

# No let-up in outlaws' bomb attacks in Jhenidah

21 incidents in six months, 28 injured: Police neglect alleged

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Despite drives by police, joint forces and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), there is no let up in bomb attacks and other crimes in Jhenidah, mainly by outlaws.

At least 21 incidents of bomb attacks took place in the outlaw infested district in last six months, injuring at least 28 people.

Most of the victims were businessmen and well to do farmers. The victims also included political leaders, teachers, lawyers and other professionals.

The latest victim, farmer Kasim Mondol of Pabahati village in Sadar upazila, is now fighting for life at Jhenidah Sadar Hospital. A bomb explosion blew off his left hand and critically injured both eyes, hospital sources said.

Most of the attacks were made for denial in toll payment to outlaws, Jhenidah Police Superintendent Jahangir Hossain Matabbar said while talking to this correspondent yesterday.

Allegations have it that a section of policemen in the district maintain links with the outlaws either out of fear or for share of the toll money.

The police superintendent however refuted the allegations and said he has no such report. Stern action will be taken if any policemen is found involved with outlaws, he said.

"Jhenidah is an outlaw infested area and it is not easy to root out criminals overnight", he said.

"We are trying to arrest the criminals", he added.

Six alleged outlaws were arrested and a hardened criminal Raju was killed in encounter with police in last two months, the police superintendent said.

According to police and intelligence agencies and newspaper reports, at least 21 bomb attacks took place in Jhenidah till yesterday since November last year.

This correspondent also talked to some people who got cell phone calls from outlaws. They said the outlaws demand toll and threaten them with

death or abduction for non-compliance. The phone call receivers seldom inform police fearing retaliation and often negotiate with outlaws for their safety, they said.

Chaatra League leader Mahub Alam, former vice-president of KC College Students Union, and teacher Rabiul Islam of Mallik Shahidul Islam Technical College were injured in bomb attacks on On November 18 last year.

Doctor Younus Ali of Ghoshpara village in Sadar upazila was critically injured in a bomb attack on December 12 last year.

Five farmers—Kawsar Biswas, Zaur Rahman, Abu Taleb, Rabiul Islam and Attar Rahman of Durgapur village were injured in bomb attacks by terrorists on December 26.

On January 26 this year, Dablu, body guard of former lawmaker Moshir Rahman, was injured when a bomb was hurled on him while he was taking tea at a tea stall in the town.

On February 10 terrorists hurled three bombs on Raj Motors, a shop

in the town. Its owner Abdur Razzak, organising secretary of district bus owners association and his two sons—Alkamgir Hossain and Jahangir Hossain and another person were injured in the attacks.

On February 12, three powerful bombs exploded at a brick field at Kurmabania village in Sadar upazila as its owner did not fulfill the criminals' demand.

On March 4, terrorists hurled bombs on the house of NGO director Harun-or-Rashid and his filling station in the town. The filling station came under bomb attacks also on March 26 and April 23, injuring three employees and damaging equipment.

Another filling station owned by Awami League leader Nayeb Ali Joarder at Garagonj bazaar in Shaikupa came under bomb attack on March 6. Some machines there were damaged.

On April 27, four bombs were hurled on Barsha filling station in the town. Khabir, a worker was injured.

## Bomb blows away farmer's hand in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A farmer's hand was blown away and his two eyes were damaged in a bomb explosion in Jhenidah yesterday. He also suffered injuries in other parts of his body.

The incident took place on the bank of Nabaganga river while he was preparing a seed bed.

Informed, police recovered another abandoned bomb from the spot.

The injured farmer was identified as Kasim Mondal, 45, of Pabahati area of Jhenidah town.

Police and locals said, Kasim Mondal was preparing a seed bed near the river. A bomb exploded when he dug the soil with his spade.

The bomb blew away his left hand and damaged both his eyes.

He was rushed to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital. Doctors there said yesterday evening that his condition was critical.

This was the second such incident in two days.



SWEET ABODE FOR FISH EATING BIRDS: A swarm of cranes through the bank of Padma River at Sreerampur on the outskirts of Rajshahi city.

## Govt orders strong vigil against rice smuggling

Letters sent to officials in 16 northern dists, BDR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The government has asked all law enforcement agencies and the civil administration in 16 northern districts, the main rice producing region, to maintain vigil against smuggling of Boro paddy and rice.

