

## PBCP threatens to avenge killing of party men

Police stations in SW region on alert

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

All police stations and outposts in four southwestern districts have been put on alert following violence and threat by outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) in Chuadanga on Monday night.

The outlaws distributed leaflets, blasted bombs and fired a number of blank shots in Chuadanga town, creating panic among locals.

Informing that the outlaws blasted several bombs at Daulatdia near Bangaz Biscuit Factory at about 9:00pm, several police teams led by Additional Police Superintendent Moazzem Hossain rushed to the spot and seized a bundle of leaflets and bomb splinters.

In the leaflets, the outfit warned of taking revenge of the killing of leaders and activists including PBCP general secretary Jamal Uddin alias Robi alias Nuruzzaman Sumon.

They blamed 'conspiracy' of a group of Awami League (AL) leaders in the district for killing several of their leaders and activists in the district.

Terming 'crossfire' killing as a 'cold blooded

murder', the outfit leaders warned law enforcement agencies of 'anything anytime'.

According to police, a group of PBCP-ML men are trying to get reorganised in Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Meherpur and Kushtia districts under the leadership of Arif, a most wanted outlaw.

Hailing from village Akundubaria in Chuadanga Sadar upazila, Arif fled the area soon after the killing of PBCP top leader Jamal on December 3, 2009.

Police has continued drive to arrest the PBCP cadres, Chuadanga Superintendent of Police Abdul Baten said.

Police recovered the body of Shahin alias Mukti, 43, a leader of outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz from Saibaria Beel in Mirpur upazila of Kushtia on Tuesday.

Shahin, hailing from Harulia village in Sadar upazila, was killed allegedly by activists of Biplobi Communist Party on Monday night.

Shahin was accused in 25 cases, including 18 for abduction, in Kushtia, Meherpur, Chuadanga and Jhenidah police stations, police said.

## 50 injured as AL, BNP clash in Sirajganj town

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least 50 people were injured in a clash between Awami League and BNP in Sirajganj town yesterday evening.

Of the injured, 30 were admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital and local clinics in the town while the rest given first aid.

Police and witnesses said the trouble began at around 6.00pm as BNP men hurled brickbats at AL district office from a procession. The AL men made a counter attack that led to a fierce clash between the activists of the two rival

political parties.

Both sides equipped with lethal weapons chased each other and hurled brickbats during the clash that continued for half an hour.

Police charged batons on the clashing groups and brought the situation under control. Additional police have been deployed in the town to avert any further incident.

Local AL held BNP activists responsible for the incident while district BNP President and former state minister Iqbal Hassan Tuku blamed AL activists for the clash.



A Bangladesh-France joint excavation team unearths ruins of an ancient observation tower at Mahasthan Garh archaeological site in Bogra. The tower was used for military purposes and later damaged in a strong earthquake, said Dr Barbara Faticoni, a French member of the team.

## Villagers vow to contain extortion in localities

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Several thousand people of 10 villages in Aditmari upazila of the district at a meeting on Wednesday night vowed to prevent extortion in their localities.

They held the protest meeting against extortion on Saptibari Union Parishad (UP) premises where leaders and workers of major political parties also attended.

The meeting was presided over by BNP leader and ex-chairman of Aditmari upazila Abdul Mannan Sarker while organising secretary of district Awami League Sirazul Islam Rana, BNP leader Aminul Islam, Shahadat Hossain, Jatiya Party leader Alhaj Ramzan Ali Master, Alhaj Mohammad Ali, UP chairman Mansur Ali, Alhaj Syed Ali and Alhaj Shamsur Ali spoke on the occasion.

They alleged that Kabir Hossain, 30, son of Mostaque Ali of Sarolkhan village in Aditmari

upazila, has formed a gang of 20/25 criminals and the gang members are engaged in snatching, rape, stealing, drug selling, toll collection and other anti-social activities at Saptibari, Sarpukur, Sraolkhan, Kalmati, Anando Bazar, Khuniya Gachh and adjoining villages of the upazila for long.

