

# JMB militants regroup, resume activities in 6 Sirajganj upazilas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Islamist militants belonging to Jama'atul Mujahideen, Bangladesh (JMB) allegedly have regrouped in shoal areas and resumed their activities in several upazilas.

Setting up make-shift camps in 'Chalan Beel' and 'Jamunar Char' they are carrying out organisational activities in remote areas of Raiganj, Tarash, Kazipur, Kamar Khanda, Belkuchi and Chowhali.

According to the villagers, the JMB is working to recruit new members for the organisation from schools, colleges and madrasas in those upazilas. Needy and pro-Islamist teachers and students are their main target. Some teachers and students have already joined the outfit, sources said.

The militants have also circulated some leaflets in different areas asking people to contribute in cash and kind to their funds for establishment of the

'rule of Quran.'

Sources said, a number of militants have taken shelter in houses of villagers in the guise of "Musafir" (traveller). Some of them stay at mosques in day time but go out for activities after dusk.

In Chalan Beel and Jamunar Char areas some villagers told this correspondent that they now-a-days see some unknown faces here and there. Villages believe these people might be activists of JMB.

Panicked devotees in the villages said, they now feel insecure to go to mosque for offering prayers fearing attack on congregation.

JMB men also demanded toll from local contractors and political leaders. They threatened to kill them if they earn money through unfair means. They also asked them not to inform police about the matter. A contractor told this correspondent that he received a post card recently in the

name of 'JMB Jihad' group that threatened to kill him by bombing.

Local police, however, denied the allegation. But they said that they have tightened security in important spots. They said five suspected JMB men have been arrested from different areas during the last few days.

The arrestees are Alamgir Hossain of Borokura village in Kamarkhand upazila, Belal Hossain, teacher of Pukurpar Madrasa in Ullapara upazila and village of Razapur in Belkuchi upazila, Abdul Mannan of Sarbotulshi village in Belkuchi upazila, Abdul Malek of Mulbera village in Ullapara and Mannan Hossain of Hossainpur slum in Sirajganj town. Police believe they are involved in August 17 serial bomb blasts at 7 points of Sirajganj town.

Sadar thana OC Abdul Jabbar, who is an investigation officer of the bomb blast cases, said he will submit chargesheet soon against the arrestees.

## No headway yet in Magura blasts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

There has been no major headway in the August 17 bomb blast case here even after three months of the incident.

While talking to The Daily Star, the Sub-Inspector (SI) of the Detective Branch (DB) of police, Mustafizur Rahman said, it will take at least 20 to 25 days for submission of the charge-sheet

Arrest of at least one more abscond-

ing suspect is essential for submission of the charge-sheet, he said, adding, I am trying my level best to nab the culprit.

Five bombs went off in different areas including the Judge Court premises and near the Sadar police station on August 17 while another unexploded bomb was recovered from Bhaina Square in the town the following morning.

Two alleged members of Ahle Hadith Andolan Bangladesh (AHAB) Mashhur Rahman Molla of Parnanduali village and Abul Kashem Molla of Benga-Beroil in Magura Sadar upazila were arrested two days after the incident.

They gave no important clue to police during their 24-hour remand, official sources said. They were already released on bail.



A human chain was formed near Chittagong Press Club yesterday demanding compensation for families of Sandwip Channel launch disaster victims and modern steamer service.



The journalists in Dinajpur (left) and Barisal protesting killing of Gautam Das, Staff Reporter of The Daily Samakal in Faridpur on Thursday.



PHOTO: STAR

## Protests on against newsman murder

### Rallies, processions in Nilphamari, B'baria, Sirajganj, Khagrachhari, Noakhali, Dinajpur and Barisal

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Protests by journalists continued across the country yesterday against the killing of Dainik Samakal Staff Reporter Gautam Das in Faridpur on Thursday.

Gautam was strangled at his office in the district town.

Our Nilphamari Correspondent reports: Nilphamari Press Club members at a meeting yesterday expressed grave concern over killing of Gautam and demanded exemplary punishment to the killers.

Speakers criticised the government for its failure to improve the law and order which gave way to killings of journalists, judges and intellectuals.

They said journalists are murdered one after another as the government did not try the killers.

Nilphamari Press Club president Md Abdullah presided over the meeting while it was addressed by The Daily Star correspondent EAM Asaduzzaman, The New Age correspondent Shahin Jahangir Alam, The Independent correspondent Gadodis Chandra Roy and The Financial Express correspondent Abu Musa and others.

Later they brought out a mourning procession and paraded the main streets of the town.

Members of Saidpur Press Club, Domar Press Club, Dimla Press Club, Jaladhaka Press Club and Kishoreganj Press Club also organised similar programmes demanding arrest and punishment of criminals and safety and security of journalists.

Our Brahmanbaria Correspondent reports: A protest meeting was held at Brahmanbaria Press Club yesterday condemning the killing.