In a same letter forwarded to different offices in northern districts, all concerned were asked for surveillance so that traders can not smuggle the newly harvested paddy through the borders.

Copies of the letter were sent to district and upazila administrations, police stations, Bangladesh Rifles and agriculture offices. The letter ordered 'strong surveillance' in upazilas bordering India.

Talking to this correspondent, deputy commissioners of three districts, police superintendents and several upazila agriculture officers confirmed receipt of letters.

Unwilling to be quoted, they said the government sent the alarm following an intelligence report.

"An intelligence agency got information that some Indian traders employed agents among local businessmen for purchasing paddy and rice. The agents might try to smuggle out those to India", said a deputy commissioner.

"We never heard that paddy and rice were smuggled to India. But this season, there is chance following rice price hike and its crisis in many other countries", said a BDR official seeking anonymity.

Northern districts supply the country's one-third annual demand for rice. The government as well as farmers are keen to preserve the bumper Boro yield after harvest as the country still faces food deficit, the officials said.

## Fishing ban in Kaptai Lake from May 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The district administration has put a ban on catching all kinds of fishes in Kaptai Lake for an indefinite period from May 1.

The ban, which will be applicable for fishermen as well as common people, will include netting, marketing, preservation, drying and transportation of fishes, district administration sources said.

The fishermen have been instructed to transport their dried fishes from Rangamati to other destinations by May 3.

As per the instruction, Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation will take legal action against violators of the order.

The order instructed people not to catch fishes from three sanctuaries in front of BFDC landing ghat, DC Bungalow, Parjatan areas and in front of UNO office at Longudu for all the year round.

Every year during the breeding season, district administration imposes ban on fishing in Kaptai Lake for three months to help boost fish resources in the lake.

## RU BCL rally demands Hasina's release

RU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Rajshahi University yesterday staged demonstration on the campus demanding immediate release of Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina for the sake of establishing democracy in the country.

The BCL RU unit leaders also demanded release of other AL central leaders and BCL leaders.

They also demanded immediate lifting of the state of emergency and trial of the war criminals by special tribunal.

BCL RU also formed a human chain in front of the Central Library to press home the demand.

Later at a rally, BCL leaders urged the government to withdraw all cases against Hasina and send her abroad for treatment.

BCL leaders also demanded security of female students and teachers on the campus, initiative to hold Rajshahi University Central Students Union (RUCSU) election, withdrawal of restriction on cultural programmes on RU campus, and immediate ban on political activities of Jamaat-Shibir.



Army chief Gen Moeen U Ahmed yesterday distributing relief among the villagers affected during the arson at Baghaichhari-Sajek in Khagrachhari district on April 20 (story on page 1).

## Noted Islamic scholar laid to rest in Jhalakathi

OUR CORRESPONDENTS, Barisal

Azizur Rahman Nesarabadi alias Qayed Saheb Hujur, an eminent Islamic scholar, was laid to rest yesterday amid mourning by thousands of his followers.

He died at Comfort Hospital in Dhaka at Monday morning.

Qayed Saheb Hujur was born in 1911 at Basanda village in Jhalakathi. He is survived by his wife, only son and three daughters.

The body was brought to Basanda Nesaria Islami Complex in Jhalakathi yesterday morning. Hearing the news, thousands of people rushed there.

His namaj-e-janaja was held there after Jorhi prayer. His son Mawlana Khalilur Rahman, principal of the madrasa, led the prayer. Awami League Presidium member Amir Hossain Amu, Pir Sahebs of Charmonai, Mokamia and Fultali and leaders of different political and religious organisations took part in the janaja.

After janaja, the body was laid to rest at the graveyard on Basanda Nesaria Islami Complex premises.

## 10 to die for murder in Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Bagerhat District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday sentenced 10 people to death for killing a man in 2003.

The convicts are Idris Sheikh, Shajahan Howlader, Anis Howlader, Farukh Alias Lutfor, Majnu Howlader, Duylal, Kalu Sarder, Harun Sheikh, Mozzem Hossaina and Shahid Malongi.

The prosecution story in brief is that the accused killed Tapan Bhattacharjee and gang-raped three women of the family on March 9 in 2003 at Komorpur village of Jatrapur union under Bagerhat Sadar upazila.

