NATIONAL

Move to 'foil' Dhaka rally triggers protests in dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Opposition activists and supporters, allegedly obstructed from coming to the capital yesterday, held rallies and brought out processions in districts protesting what they called the government move to 'foil' their grand rally in Dhaka.

The Awami League-led 14-party alliance organised the protest

The BNP-Jamaat government's brazen move to foil the opposition rally has further isolated it from the people and will hasten its fall, local alliance leaders

Besides the wildcat transport strike called by the pro-government transport workers union, police in districts also harassed opposition leaders and workers and obstructed them from going to Dhaka, speakers at the rallies alleged.

Our Tangail Correspondent reports: The 14-party alliance at a rally in the town yesterday declared Habibar Rahman Khan, general secretary of progovernment Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation (BRTWF) and his son State Minister for NGO Affairs Lutfar Rahman Khan "unwanted" in Tangail district. Lutfar Rahman Khan is also

The decision was taken to protest the alleged move by the government and the ruling party's front organisation in transport sector to foil the opposition grandrally in Dhakayesterday.

They said the BNP-Jamaat government foiled the grand rally as they are increasingly becoming isolated from people.

Our Rangamati Correspondent reports: Awami League (AL) and its allies yesterday brought out a procession in the town and held a rally in protest against the move allegedly by police and ruling party activists to prevent opposition activists from joining the rally at Paltan Maidan in Dhaka.

The procession started from the Municipality office and terminated in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office where the rally was held.

Police Superintendent Shekh Md. Maroof Hassan asked them Sunday night not to join the Dhaka rally and arrested four of their leaders and activists, they alleged.

Police arrested Bangladesh Chhatra League activists Ranjan Tripura, Monirul Alam Swajon and Amit Tripura and Jubo League leader Ronel Tripura Sunday night under Section 54 and raided residences of at least 20 others to prevent them from joining the grand rally in Dhaka

Our Nilphamari Correspondent rep[orts: Awami League brought out a big protest procession and held a rally at the Smriti Amlan (a memorial) in the town vesterday.

The organisers claimed that about 20,000 opposition workers and supporters were ready to go to Dhaka from Nilphamari to attend the rally at Paltan Maidan. About 100 buses and trucks were hired, but the government-sponsored transport foiled their move.

There were great enthusiasm among people to attend the grand rally as they want to get rid of the government's

The government became scared at the people's response. So, finding no way, the government backed transport workers union called the countrywide transportstrike to foil the rally, they said.

They said several thousand people rushed to Domar, Nilphamari and Saidpur railway stations to avail trains for Dhaka.

Ruling party men attacked them there while police remained silent onlookers, they alleged.

They called upon the people to prepare for tougher agitation programmes including hartal to dislodge the government.

Our Netrakona Correspondent reports: Netrakona district Awami League brought out a procession and held a rally in the town protesting the government's move to foil its grand rally in Dhaka

The transport strike was called only to foil the rally, they said at the rally held at the Shaheed Miner after the procession. People from all walks of life attended the opposition programmes.

Speakers at the rally called upon the people to observe hartal to dislodge the government.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports: The 14-party opposition alliance marched streets and held a rally in the town protesting the government's evil move to thwart its grand rally in Dhaka.

The wildcat transport strike called by the pro-government transport workers union only proves that the government has become unnerved at people's spontaneous response to opposition oustgovernment programmes, speakers said at the rally held on the Shaheed Minar premises.



HOTO: STAR

Obstructed from attending the grand rally in Dhaka, Awami League-led 14-party alliance brought out processions in Rangamati (left) and Rangpur yesterday protesting the alleged government's move to foil the opposition programme.

JMB, HuJi activists in Satkhira regrouping

129 listed by police yet to be arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Leaders and cadres of banned Jama'tul Mujahidin, Bangladesh (JMB) and Harkatul-Jihad (HuJi) are regrouping in remote areas in the district, taking advantage of allegedlaxyigilance bylawenforcers.

