erosion by Jamuna River that changes its course frequently.

If proper plan is taken to prevent erosion and mitigate the sufferings of the affected people, financial and technical support will be provided, said Dutch Water Board Director General Bert Keijts, World Bank (WB) Country Director Xian Zhu and Asian Development Bank (ADB) Country Director Hua Du.

A ten-member river specialists' team led by Bert Keijts and the WB and ADB representatives were talking to journalists during their visit to erosion-affected areas in Sirajganj town yesterday.

Bangladesh Water Development Board Chief Engineer Habibur Rahman, Executive Engineer of Sirajganj Water Development Board (WDB) Nizamul Haque Bhuiyan and other officials accompanied them.

WDB officials apprised the visitors of the present situation of river erosion in the district. Later the team visited different erosion affected areas in Bogra and Gaibandha districts.

TENDER SHARING BID 43 contractors held in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Netrakona Sadar police arrested 43 contractors including first class contractor Kamrul Islam Khan, Netrakona poura commissioner Amir Basher, pourasava employees Al-Mamun and Kamrul on Sunday night for violation of emergency power rules.

The arrested people had arranged a gathering at the office of 'Durber Gosthi' in Netrakona town about submitting tender of Netrakona pourasava, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Netrakona Police Station Manjur Kader said.

Tipped off, police rushed to the spot and arrested them as their act was in violation of emergency power rule, the OC said.

A case was filed with Netrakona Police Station under emergency power rule accusing the 43 people.

Police yesterday produced them before Netrakona Judicial Magistrate's Court and the court sent them to Netrakona jail, rejecting their bail petition.

Advertisement for Chittagong University (চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়) recruitment. It includes a table of positions and salaries, and detailed instructions for candidates regarding application procedures, fees, and exam details.