

# 175 bomb blasts kill 13, injure 100 in 10 S-W dists last year

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Despite anti-crime drives and increased vigilance by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), at least 175 incidents of bomb blast took place in 10 southwestern districts last year in which 13 people were killed and around 100 injured.

Of the incidents, at least 80 were targeted attacks for killing or for destruction and the rest were for creating panic or anarchy, according to law enforcing agencies.

The incidents are in addition to 72 blasts by Islamist militants of JMB (Jamaatul Mujahideen, Bangladesh) on August 17 in the region, police said.

Outlawed parties active in the region carried out most of these attacks and explosions, they said. They also claimed responsibility for many of the incidents.

Those killed and injured in the

blasts include leaders and activists of different political parties, journalists, businessmen, law enforcers, public representatives, government or non-government officials.

According to data available from police, one journalist, six political activists, three public representatives were killed and seven journalists, at least 50 political activists and 30 businessmen were injured in the attacks.

Four persons including a journalist were killed in Khulna, two in Satkhira, three in Meherpur, two in Jhenidah and two in Chuadanga.

Twenty-six of the attacks took place in Jessore, 21 in Khulna, 12 in Jhenidah, eight in Bagerhat, 13 in Satkhira, 26 in Meherpur, 38 in Chuadanga, five in Narail, 18 in Kushtia and eight in Magura.

Janajuddho, the most powerful outlawed outfit in the region claimed responsibility for at least 50

of the bomb attacks. The rest were done by other parties and gangs.

Police said at least 11 outlawed parties and 20 gangs are active in the ten southwestern districts.

In recent years, the government launched at least 25 special drives including the 'Operation Clean Heart', 'Operation Spider Web' to contain outlaws. But most of the drives became ineffective allegedly because of leak of information ahead of drives, law enforcers claim.

Bomb attacks and blasts increased in the area last year. High police officials in the region also admitted this.

A high police official seeking anonymity told this correspondent that bomb blasts increased in the region as bomb making materials are easily available as those are coming from India through different border points in the region reaching outlawed parties.

# 3 JMB suspects arrested in Satkhira, Kushtia

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Three JMB suspects were arrested, one in Satkhira yesterday and two in Kushtia Monday night.

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: Rab yesterday arrested an 'ehsar' (leader) of JMB who is a chargesheeted accused in the August 17 serial bomb blasts across the country.

Arrested Abdul Kadir is the son of Abdul Aziz of Satani village in the Sadar upazila, police said. He had been hiding since the August 17 blasts in Satkhira.

He was arrested from Fatehpur village in Kaliganj upazila.

Police said Rab members took him to Khulna soon after his arrest. Kaliganj thana Officer-in-Charge Ansar Ali said arrested Kadir was a leader of JMB in the area.

Our Kushtia Correspondent reports: BDR arrested two JMB suspects from near the border in Munshiganj in Daulatpur upazila Monday night.

They are Ziauddin, 30, son of Khondokar Abdul Halim and Nazrul Islam, 35, son of Abdul Wadud of Katlamari village in the upazila.

According to sources in BDR 9 Battalion, they arrested the JMB suspects when they were crossing the border at about 10 at night. BDR recovered some books on Jihad from them.

The sources said during interrogation, the two admitted their involvement with JMB. They were handed over to police next day.

But Daulatpur police said the two were 'innocent' persons coming home from India after treatment and have no link with any Islamist outfit.

Police sent them court under Section of 54 CrPc, they said.

But some sources in the area said the two were involved with Kushtia JMB leader Shamsul Hoq. They had fled homes soon after countrywide drive against Islamist militants.



Construction of the Kurigram Diabetic Hospital is nearing completion, much to the expectation of patients in the area. PHOTO: STAR

# People build hospital as govt shows indifference

## Kurigram Diabetic Hospital to open next month

RAFIQUE SARKER, back from Kurigram

The people of Kurigram have set a unique example. They are setting up a modern diabetic hospital at the district headquarters without much government support.

The district administration allotted the land but showed little interest in setting up the hospital.

