

Outlaws, gangsters back to crime spree in SW dists

99 killings in less than 5 months; rape, robbery, extortion on rise

AMANU AMAN, *Kushtha*

Law and order is deteriorating fast in the 10 southwestern districts as outlawed parties and criminal gangs have resumed their activities in the last six months.

At least 99 people were killed in the region from January 1 to June 16 this year, while other crimes including rape, robbery, extortion and violence marked a steady rise in Kushtha, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Jhenidah, Magura, Jessore, Narail, Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat districts.

Of the murders, 14 took place in January, 13 in February, 19 in March, 21 in April, 18 in May and 14 in first 16 days of June.

Outlawed party cadres and gangs committed most of the murders and other crimes, police said.

In the latest incident on Wednesday, two suspected cadres of an outlawed party were brutally murdered by rival party men inside a female dormitory of Islamic University (IU) in Kushtha.

The deceased were cadres of outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz. Police suspect they were murdered by activists of rival Jashid Gono Bahini.

A week ago on June 10, six people including three women were murdered in Kushtha, Chuadanga, Meherpur and Jessore.

Of them, a housewife was slaughtered by her

husband in Kushtha, outlaws murdered three rivals in Chuadanga and Meherpur and two women were killed after rape in Jessor.

In previous five months from August to December last year the number of murders was 21.

According to law enforcement agencies and newspaper reports, at least 56 bomb attacks, 42 robberies, 33 rapes and around 150 incidents of extortion took place during the period while 20 bomb attacks, 22 robberies, 6 rapes were recorded in the aforesaid five months of 2008.

Those killed in the last five months included 15 business men most for refusing to pay to the extortions. The others are 12 political party men-- four from ruling Awami League (AL) and eight from BNP.

At least 22 outlaws were killed by their rivals during the period while the rest were ordinary people like students and farmers.

Locals and police said, several outlawed parties and gangs have resumed their criminal activities in the region after regrouping under about 50 kingpins who returned to their old dens and areas remaining at large for a long time.

A group of ruling party leaders allegedly are harbouring the outlawed party leaders and cadres who move with them as 'party men'.

A number of top criminals who were on the run have returned to their areas. They are trying to regain their lost 'empire' taking advantage of the recent

political changeover," said a high police official seeking anonymity.

He alleged these criminals evade arrest as a section of political leaders and local influential shelter them.

"It is again the same old tale that the ruling party men use these criminals for establishing supremacy in their respective areas," he said.

A number of anti-crime crackdowns were launched in last few years but downside of law and order could not be arrested. Even deaths in 'crossfire' with law enforcers failed to improve the situation, he lamented.

Police said at least 522 listed criminals including some 'founders' of outlawed outfits and top gangsters were killed in 'crossfire' incidents since August 2004 to date.

Sources said, at least a dozen outlawed parties are active in the region and an unspecified number of illegal firearms are under their possession. These outfits have around 5,000 cadres who belong to the following factions of Purbo Bangla Communist Party (PBCP-ML): Janajuddho, PBCP-red flag, PBCP-communist war, Biplobi Communist Party (BCP), New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP), Gono Bahini (GB), Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF), Bangla Communist Party, Socialist Party (SP), Biplobi Anurag, Chinnamul Communist Party (CCP) and Sharbarha People's March.



PHOTO: STAR

A procession brought out by indigenous people of Boroitali village in Guimara upazila parade the main streets of Khagrachhari town yesterday.

Stop settlers' bid to grab indigenous people's land

Boroitali villagers submit memo

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khagrachhari*

Speakers at a protest meeting yesterday urged the government to take stern action against those who wanted to grab indigenous people's land at Boroitali under Guimara upazila in Khagrachhari hill district.

In the meeting organised by the Boroitali villagers on the premises of Khagrachhari Deputy Commissioner's Office, they urged the government to conduct a proper investigation into Sunday's clash at Boroitali.

They said as part of a blueprint to make CHT restless, a section of security men are patronising the settlers in their initiative to occupy 300 acres of indigenous people's land at Boroitali.

Monhchai Aungya Marma, Neeang Marma, Neujia Marma and Uchinue Marma

spoke on behalf of Boroitali villagers.

Later, the indigenous people from Boroitali village handed over a memorandum to Khagrachhari Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Abdullah, urging him to meet their three-point demand.