They said no one dared to protest the activities of Kabir Hossain and his gang.

The speakers also alleged that 10 cases were filed against Kabir Hossain and his gang with Lalmonirhat Sadar and Aditmari thana but police were not taking any action against them due to unknown reason.

They said if police don't take any action, villagers will take step to stop criminal activities in their localities.

Later, a 101-member committee led by Abdul Mannan Sarker has been formed to stop extortion in their areas.



PHOTO: STAR

An asphalt plant, set up on the land meant for a public park in Boyra residential area of Khulna city, remains a nuisance for people of surrounding areas.

## ASPHALT PLANT ON KHULNA CITY PARK LAND

# Smoke, dust put residents under health risk

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

The asphalt plant set up on the land meant for a park at Boyra Housing Estate in Khalishpur of Khulna city remains a nuisance for locals as black smoke and dust poses health risk for them.

Over a thousand people of Boyra residential area joined a procession on Monday afternoon demanding immediate shifting of the asphalt plant for recovering the land for a park and saving residents from serious environment pollution.

Local people earlier submitted petitions to former and present mayors of Khulna City Corporation (KCC), offices of Khalishpur Housing Estate and Department of Environment and the environment ministry to shift the asphalt plant to free the park.

The plant was established in 1998 as the then KCC mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman remained firm on his decision to construct it although local people on several occasions submitted applications urging not

to establish the plant on a land meant for park, sources said.

"The housing estate authorities handed over the land in 1996 to Khulna City Corporation for a park. So, it is illegal to set up an asphalt plant there. The plant is polluting environment of the surrounding area," said engineer Badal Kumar Mandol of Khalishpur Housing Estate.

Former lawmaker Kazi Sikander Ali Dalim said he had also opposed the plan for asphalt plant grabbing land of the park.

"The asphalt plant was constructed occupying land of the park with consent of former mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman. We will not allow the city corporation to run the plant in our residential area as it is harmful for health and environment," said Kazi Faizur Rahman, president of Boyra Housing Estate Residents' Welfare Association.

"In response to our last official letter on June 24 in 2008, KCC authorities replied that the plant would be

shifted if any other suitable place is available," he said.

Incumbent KCC Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque also said that the plant would be shifted as soon as an alternative place is found.

KCC Estate Officer Nuruzzaman Talukder said a site has already been selected adjacent to Rupsha bridge for shifting the plant.

KCC Executive Engineer (Mechanical) Abdul Aziz said the proposal for shifting the plant has already been approved at a 'pre-ECNEC level' meeting and it is now awaiting final approval by ECNEC for shifting the plant to the site near Rupsha bridge.

The asphalt plant causes dust and sound pollution that threatens public health, said Ashoke Kumar Biswas, the director of Khulna divisional office of environment department.

Dr Moni Mohan Saha, project director of Sheikh Abu Naser Specialised Hospital, said they are especially worried about the patients as asphalt plant at Boyra residential area is very near to the hospital.

## Cox's Bazar AL leader stabbed to death

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A local Awami League leader was stabbed to death by a gang of criminals in Cox's Bazar town on Wednesday night.

The victim, Shafi Ullah, 38, publicity secretary of ward no 7 unit, came under attack in Pahartoli Badshaghona area at around 10:30pm.

Officer-in-charge of Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station Prodip Kumar Das said the criminal intercepted Shafi at Pahartoli at around 10:30 pm while he was returning home from town in a rickshaw. They stabbed him in the chest and abdomen and left the scene.

Locals took Shafi to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital where the on-duty doctors declared him dead. Police could not arrest any of the gang as of filing of this report as 6:00pm yesterday.

## DEATH IN CUSTODY Accused Keraniganj OC submits report to court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Officer-in-Charge of Keraniganj Police Station Mohammad Asaduzzaman, who is also an accused in a case filed for the death of an accused in their custody, yesterday submitted a report on the victim's death to a Dhaka court.