Most of the suspected activists of JMB and HuJi who had fled their areas after the August 17 bomb blasts in the district to evade arrest, have reappeared in their strongholds, sources claimed. They have dens in Choloigacha and Bansdaha in Sadar upazila, Sultanpur in Kolaroa and UllahinAshashuniupazila.

Police had earlier listed 129 Islamist militants in the areas and had decided to file cases against them under the Special Powers Act of 1974. But the decision was later abandoned, allegedly following pressure from certain quarters, the sources

Instead, police filed cases only against those netted immediately aftyer the August 17 blasts in the district.

So the listed 129 JMB activists remained out of police dragnet and are now moving freely and reorganising their groups.

Clad in trousers and shirts instead of

Clad in trousers and shirts instead of pajama and punjabi, the militants have resumed activities in their respective areas asthey do not face any charge. The militants include kingpins who recruited and trained youths in use of arms, the sources claimed.

Soon after the August 17 serial bomb blasts in the district, police arrested JMB cadres Nasir Uddin Dafadar and six others who took part in the blasts. But the kingpins remained out of gdragnet.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) ASP Munshi Atique, Investigation officer of the cases, submitted charge sheet accusing 19 JMB activists and leaders including JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai.

Of them Nasir uddin, Giasuddin, Moniruzzaman Munna, Anisur Rahman Khokon, Monowar Hossain Ujjal, Mahbubur Rahman Liton and Belal are Hossain in custody. Chargesheeted accused Fakar Uddin Raji, JMB's regional chief, local leaders Noor Member, Nayeem and others are yet to be arrested. They are reorganising activists of JMB and HuJi, the sourcesclaimed.

On contact, Maj Asad of 41 Rifles Battalion said border guards are on alert so thatmilitants cannot cross the border.

thatmilitantscannot cross the border.

Talking to this correspondent, Sadar thana Officer-in-Charge Shahjahan said they are trying to nab JMB local leaders Fakar Uddin Raji, Noor member, Nayeem

and other chargesheeted accused.

Threat to bomb school in Kishoreganj

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Jagrato Mujahidi, a self-styled Islamist militant group, has sent a letter to the headmaster of Kishoreganj Government Boys High School in the townthreatening to bomb the school by November 30 unless it is run as per 'rules of Islam'

ofisiam".

The letter said the school is under watch by Jagrato Mujahidi, guided by Bangla Bhai.

A tense situating is prevailing on the compound and students, teachers and guardians are scared, its headmaster Md. Abdullah told this correspondent yesterday.

He said he informed police and the district administration and postponed all programs of Bangladesh Open University beingheld on its compound.

When contacted, Kishoreganj Sadar thana OC Matiar Rahman said he was were informed of the threat and police have been deployed in the school.

Threat again to blow up Benapole Customs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A threat to blow up Benapole Customs House was made over telephone on Monday by some unidentified callers.

Customs Commissioner Hussein Ahmed received the call at 5 pm when he was working in his office.

A general diary (No 660) has been filed with Benapole landport thana in this connection, sources there said.

Security measures have been stepped up there soon after the threat. None was allowed to enter the Customs House without proper identification. A modern close circuit camera has been installed there.

Admitting the threat, the customs commissioner said he is monitoring security on the TV screen from the control room. Besides, a strong team of security guards of the Customs House is patrolling the landport area, covering all warehouses. Every visitor is being checked with metal detectors, he said.

Last month, Hussein Ahmed received a death threat over telephone. The caller identified himself as Kala Jahangir.

7 get life for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A court here on Sunday sentenced seven persons to life term rigorous imprisonment for killing Kalu Sheikh, an elderly man in Nalitabari upazila in Sherpur district 11 years ago.

The court also fined them Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer six months' more RI.

The convicts are Farman Ali, Malu alias Malek, Ichhob Ali alias Yousuf member, Abdul Jalil, Siddiqur Rahman alias Kailla, Noor Islam and Nabi Hossen of Baromary Manikchand village in Nalitabariupazila.

