

A VIOLENT DAY AT BOGRA AZIZUL HAQUE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE



A sword-wielding Shibir activist chases opponents, fellows taking an injured student to hospital, admission seekers run for shelter during violent clashes between Chhatra League and Shibir on Government Azizul Haque University College campus in Bogra town yesterday.

10 outlaws arrested from remote Sirajganj villages

Six GMF cadres on fresh remand in Kushtia

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Ten outlaws were arrested in Sirajganj while six others were taken on fresh remand in Kushtia yesterday.

Police in a special drive yesterday arrested ten 'top-level members' of outlawed Purbha Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) from two remote villages in Tarash upazila of Sirajganj district, reports our correspondent.

The arrestees are Toslim Uddin, 45, Rawshan Ali, 55, Khoybar Hossain, 50, Asadul Haque, 35, Abul Kashem, 40, Abu Harez, 55, Hazrat Ali, 45, Saiful Islam, 38, of Boroichara village and Barat Ali, 36, and Mozibar Rahman, 42, of Paikora village in the upazila. They all were wanted in several criminal cases including robbery and killing.

Sources said, a police team

led by Mahfuz Zaman Ashraf, ASP of Raiganj Circle raided a number of remote villages yesterday in the wake of sharp rise in activities of extremists in the area. The team captured the ten outlaws from Boroitola and Paikora villages.

Our Correspondent in Kushtia adds: The Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court yesterday placed six outlaws belonging to Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF) on a three-day fresh remand.

Earlier, they were produced before the court seeking five-day remand.

The outlaws are Raihan Ali, Sirajul Islam Masud, Almas Gaffar Jony, Mominur Rahman Abu, Karibul Islam and Mizanur Rahman.

Police said, they took the six on fresh remand for quizzing on several murder incidents in the district allegedly carried

out by GMF cadres.

The murders include Bheramara upazila Awami League (AL) joint secretary Meherul and college teacher Banda Fattah Mohon. They will also be grilled in connection with recent arms hauls from the house of Kushtia town unit AL Mahila League secretary Taslima Khan Ankhil.

Police suspect that the arms supplied by Ankhil was used in killing AL leader Jamil Hasan Bachchu.

A police official said that a few AL leaders in Kumarhali upazila were involved in Bachchu killing.

They hired outlawed GMF cadres for Tk 30 lakh to kill Bachchu, he said.

"More information about the areas and nature of crimes of the outfit is expected to come out soon," said assistant police superintendent (ASP-

Sadar circle) CA Halim.

Outlaw Rahin and Masud were arrested by the Detective Branch (DB) of Kushtia police on Wednesday while Johnny and Abu on Friday and Karibul and Mizanur on Saturday.

Police said the arrests on Friday and Saturday followed the confessional statements of Raihan and Masud.

Police quizzed them after judicial magistrate's court of Kushtia placed them on a two-day remand on Thursday. They also gave deposition in the court under 164 where they admitted to have hands in killing Kumarhali upazila AL joint secretary, also chairman of Kaya union parishad Jamil Hasan Bachchu, on July 25.

They also disclosed during the interrogation names of at least 25 cadres of the outfit who took part in the killing mission, police said.

Extortion now the order of the day in 3 SW districts

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Extortion by criminal gangs has become the order of the day in three southwestern (SW) districts.

Around 50 such incidents took place in Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga since November 1, according to police and victims.

Criminals mostly belonging to different outlawed parties demanded tolls from different sections of people including service holders, businessmen, contractors and teachers. They also threatened them with dire consequences if refused to comply with, the victims said.

In most cases, they made phone calls and demanded illegal toll from them.

At least 25 cases of extortion were recorded with the police in three districts during the period, police said.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Kushtia superintendent of police (SP) Sahabuddin Khan admitted the spate of extortion and said they have taken a number of measures to tackle the menace. At least, 15 extortionists were arrested in the three districts during the period of one and a half months, he added.