They had raided the house to murder its owner fish trader Niranjan Bhatta-Charjee but failing get him there they killed Tapan and raped three women of the family.

Four of the ten death penalty awardees were tried in absentia.

The judge acquitted 12 other accused as allegation against them could not be proved.

## 12 get life for murder in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Additional District and Sessions Judge's court here yesterday gave life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) to 12 people and fined Tk 20,000 each, in default to suffer 6 months' more RI in a murder case.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Nazir Ahmed also handed down three years' RI to three other accused in the same case.

The twelve convicts who got life term are Shudhansu Sarkar, Gouchandra Sarkar, Ranjan Sarkar, Sreepoti Sarkar, Santiram Sarkar, Gopal Sarkar, Makhon Sarkar, Girish Sarkar, Bibhuti Mondal, Ashutosh Mondal, Sonnasi Mondal and Harasit Boiragi while the 3 years RI receivers are Goutam Chandra, Khirud Sarkar and Bidyut Sarkar.

According to the prosecution in brief, in a sequel to the previous enmity, Somoren Chandra of Hulinar village in Magura Sadar

## Reformed AL, BNP best defence

FROM PAGE 1

credible steps ahead of the December 2008 general elections to restore democracy in Bangladesh.

"If the government cannot bring the parties on board, it would carry the immediate risk of violent clashes and also increase the advantage militant Islamists are already quietly taking from the situation," says Robert Templar, Crisis Group's Asia Programme director.

The report titled 'Restoring Democracy in Bangladesh' notes, "The suspension of democratic functioning, the arbitrary and political nature of the anti-corruption drive and the military's intentions to embed itself into the country's political process threaten to create many more problems than they solve."

The report released Monday says that the army-backed caretaker government came to power "in reaction to fifteen years of mismanagement and corruption by both Awami League and BNP-led governments". The government's "desire to reform the political parties, stamp out corruption and end undue political interference in the military is understandable, but the motives for military rule go further."

It adds, "The military (backed) government has been unable to advance reforms within the parties and is causing the economy to slow. The country's foreign supporters have done little to walk the military back from its failing agenda."

Stressing importance on reforming the political parties, the Crisis Group says that a return to democracy may not be so easy this time.

"Both the Awami League and BNP the two parties most likely to lead the next government, have shown little in the way of readiness to initiate internal reforms necessary to sustain democracy in the long run. The longer the parties resist this reality, the longer the military will continue to justify its role in politics," said the report.

In its report the International Crisis Group examines developments since this government took over in January, 2007 and looks at prospects for new elections. Although the caretaker government insists its plans to stamp out corruption and hold general elections by December are on track, its achievements have been patchy.

"Even if elections are held on schedule, there is no guarantee

reforms will be sustainable," says Michael Shaikh, Crisis Group's Asia Advocacy and Research Analyst. "But, if they are delayed, the risk of confrontation between the parties and the army-backed government will only grow."

The report states: On January 11, 2007, Bangladesh's military installed a caretaker government, which used emergency powers to clamp down on violence in the run-up to bitterly contested elections. Ex-prime minister Khaleda Zia's BNP had attempted to rig the polls, prompting the opposition Awami League to launch street protests. The caretaker government ended violence and raised hopes of political change, promising to tackle nepotism, infighting and corruption, which has included the jailing of the leaders of the two main political parties.

"There is an immediate need for dialogue between the government and the main parties. Any viable roadmap for elections has to be agreed by all major actors. The first step must be to address mistrust between the two sides, as well as the acrimonious relations between the Awami League and BNP. Ideally, a new consensus would not only cover how to hold elections but also develop commitments on post-election behaviour and democratic functioning such as addressing human rights abuses committed during the emergency in which over 400,000 arrests may have been made."

"International actors who have too placidly accepted the government's rationale and supported its agenda should recognise that the priority is to maintain pressure for timely and credible elections. They should also be prepared to act as a possible guarantor to facilitate a delicate transfer of power and to support a longer-term programme of sustainable reforms to put the country's democracy back on track."