Earlier, a procession was brought out in the town. Journalist of different dailies wore black badges and paraded the streets of the town.

The meeting was presided over by club secretary Muhammad Arzu. Among others, journalists Md Sadequr Rahman, Kanti Acharjo, Javed Rahim Bijon, Munjurul Alam, Al Amin Shaheen, Reaz Uddin, Monir Hossain, Badal Guha and Md Limon addressed the meeting.

Speakers demanded arrest and exemplary punishment to the killers of Gautam.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent reports: Sirajganj Press Club and Reporters' Unity jointly organised a rally at Sirajganj Press Club yesterday.

Earlier, members of the two organisations brought out a mourning procession. Wearing black badges they paraded the main streets in the district town and protested the killing.

The meeting was presided over by the

press club president Jahirul Islam of Ajker Kagoz.

Among others, it was addressed by Helal Uddin (Bhorer Kagoz), G Mostafa (The Daily Star), Harun-or-Rashid Khan Hasan (Dinkal), S M Tafizuddin (Banglabazar) Ferdaus Hasan Rabin (Channel-i) Fardaus Hasan (ATN), Hirok Guha (Bhorer Dak) and Fazal-Al-Khoda Liton (Ittefaq).

The speakers condemned the killing and demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the killers. They also demanded security of journalists.

Our Correspondent Khagrachhari reports: Local journalists yesterday brought out a procession in the hill town.

This was followed by a rally which was presided over by Janakantha district correspondent Ziten Barua.

Among others, The Independent district correspondent Abu taher Mohammad, The Prothom Alo district correspondent Azim ul huq, The Zugantar district correspondent Dilip Chowdhury, The Bhorer Kagoz correspondent Omar Faruq Shamim, The Naya Diganta district correspondent Abu Daud, The Ittefaq district correspondent Tarun Kumar Bhattacharya and The Sangbad district correspondent Pradip Chowdhury addressed the rally.

The speakers demanded of the government safety and security of the working journalists and their family members.

BSS reports from Noakhali: Journalists working in different dailies and weeklies in the district condemned the killing.

A protest meeting was held on the premises of Noakhali Press Club with the president of Noakhali Sangbadik Samity Abdul Kader in the chair.

Among others, the meeting was addressed by, journalists Laikat Ali Khan, Mahiuddin Tokon, M Hanif Bhuiyan, Nasir Uddin Mahmud Badal, Mesbha-ul-Haq Mithu, Sirajuddin Helal, Runu Hasan, Noor Rahman, and Abdul Motaleb.

The speakers expressed their deep shock over the killing and conveyed their profound sympathy to the bereaved family members.

They also demanded compensation for the family members of the deceased.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reports: Journalists of different national dailies here yesterday brought out a procession in the northern town.

They held a rally in front of Dinajpur Press Club which was presided over by the Samakal correspondent Subroto Mozumdar.

Speakers expressed their great concern over increasing incidents of killing of journalists throughout the

country. They criticised the government for its total failure in nabbing the culprits.

They demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the killers.

Our Barisal Correspondent reports: Barisal Reporters' Unity (BRU) also held a protest meeting at the BRU office yesterday.

The meeting was held as part of a three-day protest programme announced by BRU earlier. The

programmes include hoisting of black flags at the office, wearing black badges, staging seat-in demonstration and submission of memorandum.

BRU president Mir Manuruzzaman presided over the meeting while its secretary Swapan Khodokar, Anisur Rahman Swapan, former president, Manabendra, Iftikhar Ali, Kamal Masudur Rahman, Abu Jafar, Pulak Chatterjee and BRU member Towfik

Maruf addressed the meeting.

Gano Sangeet, a cultural organisation, formed a human chain in front of Aswini Kumar Hall.

Samonaya Parishad, an alliance of 26 cultural organisations also organised a protest procession in the divisional city. Representatives of different NGOs, socio-political, cultural and professional organisations participated in the procession.

5.5x3

8x3

## Tk 18 cr project to boost CHT economy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives has recently undertaken a Tk 18 crore pilot project for strengthening rural economy and creating scope for self-employment in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region.

Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) will implement the project aimed at reducing poverty and developing the region.

Under the scheme, loan will be given to the members of small community based organisations in rural and suburban areas for agricultural work, cattle rearing, fish and poultry farming and weaving.

LGRD secretary Md Hedayetul

Islam visited Rangamati last week. During his visit, he met Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC) chairman Dr Maniklal Dewan and told that the project work is likely to start in January.

Later, a meeting was held with the BRDB officials at Rangamati Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office. The LGRD secretary asked the officials to work sincerely to make the programme a success.

Among others, Rangamati DC Gazi Md. Zulhash, BRDB director Muhammad Musa, Cooperative official Manjurul Alam, BRDB officials of Khagrachhari and Rangamati Swapan Kumar Guha and Swapan Kumar Nath attended the meeting.

7x3