Of them, Abdul Jalil, Siddiqur Rahman, Noor Islam and Nabi Hossen were tried in absentia. different unazile

sick in Gaibandha

Fear has gripped the people of eight adjoining villages in Ballanjhar union, from where at least 1500 people went to attend a Chehlum at Dhangharah village in the Sadar Upazila Friday night. Many others who came from far-flung areas have also been affected with food poisoning, police and locals said yester-

ারা জ্পীদের শুর্ভপোষক ও জনকন্তির সাংবাদিক তান বিশ্বসক্তে

ংবাদিক গৌতম, দীদংকর, যানু, মানিক, খোকন, কেলল, শানভুর রহমা

Journalists brought out a procession in Rajshahi city on Monday protesting the murder of Dainik Samakal Staff

Death toll 5, more 53 fall

কারী শতিসন্থী আনমন্ত্রীর কবির এবং ফ্ররিদপুরে সনকালের সাংবাদি

Children and women are more vulnerable, they said.

Some sources said beef mixed with rice flour and rice were served during the Qulkhwani. The curry was kept on polytheine sheets on the ground, which

might have caused adulteration, they

Gaibandha Civil Surgeon Habibur Rahman told the Daily Star that symptom 'strong diarrhoea' was seen among most of the patients.

"We have requested authorities in Dhaka to send a medical team for investigation", he said.

A well-equipped medical camp has been set up at Utter Dhanghara village and doctors are working round the clock to treat the affected people, the Civil Surgeon said. A case has been lodged with Gaibandha Sadar thana in this connection.

Tk 670 cr projects begin in 3 hill dists this fiscal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Development projects involving over Tk 670 will begin in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) in the current financial year, Deputy Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs Ministry Moni Sawpawn Dewan has said here.

The Prime Minister has approved the projects to be financed with grants of Tk 320 crore and Tk 350 from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) respectively, he told newsmen at Bandarban Circuit House on Saturday.

The projects will promote investment in different sectors including tourism and create jobs and boost the overall economy in the hills, he said.

Bandraban Deputy Commissioner Sheikh Alauddin, Police Superintendent Iqbal Bahar and other government officials were present there.

"Though belated, we have overcome obstacles and local problems in implementing the projects which will create huge investment opportunities for local people and foreign investors. Agro-based sectors and tourism will get preference. These will generate employment and infuse a new life in the CJHT", Moni Sawpawn said.

`Though there were differences of opinion, the proposals by the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council and the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs Ministry have been finally approved by the Prime Minister," he said.

A memorandum of understand-

ing (MOU) will be signed between the government and the UNDP within short time and project work will begin, he said.

Moni Sawpawn informed that UNDP has already collected 35 million US dollars from other UN organisations to implement the projects in CHT.

It became known that this 5 year long scheme would cost 50 million dollars for this project implementation.

The government's aim is to create a new generation of investors and businessmen in the three hill districts so that equity can be maintained without giving scope to monopolise trade and investment. Local small

Correspondent Gouton Das in Faridpur.

FOOD POISONING

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

With the death of three more persons,

the toll from food poisoning in

Ballamjhar union in the Sadar upazial

More 53 people have fallen sick,

The number of patients being

treated at Gaibandha Sadar Hospital

rose to 148 with admission of more 23

Those who died vesterday are

Golenur Bewya, 63 and Rasheda Begum,

49, of Uttar Dhanghara village and

Ismail Hossain, 50 of Ballamjhar village.

Two of the dead could not be identified.

including IV saline but there is accom-

modation problem, said Resident

floors of the hospital, already crowded

with disrrhoea patients coming from

 $Medical\,Officer\,Aminul\,Islam.$

They said there is no dearth of drugs

Patients were seen huddling also on

rose to five yesterday.

hospital sources said

raising the number to 354.

people, hospital sources said.

investors will be encouraged.

"There are three separate chambers of commerce in the three hill districts. It is regrettable that the chambers have given membership to few contractors and shopkeepers, avoiding real investors", he said.

Answering questions Moni Sawpawn said power supply is the prime need to boost investment and the government is toying with projects to give this facility to remote

"The Country Director of ADB has agreed to give financial support for rural electrification in CHT". About Tk 14 lakh is needed per kilometre to reach electricity to remote areas, he said.

5.5X2

6X3

6X4