

# 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 programmes.

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 said at protest rallies.

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 Habibur Rahman Khan, general secretary of pro-government 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 minister-in-charge for Tangail.



PHOTO: 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'ul Mujahidin, Bangladesh (JMB) and Harkat-ul-Jihad (HuJi) are regrouping in remote areas in the district, taking advantage of alleged lax vigilance by law enforcers.

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 Ullahin Ashashuni upazila.

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

said.

Instead, police filed cases only against those netted immediately after 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 pajama and punjabi, the militants have resumed activities in their respective areas as they 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 dragnet.

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 Bhui.

Of them Nasir uddin, Giasuddin, Moniruzzaman Munna, Anisur Rahman Khokon, Monowar Hossain Ujjal, Mahbubur Rahman Lito 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 sources claimed.

On contact, Maj Asad of 41 Rifles Battalion said border guards are on alert so that militants cannot 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 town threatening to bomb the school by November 30 unless it is run as per 'rules of Islam'.

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

A tense situation 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 being held on its compound.

When contacted, Kishoreganj Sadar thana OC Matar 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 RL.

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 Nalitabari upazila.

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

## 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 Sawpaw 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.

Bandarban 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 CHT", Moni Sawpaw 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 understanding (MOU) will be signed between the government and the UNDP within short time and project work will begin, he said.

Moni Sawpaw 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



PHOTO: STAR  
Journalists brought out a procession in Rajshahi city on Monday protesting the murder of Dainik Samakal Staff Correspondent Gouton Das in Faridpur.

## FOOD POISONING Death toll 5, more 53 fall sick in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

With the death of three more persons, the toll from food poisoning in Ballamjhar union in the Sadar upazila rose to five yesterday.

More 53 people have fallen sick, raising the number to 354.

The number of patients being treated at Gaibandha Sadar Hospital rose to 148 with admission of more 23 people, hospital sources said.

Those who died yesterday 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, hospital sources said.

They said there is no dearth of drugs including IV saline but there is accommodation problem, said Resident Medical Officer Aminul Islam.

Patients were seen huddling also on floors of the hospital, already crowded with diarrhoea patients coming from

different upazilas.

Fear has gripped the people of eight adjoining villages in Ballamjhar 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 yesterday.

Children and women are more vulnerable, they said.

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

might have caused adulteration, they said.

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 Uttar 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.

5.5X2

6X4

6X3