Construction of the hospital has been completed at a cost of Tk 40 lakh, mobilised through local contributions. It is going to be opened by the end of next month.

Diabetic patients in Kurigram have pinned great hopes on the hospital as they will be spared from the trouble of going to Rangpur and Dhaka for treatment after commission of the hospital.

Six doctors and twelve other employees have also been appointed at the hospital, to be equipped with modern medical equipment and facilities, its

authorities told this correspondent.

They said a telemedicine unit will also be installed so that patients can get suggestions from BIRDEM hospital in Dhaka.

There is a diabetic centre in Kurigram but treatment facilities there are very poor and patients have to travel to Rangpur and Dhaka now for treatment.

This prompted some local people to take the initiative to set up a modern diabetic hospital at the district headquarters. They sought cooperation from well to do people. The response was overwhelming and well to do people contributed generously irrespective of party affiliations.

"A large number of people of Kurigram living in different areas of the responded and contributed to construction of the hospital", said Maj (rtd) Abdus Salam, secretary general of the 25-member execu-

tive committee formed to implement the project.

He said, there are modern diabetic hospitals in all districts except Kurigram, where a large number of people live below the poverty line. They can not go to Rangpur or Dhaka but the government has not taken any initiative to set up a hospital in the district.

Maidul Islam, chairman of the hospital management committee said the local administration however helped a lot in setting up the hospital.

The district administration donated the government land for the hospital, he added.

"We have a plan to set up a ten storied building to upgrade it into a 100 bed most modern hospital at a cost of Tk 12 crore", Maidul said.

MA Latif, another member of the executive committee said a fund has been created and deposited with a bank for payment of staff salary.

# AL MP not on voter list

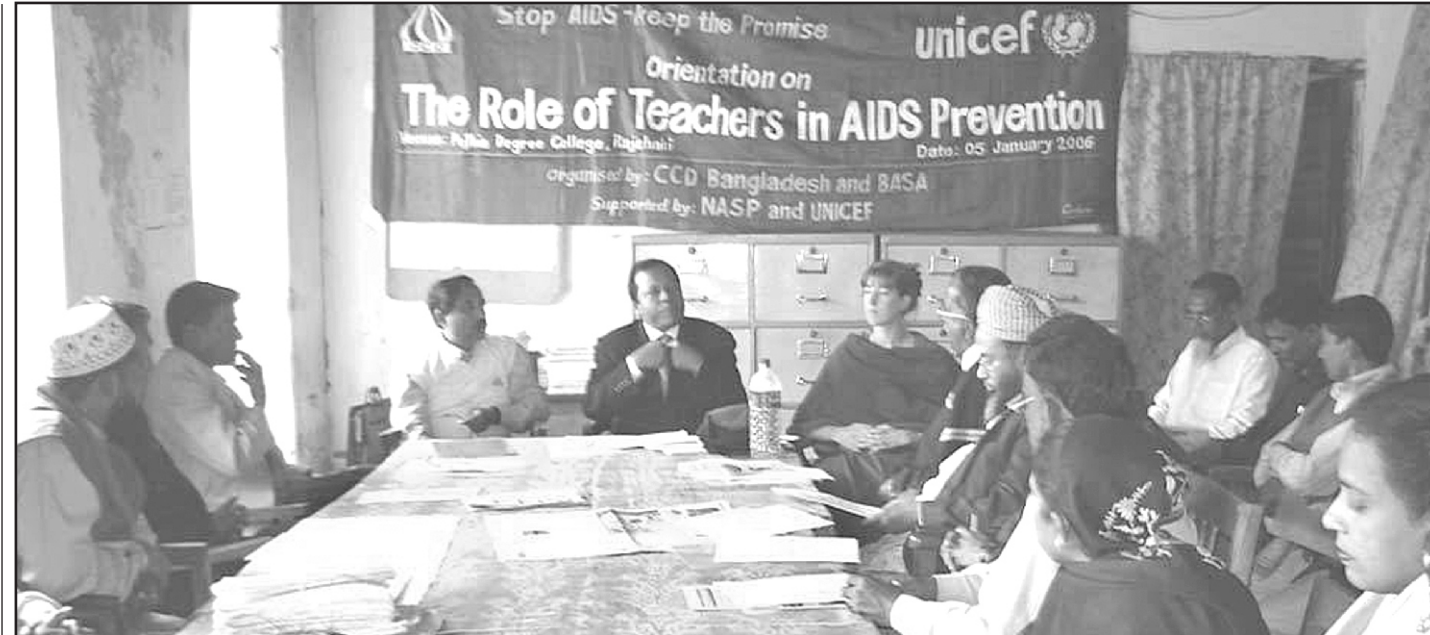
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Awami League lawmaker from Nilphamari-1 (Damar-Dimla) constituency Hamida Banu Shova has not been enrolled in the new voter list.