Regarding growth of militant groups, the watchdog says, "Prolonged military rule in Bangladesh has historically favoured Islamist groups, directly or indirectly linked to violent extremists. Previous military rulers, generals Zia and Ershad, both cultivated Islamists for political support. Even without direct support, undermining the mainstream secular parties as the military has done during the emer-

gency creates more space for others. As a Western diplomat said, 'by marginalising the political parties, the military is creating a vacuum that will be filled by the radical Islamists parties'."

## KIDNAP

## Sust students demand action against culprit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Students of Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (SUST) yesterday continued their agitation demanding punitive steps against Mahbubur Rahman Shamim, who kidnapped a Sust student and tortured her days ago.

The students wore black badges, took out a silent procession and staged a token sit-in on the campus. They will also demonstrate today, sources said.

Activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra Dal also joined yesterday's programmes, pressed by general students.

Mahbubur Rahman Shamim kidnapped his sister-in-law (wife's younger sister) Shanta, a Sust student from the campus on April 21. He took her to a house at the city's Upashahar area and tortured her. Later the girl took insecticide in an attempt to commit suicide. Mahbub arranged her admission to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital and escaped.

As her condition deteriorated, she was shifted to a hospital in Dhaka next day.

## Boy stabbed to death

A CORRESPONDENT, Cnawabganj

A child was killed after he was accidentally stabbed while playing with a knife with two others at Shibganj upazila in the district early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Manarul, 8, son of Abdur Rahman, of House Nagar village at Pukuria union under the upazila.

**Gas Transmission Company Limited**  
Red-Crescent-Borak Tower, Level 4-6  
71-72 Old Elephant Road  
Eskaton, Dhaka-1000

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ এর অপচয় রোধ করে  
জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন

শিল্পে প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস  
গৃহস্থালীতে বিকল্প জ্বালানী

**Invitation for Local Tender**

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla).
3	Procuring entity name	Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL).
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5	Invitation for	Procurement of Brand New Double Cabin Pick-Up.
6	Invitation Ref No.	GTCL/Procurement/pick-up/2007-2008/06
7	Date	27-04-2008.

**KEY INFORMATION**

8	Procurement method	Open tendering method (single stage one envelope system).
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

9	Budget and source of funds	Government of Bangladesh (GOB).
10	Development partners (if applicable)	Asian Development Bank (ADB).

**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

11	Tender last selling date	20-05-2008	Date	Time
12	Tender closing date and time	21-05-2008		11:30am
13	Tender opening date and time	21-05-2008		11:45am
14	Place of tender selling	Accounts Department Gas Transmission Company Limited Red-Crescent-Borak Tower (Level 4) 71-72 Old Elephant Road, Eskaton Dhaka-1000		
15	Date of selling of tender documents	From 29-04-2008 to 20-05-2008		
16	Place of tender receiving & opening	Committee Room Gas Transmission Company Limited Red-Crescent-Borak Tower (Level 6) 71-72 Old Elephant Road, Eskaton Dhaka-1000		

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

17	Eligibility of tenderer	Well reputed and financially solvent tenderers (authorized agents/distributors/license holders) having the office establishment, well equipped repairing workshop, manpower, logistic support, stock position, good performance, qualification and past experience of supplying new and good quality vehicles in government sectors within the prescribed time.			
18	Brief description of goods	Pick-up are to be of latest model/international standard, good quality, brand new, fitted with modern amenities high efficiency petrol engine (EFI/equivalent), Chassis, body and other accessories etc in original with detailed specifications (supported by original catalogue).			
19	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 5000.00 (five thousand).			
	Lot No	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time (in days)
20	1	Procurement of Double Cabin Pick-up	Dhaka	Tk 3,00,000.00	Within 15 (fifteen) days from ready stock.

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

21	Name of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (Procurement) Gas Transmission Company Limited Red-Crescent-Borak Tower (Level 5) 71-72 Old Elephant Road, Eskaton Dhaka-1000 Phone # 9331843
22	Special instruction	a) Tender must remain valid for 90 days from the date of closing of the tender. b) Tender security in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order from any schedule bank in Bangladesh with full obligation and liabilities. c) Tender security must remain valid for 180 (one hundred and eighty) days from the closing of the tender. d) If tender opening day happens to fall on any holiday tenders shall be opened at the same hours on the first subsequent working day.
23	This tender will be conducted as per the Public Procurement Regulations-2003.	
24	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

GTPR-58-07-08

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