The demands include stopping move to grab indigenous people's 300 acres of land at Boroitali, end the settlers' movement under the shelter of law enforcers, and ensure security, peaceful living and traditional land rights of indigenous people.

Earlier the indigenous people brought out a protest procession that paraded the main roads of Khagrachhari hill town.

A tense situation is still prevailing at Boroitali village in Guimara upazila where as at least 17 settlers were seriously injured in a clash with indigenous people over disputed land last Sunday.

SNIPPETS

UP chairman arrested

A CORRESPONDENT, *Madaripur*

Shibchar police on Tuesday arrested BNP leader and Banshanki Union Parishad (UP) chairman Shahidul Islam on charges of desecrating the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman and ransacking Banshanki UP office in 2003. Shahidul is the younger brother of Madaripur district Jamaat-e-Islami secretary Hemayet Hossain Mridha. Police arrested Shahidul from his house at Banshanki. He was later sent to jail custody. Banshanki union Awami League general secretary Hamidul Islam earlier filed a case against Shahidul in connection with the incident.

Missing boy found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

A schoolboy who went missing Monday morning was found dead in a jute field the next day at village Garibpur Mardapara under Chitalmari upazila of Bagerhat district. Sujon Biswas, 15, was only son of shrimp trader Shushil Biswas and a student of class ten at Chardakata High School. Locals said, the body was located at the jute field when the pet dog of the shrimp trader started unusual barking at the spot. Reason for Sujon's death could not be known.

Acid attack on mother, child

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

A housewife and her son received burn injury as criminals threw acid on them Tuesday night. Amena Begum, 20, wife of Abul Kalam of village Itbaria and her one-year-old child Rezaul were sleeping when a gang allegedly led by Eusuf Howlader entered her house at about 10 pm and threw acid on them and fled away. Amena was admitted to Patuakhali General Hospital the same night. Family sources said, the attack might be a sequel to a land dispute with their neighbour.

Murder for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrakona*

A housewife was murdered allegedly for dowry at village Bisnupur under Khalijuri upazila Tuesday night. Khalijuri police recovered the body yesterday from a jungle near the house of the victim. Police said, Salma Begum, 20, wife of Niamat Ullah was daughter of one Karamat Ali of the same village. Fatema Begum, mother of the victim, claimed that although they gave Tk 75,000 and other valuables as dowry at the time of marriage, Niamat and his parents used to torture Salma for Tk 50,000 more. Niamat was arrested after a case was filed with Khalijuri police station in this connection.

Thief beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jhenidah*

One person was beaten to death at a jewelry shop yesterday at village Madandanga under Shailkupa upazila. Police and locals said three thieves broke into the jewelry shop in the early hours. The night guard raised a hue and cry and chased them. Two managed to flee with three tolas gold and 20 tolas silver. The third one was beaten to death by mob. Police recovered the body and sent it to Jhenidah hospital morgue for autopsy.

Traders call for strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

Traders at the district town will keep their shutters down for six hours from 6 am today to protest the bid to hold trade fair by the Moulvibazar Chamber of Commerce and Industries (MCCI). The traders under the banner of 'General Businessmen of Moulvibazar' yesterday observed a token hunger strike at Chawmuhana Square. During today's programme announced after the hunger strike, all shops and other business establishments will remain closed. They will also form human chain at Central Road on Saturday. Traders and town dwellers are opposing this trade fair saying it will affect ordinary traders and environment of the town. However, the MCCI told journalists yesterday the move to stop the fair in the name of general businessmen is a conspiracy against the MCCI. They said no unethical events like gambling, lottery draw will take place at the fair.

SI closed for beating one

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Abul Khair, SI of Barisal Kotwali Police Station, was closed to Barisal Metropolitan Police Line yesterday for torturing a rickshaw-van puller. Abdur Rahim, commissioner-in-charge of BMP told newsmen that the action was taken after the departmental probe found SI Khair guilty. Sources said rickshaw-van puller Abul Kalam, 25, was mercilessly beaten up by Khair on Monday in Munshir Garage area after his van and a police pickup collided there.



PHOTO: BANGLA CHOKH

Girl students of Purbo Hetalia Government Primary School in Patuakhali being treated at Patuakhali General Hospital after they were attacked by an 'unknown disease' during their classes yesterday.

Unknown disease attacks schoolgirls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

About 50 girl students of a primary school under Patuakhali Sadar upazila were attacked by unknown disease yesterday.