Sources said an extortionist demanded Tk 14 lakh from Islamic University treasurer Prof Shajahan Ali and Tk 10 lakh from Prof Arbind Saha of accounting department over phone on December 9. The caller introduced himself as Mohiuddin, regional leader

of an outlawed party.

The criminal also warned that they would kill or abduct their kids if the teachers fail to pay the amounts immediately.

In another incident, a local gang demanded Tk 2 lakh from a shopkeeper in Mujibnagar upazila in Meherpur a few days ago. As the shopkeeper expressed his inability, the gang pasted a slip on his grocery shop asking him not to open the shop till the amount is paid.

The trader closed his shop following the incident. He is now trying to reach an agreement with the criminals after paying a portion of the amount, said a relative of the trader.

A coaching centre owner in Kushtia town wishing anonymity told this correspondent that he regularly pays an amount to the hoodlums of the town to run his business.

He said the gang threatened to close his coaching centre or kidnap students in case of failure to pay timely.

Most of the victims do not dare to lodge case with the police fearing while a few of them have filed GD secretly, locals said.

At least, 25 such GDs have been filed with different police stations of the districts since November 1. Of them, 12 GDs were recorded in Kushtia, seven in Meherpur and six in Chuadanga.

"Petty criminals mostly commit such crimes. People from outside the districts are also involved in extortion," said the Kushtia SP.

SNIPPETS

Freight train derails

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Three of a 21-wagon train bound for Chittagong derailed near Gonuboti in Choudagram upazila on the Dhaka-Chittagong route yesterday noon at about 2:00pm. Communication on the route came to a halt as Noakali bound Mohanagar and Dhaka bound Suborna Express trains were cancelled, Comilla Station Master said. A rescue train reached the place from Laksam in the evening. Communications might be restored at night, hoped the official at the railway control room.

BDR-BSF friendly match

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A sector level volleyball match between the border security forces of Bangladesh and India was held at Baro Anchra Government Primary School Football ground on Saturday afternoon in a bid to strengthen friendship and solidarity between the border guards of two neighbouring countries. Bangladesh side was led by Khulna BDR sector commander Col Khandker Obaidul Ahsan and the Indian team was led by 126 Kalyani BSF headquarters battalion commander Sudhir Hudda. The Indian side, wearing blue jersey, defeated Bangladesh team wearing red jersey, by 25-17 points in the 18-minute game that started at 4:00 pm. Benapole Customs House commissioner Abdul Mannan Shikder, Benapole Land Port director Shyam Kishore Roy and Sharsha upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Dr Abdul Hakim were present.

Housewife commits suicide

UNB, Chittagong

A housewife allegedly committed suicide at Gujra village in Anwara upazila on Friday. The deceased was identified as Marium Begum, 42, wife of Nabu Miah of the village. Locals said Marium took poison in the morning following a feud with her husband. She was rushed to Chittagong Medical College and Hospital where the attending doctors declared her dead. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy. A UD case was filed.

Yaba recovered, 3 held

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Faridganj police on Saturday afternoon arrested three youths and recovered 17 pieces of Yaba tablets from them. The arrestees are Ferdous, 40, Sagor, 25 and Muktar, 40. Ferdous and Sagor reside in Faridganj crossing area and Muktar's house is in Wireless area in Chandpur Sadar upazila. Earlier, police arrested Faruque, 30, an Yaba addict. Acting on information given by Faruque, police later nabbed the three Yaba tablet dealers. Police said they arrested Faruque from his village home at Gazipur village in Faridganj upazila. Ferdous and Sagor were arrested from Dhanua in the upazila and Muktar from Kalirbazar area.



PHOTO: STAR

A mock court of Bon Bibi (locally known as goddess of the forest), set up at Nildum Bazar in Shyamnagar upazila of Sathkhira district yesterday, 'ordered' rich nations to compensate for their activities that are detrimental to climate and environment. Several hundred woodcutters, fishermen and honey collectors from the nearby villages were present as two NGOs arranged the mock trial in the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest.

Bangladeshi fisherman shot by BSF

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A Bangladeshi fisherman was shot by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Daikhowa border under Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat district yesterday.