Voter enumerators refused to include her name in the list on the last date of enrolment despite her request, she told this correspondent over phone yesterday.

Shova alleged that as she could not come to her Damar village home from Dhaka due to preoccupations, she requested data collectors over phone to put her name on the list, but they refused on the plea that she was not present in the area from where she is a voter.

Hamida Banu Shova is one of the seven women lawmakers directly elected in the last general election held in 2001.



Teachers from different educational institutions at the workshop on AIDS prevention held in Rajshahi. PHOTO: STAR

# Involvement of teachers vital for AIDS prevention

## Workshop in Rajshahi told

RU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at an orientation programme said AIDS prevention activities should be turned into a movement to stop spread of the deadly disease in the country.

Teachers and youths can play the most vital role in this regard, they said at the workshop on 'Role of Teachers in AIDS Prevention', held at Rajshahi Degree College auditorium recently.

Over 200 teachers from different educational institutions attended the workshop, organised by the Centre for Communication and Development (CCD), a local NGO.

Rajshahi University Mass Communication Department Chairman Prof Dulal Chandra Biswas inaugurated the programme as chief guest while Principal of the college, Prof Md Mohosin Ali, was in

the chair.

The speakers said AIDS kills people much more than a war. So it should be faced with much greater efforts and resources. Teachers and youths are the resources who can play the most important role in preventing spread of the disease, they said.

They should be involved in a significant way to create awareness among people, they said.

Social worker and president of the college governing body Md Saiful Islam and CCD Director Golam Mourtoza also attended the programme.

Earlier on the day, CCD organised an orientation programme on 'Role of Students in AIDS prevention' at Rajshahi Darul Ullum Madrasha.

At least 300 Madrasha students including females took part in the programme.

# They join hands to remove illiteracy, social ills

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

It was a unique event in Kalaroa as over 1200 distinguished people from the upazila including expatriates at a gathering vowed to work together for development of the upazila, sinking their political differences.

In the first such initiative in the neglected upazila, they gathered at a Eid reunion and discussed problems and ways how to mobilise people and resources for their collective wellbeing.

Held at Bangabandhu Mahila College premises with Prof MA Farooq in the chair, the gathering was addressed by, among others, former lawmaker BM Nazrul Islam, Bangladesh Teachers Federation President Sheikh Aman Ullah, Dhaka University teacher Dr Mizanur Rahman, Deputy Director of Passport Department ATM Asadur Rahman, Prof Abu Nasar, Prof Anisuddin Sardar, Australian expatriate Nazrul Islam, former Union Parishad Chairman Montaz Ahmed, Habibur Islam, Hossain Ali and Mashur Rahman.

They vowed to work together to eliminate poverty, illiteracy, dowry, early marriage, torture on women

and children and drug abuse and to take steps to improve education.

They urged the people, specially the educated ones to come forward sinking political differences for the caused of the oppressed people in the area.

# 'Reinvestigate Manik Saha murder'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Bangladesh Communist Party (CPB) and its ally Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) have demanded reinvestigation into journalist Manik Saha murder and arrest of the killers without further delay.

Leaders of both the organisations jointly submitted a memorandum to Khulna Deputy Commissioner (DC) containing their demands. They threatened a greater agitation if the demands are not met immediately.

In the memorandum, they also demanded adequate security measures for the slain journalist's wife and two daughters.

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