In his report the OC said the victim, Manik Mia alias Lutfar, 38, an accused in a murder case, committed suicide in a toilet at the police station on February 1. The victim was not tortured in their custody.

The OC was asked to submit a report within two days on the victim's death after Manik's father had filed a murder case accusing him and two others on February 8 of killing his son

in the custody.

Manik's father Adu Mia filed the case with a Dhaka court against OC Md Asaduzzaman, Sub-Inspector Zahidur Rahman and Assistant Sub-Inspector Harun-ur-Rashid. He alleged in the statement that his son died following torture in the custody of Keraniganj Police Station sometime between January 27 and February 1.

Adu Mia also alleged that Keraniganj police arrested Manik Mia on January 27 without bringing any allegation against him.

Judicial Magistrate Shahriar Arafat fixed February 15 for hearing on the acceptability of the report.

## Abducted homeopath buys freedom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

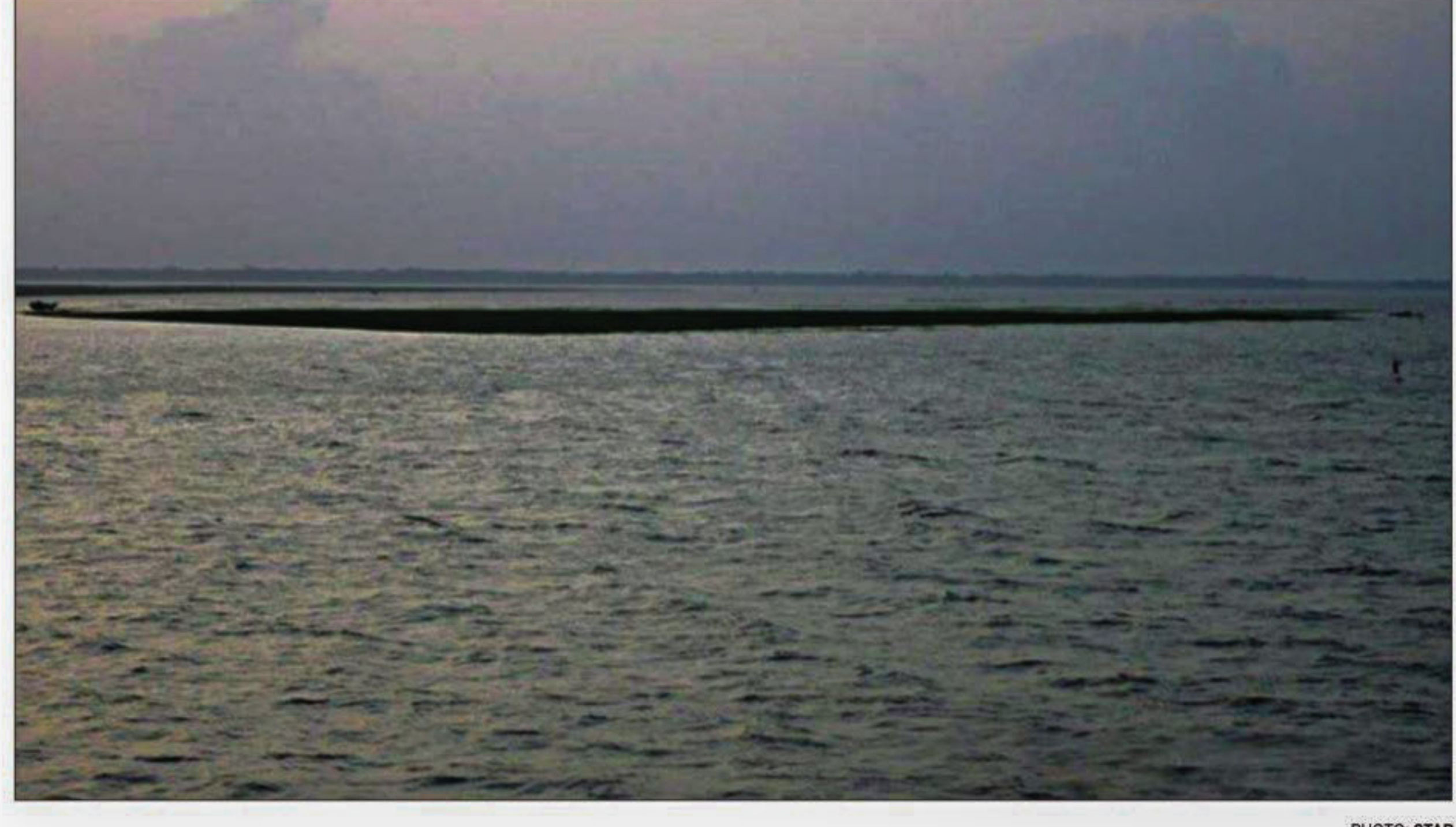
An abducted homeopath bought freedom at Asannagar under Sadar upazila in Kushtia on Wednesday.