Of them, seven were admitted to Patuakhali General Hospital while the rest given first aid.

Those undergoing treatment at the hospital are Mahfuz, Tamanna, Monira, Mahmuda, Reba, Tazila and Keya.

Yakub Ali, headmaster of East Hetalia Government Primary School, said 20 students of class three suddenly felt irritation on their skin at around 11:45 and became sick within a few minutes.

The disease soon spread among the students of classes two and four and 30 of them became sick, said the headmaster.

When contacted, Dr Mostafizur Rahman, child specialist of Patuakhali

General Hospital, said the disease is called 'mass phylogen' which mainly attacks females.

TEASING, ATTACK BY OUTSIDERS

BM College students foil exams, block road again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Aggrieved students of BM College yesterday foiled second year honours examinations of 18 departments and handed over memorandum to the principal demanding necessary action to check outsider troublemakers on the campus.

On Tuesday noon, Tanvir Hossain, a third year honours student of economics department, was seriously injured as outsider Jasim stabbed him for protesting indecent remarks at the female students by Jasim's companions on the campus.

The incident gave rise to serious grievance among the students.

To probe the incident, the college authorities have formed a three-member committee headed by ASM Alauddin, associate professor of accounting and asked them to submit report within next three working days, the principal said.

The students who forced the honours second year test examinees of 18 departments to

quit the examination halls also kept the road in front of campus blocked for 20 minutes.

They brought out a procession on the campus and handed over a memorandum to the principal demanding formation of a vigilance committee to check entrance of outsiders and teasing of girls on the campus, installation of close circuit cameras at sensitive points and lodging a case on behalf of the college authorities to ensure punishment of the attackers who stoned college student Tanvir Hossain.

"Test examinations were postponed due to unavoidable circumstance. I sent a letter to Barisal Metropolitan Police commissioner in connection with Tuesday's incident," said BM College Principal Dr Nani Gopal Das.

As of filing of this report yesterday afternoon, no case was lodged in connection with stabbing the BM College student on Tuesday, BMP Assistant Commissioner Hayatul Islam Khan said.

PCP protests kidnap bid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangamati*

Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP), student front of Parbatty Chatram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), yesterday took out procession in the town protesting alleged attempt to kidnap one of their leaders from the party office by some armed rivals on Wednesday night.

Later a rally was held on the premises of Rangamati Deputy Commissioners' office, they gave the administration a 48-hour ultimatum to arrest the culprits.

The leaders alleged that a group of armed members from Khagrachhari were creating trouble at Rangamati town for the last few days.

They blamed a leader of PCJSS for leading the rival faction.

testing the appointment of major (retd) Eskander as convenor.

District BNP Vice-President and Sadar upazila President Shamsul Haque read out a written statement at the press conference at the rest house of the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in the afternoon.

In the statement, they alleged that after 1/11 changeover Syeed Iskander tried to send Khleda Zia abroad with the help of intelligence agencies to weaken BNP leadership.

The leaders and activists of the faction also brought out a procession in the town pro-

NEW CONVENING BODY AT FENI

Removal of Sayeed Eskander demanded

A CORRESPONDENT, *Feni*

A faction of Feni BNP yesterday demanded removal of major (retd) Sayeed Eskander, the newly appointed convenor of the party's district unit.

The demand was made at a press conference organised apparently by district BNP's Mosharraf-VP Joynal backed faction. BNP central committee recently made Eskander convenor of the district unit.

The leaders and activists of the faction also brought out a procession in the town pro-

Murder case against 3 sons of Varosha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangpur*

A murder case was filed against five people, including three sons of Rahimuddin Varosha, with the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The accused are Ashraful Hoque Varosha, Emdadul Hoque Varosha, Ekrumal Hoque Varosha and their two associates Babul Mia and Amin Uddin.

Ferousi Begum of Haragachhi Pourasava (municipality) under Kounia

Deputy Commissioner's Office filed the case, accusing the five of killing his brother Noor Alam, a night guard of Nabijanchara High School, at Varosha's Haragachhi residence and beat him up severely.

She further said Noor Alam succumbed to his injuries when Babul and Amin were taking him to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in a private car.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate accepted the case and asked the officer-in-charge (OC) of Konia Police Station to take necessary steps in this regard.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

পুরিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়

নরসিংদী

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর ০১/২০০৯-২০১০

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