

Maoists punish defector, police agent

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MIDNAPORE: Two more murders were reported from [Junglemahal](#) in West Midnapore today. The bullet-ridden body of Hekim Mura (50), a member of the Gana Pratirodh Committee (GPC), a pro-CPI-M organisation formed to tackle the Maoists, was recovered by police from Dhekia at Banspahari in Belpahari area this morning. Meanwhile, the body of Bapi Bakli (35), a tea-stall owner, was found in front of his shop at Pirakata Market in Salboni. Both the victims were shot by suspected Maoists.

Mura, a former Jharkhand Party activist, recently shifted his allegiance to the CPI-M, while Bakli was dubbed as a police agent, as indicated by Maoist posters left at the spot. Protesting against Bakli's murder, the Pirakata Market Samiti observed a bandh today.

Meanwhile, Midnapore town remained tense today after CPI (Maoist) posters were found at Tantigeria in Ward no 24 of Midnapore municipality, where the 10th anniversary of the Chhoto Angaria massacre was being observed. Through the posters the Maoists demanded the retrial and punishment of the CPI-M's district committee members, Mr Tapan Ghosh and Mr Sukur Ali, along with the minister, Mr Susanta Ghosh, who allegedly masterminded the brutal killing of eight Maoist cadres at Chhoto Angaria in Garhbeta in 2001. Similar posters were also found at Pirakata Market, Salboni and other places of the district. The authorities are taking the Maoist threats seriously, as on earlier occasions too, Maoist threats have been fatal.

Life in Jhargram, Binpur I and Belpahari block areas remained paralysed as the areas are in observance of the People's Committee against Police Atrocities (PCPA)-sponsored two-day bandh. The bandh call has been given to protest against the shooting of three innocent villagers, Bijoy Mahato, Bhola Mahato, and Rakhel Rana, by the joint forces at Joypur village in Lalgarh on Saturday.

Owing to PCPA bandh and also the ongoing ceasework of Jhargram Bar Association since 18 December last year, CID's chargesheet against the PCPA leader, Chhatradhar Mahato and two of his fellow members, Prasun Chatterjee and Raja Sarkhel in various sections Under the IPC and the UAPA, received by the GRO in Jhargram additional chief judicial magistrate's court on 24 December, could not be submitted today.