Homeopath Mohsinuzzaman Chandu who was abducted by criminals on Tuesday from his chamber in Alamdanga upazila town in Chuadanga was released by the captors on Wednesday night on payment of ransom amounting to Tk 1.80 lakh by his family members.

A gang of about 4-5 criminals, in guise of patients, went to the homeopathy chamber of Chandu at Madrassapara in Alamdanga town at about 8:30 pm on Tuesday. The gang picked up Chandu and demanded Tk 4 lakh from his family members in exchange of his release.

Chandu's family members handed over Tk 1.80 lakh to the abductors who later released him on Wednesday, said a close relative of Chandu over phone. On receipt of money, the abductors informed the family members whereabouts of Chandu. Later, the family members informed Rab about exact location of Chandu. Accordingly, a Rab team of Chuadanga rescued the homeopath blindfolded from a field at Asannagar under Sadar upazila in Kushtia at about 9:00 pm on Wednesday.

Earlier, criminals abducted Chandu's brother Mominul Moksedul Sajib in 2005 and demanded Tk 5 lakh as ransom for his release. As the family members failed to pay the ransom to Sajib's captors on time, the criminals killed him.



Large shoals in the ongoing dry season hampers river navigation on Dhaka-Patuakhali route as the authorities have failed to arrange adequate dredging. The photo was taken from Tentulia River in Patuakhali district recently.

PHOTO: STAR

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



## 17 shops gutted in Noakhali

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

At least 17 shops were gutted in a fire at Sonaimuri Bazar in Noakhali on Wednesday night. Locals said the fire originated from a shop at Kalibari Road at around 11:00pm and soon spread to the adjacent shops. On information, Fire fighters from Choumuhoni, Majidi and Laksam rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze at around 1:00am. Sonaimuri Upazila Chairman APM Babul, Sonaimuri Poursava Mayor Motahar Hossain Manik, Sonaimuri upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), ASP of Begumganj circle visited the spot.

## Robbery at Brac office, 3 held

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police arrested three people on charge of robbery at Achra Brac office in Benapole on Wednesday. Police said the gang stormed into the Brac office early Tuesday, beat up Manager Saifur Rahman and took away Tk 65,000 from him. On February 1, the same gang held the staff of the Brac office hostage at gunpoint and looted Tk 95,000. Police arrested three gang members-- Selim, Mashiar and Ibrahim--on Wednesday. They are quizzing the arrestees.

## Three get life for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Three people were yesterday sentenced to life imprisonment for killing a youth at village Horiakhali in Mohammadpur upazila of Magura district in 2005. The convicts are Amjad Hossain, 55, Mahtab Molla, 45, and Nanu Mondol of Salta village under the upazila. Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Nazir Ahmed handed down the verdict. He acquitted seven others as murder charge brought against them could not be proved. According to the prosecution, the convicts attacked Delwar Hossain, 20, of Horiakhali village in the same upazila on March 21, 2005 as a sequel to previous enmity over ownership of a land. They beat up Delwar, leaving him seriously injured. Delwar was admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital where he died the following day.