The bullet injured, Azizul Islam, 40, son of late Yasin Ali of Khamar Vati village, was first admitted to Hatibandha Upazila Health Complex and then shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

The Indian border guards opened fire on Azizul while he was fishing in a canal near a woman's land at around 6:00am.

Acting Commanding Officer of 31 Rifles Battalion Major Arifur Rahman confirmed the incident.

Road barricade to press for uninterrupted gas supply

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Local people yesterday put up barricades on Dhaka-Munshiganj road from Kashipur to Shashongon under Fatulla Police Station demanding uninterrupted gas supply in the area.

About 4,000 to 5,000 people joined the agitation in an area stretching about 2.5 kilometres. They blocked the road by placing logs and bamboos and burning tyres.

A large number of women also participated in the agitation. Traffic on the road remained halted for five hours from 8:00am. Several hundred vehicles got stranded on both sides of the road, mounting sufferings to the passengers.

Locals alleged gas crisis has been prevailing in a large area of Narayanganj and Fatulla for long. They blamed illegal gas connections and gas supply to industries from the residential areas for the crisis.

The road blockade was withdrawn at around 1:00pm following a meeting between local administration, police, Titas Gas authorities and local people.

The meeting decided that Titas Gas authorities would take effective steps to solve the problem within the next 10 days.

Local people said 11 industries in Kashipur Industrial area were allowed to use 8 inches diameter gas pipe but they are using pipe of double

the diameter. They alleged they do not get gas most of the time in the day as the gas lines to the industries have been linked with residential lines.

Titas Gas authorities did not take any steps despite repeated complaints by the local people, the agitators said.

General manager of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd Narayanganj office Amir Ahmed said they are not getting gas as per their demand.

He said the higher authorities have been informed about the matter. Work on separating industrial gas lines from residential lines is going on, he added.

Senseless beating takes the kid's life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A 9-year-old girl was beaten to death allegedly by playmate, his father and elder brother on Saturday in Mujgunni residential area under Khalishpur police station.

Victim Shahinoor Akhter Tanni was daughter of rickshaw puller Khalil Shikder and student of class two at a school in Boyra.

The sad incident followed a quarrel over possession of a toy cell phone with her playmate Nirab.

Tanni was beaten up mercilessly with an iron rod in a roadside shop by Nirab, his father Badal Howlader and elder brother Mouje Ali, said OC of Khalishpur police station.

She was rushed to Khulna Medical College and Hospital (KMCH) with serious head injury where the doctors declared her dead.

Khalil Shikder, father of the slain girl filed a case with Khalishpur police station Saturday night accusing the three of murder.

A member of Boyra Shishu Shargo Khelaghar Ashor, Tanni's autopsy was done at 10:00 am yesterday at the KMCH morgue.

None of the FIR-named accused was arrested till filing of this report yesterday evening.

'Killing of college student by poisoning' sparks protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Teachers and students of Patuakhali Government College, also the classmates of Shah Ali, who was allegedly poisoned to death two days ago, brought out a procession and submitted a memo to deputy commissioner (DC) of Patuakhali yesterday demanding proper investigation into the incident and justice.

The procession brought

out from the college at about 12:00 noon paraded the main streets of the town.

Shah Ali, 22, a student of honours final year student of English department of Patuakhali Government College died at a local hospital at 8:00 pm on Friday. But his family claimed that he was killed by poisoning.

The victim's elder brother claimed Shah Ali was poisoned to death by a doctor's family as he had affairs with the doctor's youngest daughter.

All the teachers, officials and students of Skylark, a kindergarten school where Shah Ali worked as an assistant teacher, at a rally also demanded probe and punishment to the culprits.

Contacted, SI Safiq, investigation officer (IO) of the case said they cannot say anything now as police are yet to get the medical report.

"We are trying to arrest the accused and his family members but they are on the run since the incident", he added.



Teachers and students of Patuakhali Government College bring out a procession in the town yesterday demanding probe into the 'mysterious' death of Shah Ali, a fourth year English department student of the college, and trial of the culprits.

PHOTO: STAR